

Out of such tragedy somehow has somehow  
 moved on! With your lovely wife by  
 your side . . .  
 And your beautiful children in your arms as  
 you've cried! For you had something to  
 live for!  
 Touching all our hearts so deep inside!  
 As the word Hero Charles, in front of your  
 name comes before! And one day up in  
 Heaven Charles you will be Airborne!  
 As a PRAETORIAN with wings, to watch  
 over us once more!●

#### TRIBUTE TO SAM HAMRA

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend, Mr. Sam Hamra.

Born in Steele, MD, Sam received both business and law degrees from the University of Missouri and served as an officer in the U.S. Army Field Artillery and Second Armored Cavalry Regiment. He began practicing law in Springfield, MO, and later became the city attorney for Nixa and St. Robert and the governmental relations attorney for Branson.

As Sam's practice became more successful, he never forgot his modest roots, or those less fortunate. In 1976, Sam was elected president of the newly formed Legal Aid Association of Green County, MO, known today as the Legal Services of Southern Missouri, LSSM. The Legal Aid Association was created to help low income citizens whose legal needs would otherwise be unmet. Under Sam's leadership, LSSM has helped thousands of Missourians in 43 counties.

On October 11, Legal Services of Southern Missouri will dedicate their new building, the "Sam F. Hamra Center for Justice." It is my hope that this building will help LSSM provide services to Missourians for many years to come.

In addition to his contributions to the legal community, Sam is very active in many local organizations. He served on the board of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, the Springfield area Sports Hall of Fame, and the Springfield/Branson Transportation Study Committee. As the chairman of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Building Fund, he raised over \$300,000 for the construction of a new Chamber building.

Sam's dedicated service is an inspiration to all Missourians. His achievements and commitment to helping those in need deserves the highest commemoration and I am proud to honor him today.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Sam Hamra.●

#### HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT BRIAN BELL

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Technical SGT Brian A. Bell, who died at the age of 54 at his home in Brookfield, NH on August 5. Brian served his country

bravely for 29 years in both the 157th Air Refueling Wing of the New Hampshire Air National Guard, and in the United States Navy, deploying to Kuwait in 2005 and 2011.

Besides his love of country, Brian was best known for his deep devotion to his family and friends. He appreciated the small things in life such as going to concerts with his wife, heading out on fishing or hiking trips and going kayaking. He took so much joy in being a grandfather to his two grandchildren, James and Jocelyne.

Brian dedicated more than half of his life to defending our Nation, a devotion matched by his loyalty to his community. People who knew Brian say he was always willing to lend a helping hand when it was needed. His friends and loved ones knew him as a man driven by a fierce determination to defend the freedom we hold dear as Americans. Our country is better off today because of his efforts.

Today and every day, Americans like Brian heed the call to defend this great nation. They offer their service so we may live freely and securely. I hope that, even at this challenging time, Brian's family can find comfort in knowing that we share a deep appreciation for his life in the service of others.

Brian is survived by his loving wife Christine, daughter Natasha Nemetz, mother Helen Sue Bickford, brother James D. Bell, III, sister Rosanne Combs, and his beloved grandchildren. He will be loved and missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in honoring the life and service of Technical SGT Brian A. Bell.●

#### HONORING STAFF SERGEANT BRANDON CULLEN-TOWLE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is my sad duty to rise in tribute today to the brave service of Staff Sergeant Brandon Cullen-Towle. Staff Sergeant Cullen-Towle, who was known as "CT" to his friends, died on August 25 in a motorcycle accident. He was as dedicated to his country as he was to his family and friends.

Brandon was born on April 29, 1987 in Dover, NH. He graduated from Dover High School where he was a three-sport athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball. Brandon briefly attended the University of New Hampshire before realizing his true calling to serve our nation in the United States Air Force.

Brandon successfully completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and was assigned as a Tactical Air Control Party Member in the 14th Air Support Operations Squadron in Pope Field, NC. In this role, Brandon was responsible for calling in air strikes to support ground forces. He performed exceptionally well during his three tours of duty in Afghanistan; he took his responsibility seriously and it showed. In fact, Brandon's skill earned him a spot with the Special Op-

erations Forces Tactical Air Control Party in the 21st Special Tactics Squadron.

Brandon received many awards for his service, including the Order of the Purple Heart, three Army Commendation Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal and an Army Achievement Medal. Most impressively of all, President Obama and Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Norton Schwartz personally recognized Brandon for his courageous service during a mortar attack in Afghanistan. After being injured himself in the fight, Brandon saved an interpreter's life and called in an airstrike that successfully secured the base and neutralized the threat. He demonstrated great courage and tremendous poise under incredible pressure.

Brandon is remembered by family and friends as a giving person with an infectious laugh and a contagious smile. Always willing to lend a hand to those in need, Brandon consistently put others before himself. He valued his relationships and had an impact on everyone with whom he came in contact; people simply gravitated toward him.

Our Nation can never adequately thank this young New Hampshire son for his willingness to serve his country and to protect our freedom, and also never fully thank his family enough for their sacrifice. I hope that Brandon's family knows that all Americans share a deep appreciation and abiding respect for his brave service.

Brandon is survived by his mother Laura Towle and her husband Dennis; his father Brad Cullen; his stepfather, Mike Towle; two sisters, Stephanie and Kaylee Towle; brother Kameron Towle; his significant other Marlena Cullen-Towle; grandparents Norma and James Hughes, Fern Cullen, Rick and Kay Towle; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. This young hero will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Brandon Cullen-Towle.●

#### HONORING SPECIALIST JARED DAVISON

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of U.S. Army SPC Jared Davison. Specialist Davison, who died unexpectedly on September 4, was a dedicated servicemember, son, brother, and friend.

Jared was born on February 20, 1988 in Boston, MA. He graduated from Milford High School in 2006 and went on to attend Norwich Academy in Vermont and then the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. Jared served as a watercraft engineer with the 558th Transportation Company, Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade at Fort Eustis in Virginia. Before his death, Jared was working toward a promotion to sergeant.

Jared first realized his passion to serve in the military on a family trip

to Sequoia National Park in California. He was inspired by CPT Charles Young, one of the park's first superintendents who was also one of the first black graduates of West Point. Following that trip, Jared was determined to join the military. He read every military book he could get his hands on and even designed his own exercise regimen to prepare for the physical challenge of service.

Jared's enthusiasm to serve his country was matched only by his enthusiasm to live life to its fullest. Jared was a youth leader in his church and worked as a counselor at a summer camp in Maine. He was a strong role model for the children he mentored, and those who knew him remember his infectious smile and the kindness and respect he showed to everyone he met.

Although Jared was naturally an exceptional student and athlete, he understood the value of hard work. His combination of natural talent and diligence earned him many commendations and decorations, including the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Our Nation can never adequately thank this young son of New Hampshire for his willingness to heed the call to defend the American people and our way of life. I hope that, even in these dark days, Jared's family can find comfort knowing that his was a life well lived. He is gone, but his service to this country will not be forgotten.

Jared is survived by his mother and father, Paula and James Davison, and his brother, Jeremy Davison. He will be missed.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave American servicemember, U.S. Army SPC Jared Davison.●

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT H. HARRIS

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Robert H. Harris, who passed away in his home on Thursday, August 2, 2012, at the age of 82. Bob was a highly respected attorney for whom I had the deepest respect. I am grateful that I was able to call Bob a friend and mourn his passing.

Born on June 9, 1930, in Columbus, GA, Bob spent the majority of his childhood in Goodwater, AL. He graduated from Auburn University in 1951 and from the University of Alabama Law School where he was an outstanding student. Bob was first in his class and was a member of the Law Review, Farrah Order of Jurisprudence, and the Order of the Coif.

Bob went on to graduate from the University of Virginia Judge Advocate General School in 1955. He began practicing law when he was discharged as a captain after serving for 3 years in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1957. He made significant contributions to the Deca-

tur, AL, legal community and was admired for his diligence in his profession.

I had the great privilege of serving with him in the Alabama Senate. Not only was he a well-respected and talented attorney, but he was an excellent legislator as well. Bob served two terms in the State senate and was named Outstanding Freshman Senator, Hardest Working Senator, and Most Outstanding Senator. He was appointed as the chairman of the committee that revised the Code of Alabama in 1975 for the first time since 1940.

Beyond his contributions to the legal community, he was an active member of the First United Methodist Church where he taught the men's Bible class. He was also extremely dedicated to academia and served as a member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees for a decade. Additionally, he served as the Founding Director of the First American Bank.

Bob was an inspiration to me, a caring father and husband, and a valuable asset to his community, his church, and to Auburn University. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends, especially his wife Betty Sue Harris and his children, Laurie, Amanda, Bobbie, Robert, and Parks, as they mourn the loss of this admirable man.

I am honored to have called Bob a friend and colleague for more than 40 years. His contributions to the Decatur legal community, his church, and the State of Alabama will forever be remembered.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL SHUEY

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Bill Shuey, Director of the International Institute of Rhode Island. Bill is retiring after nearly three decades of service to the Rhode Island community.

I have witnessed Bill Shuey's effective and innovative leadership since my days as a member of the International Institute's Board of Directors in the 1980s. The Institute's mission is to provide the educational, legal, and social tools immigrants and refugees need to gain self-sufficiency and contribute to their communities—the very building blocks of the American dream. Since taking the helm of the Institute in 1984, Bill has overseen the growth of the Institute's budget and highly skilled staff, as well as its relocation to a new home on Elmwood Avenue in Providence. Bill and his staff have served immigrants and refugees who have come to Rhode Island and southeastern New England from the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Guatemala, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Bhutan, Iraq, Lebanon, Armenia, and many other countries.

Bill's father was a school principal who started an American school in Addis Ababa in 1966. In 2000, Bill made him proud when the International Institute founded a K-5 multilingual charter school in Pawtucket. About 300

students now attend the school, which immerses students in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

Thanks to Bill's vision, the International Institute has plans to expand its services further through a merger with Dorcas Place, an adult education organization that focuses on literacy and language skills as well as job training and preparation.

I should mention that Bill's dedication to making a difference in the lives of others carries over into his private life. In addition to being a proud father, step-father, and grandfather, Bill is the foster parent of the son of Cambodian immigrants, who is now a student in law school.

Through building effective partnerships between non-profits, government, and the private sector, Bill has helped knit the fabric of our community in Rhode Island to connect thousands of individuals with the skills they need to become productive members of Rhode Island's workforce and society. Rhode Island has a long tradition of being enriched, culturally and economically, by immigrants who came to our shores with the American dream in their hearts. Bill has helped so many of them get a welcome start. I wish him heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for his years of service to the people of Rhode Island.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 733. An act to provide for scientific frameworks with respect to recalcitrant cancers.

H.R. 1461. An act to authorize the Mescalero Apache Tribe to lease adjudicated water rights.

H.R. 3319. An act to allow the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to determine the requirements for membership in that tribe.

H.R. 3783. An act to provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4158. An act to confirm full ownership rights for certain United States astronauts to artifacts from the astronauts' space missions.