

These ranges are not just a place to shoot. I cannot stress this enough as we are seeing more and more clubs closing down: We need more places to teach, enjoy and relax with fellow shooters.

So in the spirit of those Coloradans, I urge my colleagues to support the Sportsmen's Act of 2012 and put these bipartisan, commonsense proposals to work for America's sportsmen as soon as possible.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Iowa has lost another native son fighting for our liberty on foreign soil. I am sad to announce that on Monday, November 5, just as our Nation was preparing to cast our ballots in the election, PFC Brandon Buttry of Shenandoah, IA, gave his life defending our freedom. He was only 19 years old but had felt a calling to join the military since he was a young child. I thank God for such patriots as Brandon Buttry. Without such brave and selfless Americans in each new generation, our liberty and way of life could not have been sustained.

My prayers go out to his parents, Don and Pam, his many brothers and sisters, and all those who knew and loved Brandon. He is described as having a mischievous smile and a twinkle in his eye as well as a slight contrarian streak. By all accounts, he was liked by all who knew him, and I know he will be missed very deeply in his community.

I understand he had an interest in American history, and his love of his country is evident from his deep desire to serve. He has now given the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his fellow countrymen, and his name will be immortalized alongside all those other American patriots who have laid down their lives in the name of freedom.

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise to commend the members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK, upon the completion of their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I had the chance to be there in person when part of the brigade arrived at Fort Richardson. It was great to see our soldiers reunited with their families after so long apart. I was glad to be there last year when the 4/25 deployed, and I am pleased to offer my best wishes now as we celebrate their return home.

The 4/25 accomplished incredible things during its time in Afghanistan. Each and every member of the brigade—all 3,500 Spartans—carried the fight to those who would do our Nation harm. In doing so, they have made the world a safer place for those who love freedom and democracy.

However, those victories were not without sacrifice. During this deployment, eight brave Spartans were killed in action—PFC Nathan T. Davis, PFC Vincent J. Ellis, SSG Thomas K. Fogarty, SSG Carl E. Hammar, CPL Ethan J. Martin, PFC Richard L. McNulty III, SGT Brian L. Walker, and SPC Jeffrey L. White. We will never forget them.

I would also like to recognize the families of the 4/25. As we all know, our soldiers simply could not do their jobs without the support of their loved ones. You are the ones who wrote letters and emails, sent care packages, and kept things running smoothly back home.

When a soldier raises their right hand and swears in, their family joins the Army, too. Thank you all for your service.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I commend the 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, for their dedication, commitment and sacrifice. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid.

To both the Spartans and their families, thank you again for everything you do. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.●

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John V. Klobofski, a veteran of World War II. It is my honor to share the story of John's military service because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

John was born in Cleveland, MT, in 1919. After graduating from Chinook High School, he enlisted in the National Guard, where he served for 3 years.

He then attended classes at Northern Montana College and worked for the Weather Bureau in Havre.

John reenlisted in 1940 and was assigned to the 41st Infantry Division, made up of guardsmen from across the West. As a member of the 163rd Infantry Regiment, John was a part of the campaign to capture New Guinea, which was then under Japanese control. Dubbed Operation Persecution, his unit landed ashore at Aitape on April 22, 1944. Within a number of days, the unit had captured and secured two

airfields, and supplies were being delivered to the island.

Because of how quickly they were able to seize these airfields, John's unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

But fighting continued in the region for several days and many men, including John, were killed. SSG John Klobofski died on April 30, 1944.

On October 16, 2012, in the presence of his family, it was my great honor to finally present to John's family his Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

It was also my honor to present an American Defense Service Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Two Bronze Stars, a World War II Victory Medal, and a Combat Infantryman Badge First Award.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.

Mr. President, today I also wish to honor Alan R. Shennum, a veteran of the Vietnam war. It is my honor to share the story of Alan's military service because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Alan was born in Helena, MT, in 1946. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army and trained at Fort Wolters in Texas before attending flight school at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Alan was sent to Vietnam in September of 1968, where he flew helicopters as part of the Fourth Army Division.

In October of 1968, Alan was wounded while flying a combat operation. Because his injuries were not severe, he returned to duty and flew over 30 missions in all. Warrant Officer Alan Shennum retired from service in 1971 but never received his medals.

On October 17, 2012, in the presence of his family, it was my great honor to finally present to Alan the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Aviator Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

It was also my honor to present an Air Medal with 32 Oak Leaf Clusters, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, and two Overseas Service Bars.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I also wish to commend the members of B Company, 1st Battalion, Airborne, 143rd Infantry Regiment of the Alaska Army National Guard upon the completion of their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I had the chance to be there in person when the company deployed, and I am pleased to offer my best wishes now as we celebrate their safe return home.

Alaska has a special relationship with our military. That relationship started long before statehood during World War II with the Alaska Territorial Guard. Thousands of Alaska Natives voluntarily took up arms in defense of our Nation and established a history of commitment and sacrifice that lives on in Alaska today. We are proud of the thousands of Alaskans, and especially Alaska Natives, who continue to volunteer to protect our homeland. As members of the Alaska Army National Guard, as Alaskans who have stood up for America, the members of Bravo Company carry on our State's long legacy of service.

Bravo Company accomplished incredible things during its time in Afghanistan. While deployed to Kandahar, Farah, and Zabul, our Guardsmen supported three provincial reconstruction teams. Their efforts have contributed enormously to promoting security and the rule of law in Afghanistan and have helped moved the United States closer to accomplishing its mission in the country.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the families of Bravo Company. Our guardsmen faced a difficult mission in Afghanistan, and they simply could not have done it without the support of their loved ones back home. Thank you all for your service, sacrifice, and dedication.

As citizen-soldiers, the members of Bravo Company hail from throughout Alaska. They come from Anchorage, Bethel, Chevak, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Eagle River, Ekwok, Emmonak, Fairbanks, Fort Greely, Hooper Bay, Houston, Juneau, Kipnuk, Kodiak, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Little Diomed, Marshal, Nikiski, Nome, North Pole, Palmer, Port Graham, Quinaag, Scammon Bay, Shishmaref, Sitka, Tuluksa, Upper Kalskag, Valdez, Wasilla, and Wrangell. They return now to communities proud of their service and grateful to have them home.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I commend B Company, 1st Battalion, Airborne, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for their dedication, commitment, and sacrifice. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid.

To both Bravo Company and the families, thank you again for everything you do. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.●

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the heroic University of Arkansas alumni whose actions earned them the Nation's highest distinction for valor in military action, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Throughout the storied history of the University of Arkansas, many men and women have served their Nation with honor and valor, and five of these selfless heroes have earned our Nation's highest military honor.

On Monday, November 12, 2012, we recognized these valiant heroes who put their lives on the line. We honored

their service and accomplishments with the dedication of a memorial flag pole on the University of Arkansas campus.

Maurice L. Britt was born in Carlisle, AR, in 1919. On November 10, 1943, north of Mignano, Italy, Army Lieutenant Britt was wounded in battle, but he refused medical attention and proceeded to lead a handful of men in a counterattack against the Germans. Lieutenant Britt and his men ultimately captured four Germans and enabled captured Americans to escape.

Nathan Green Gordon was born in Morrilton, AR, in 1916. On February 15, 1944, in the Bismarck Sea, Navy Lieutenant Gordon was the commander of a Catalina patrol plane. Braving close-range fire from the enemy, Lieutenant Gordon rescued U.S. airmen of the U.S. Army 5th Air Force in full view of the Japanese. He made a daring escape under direct fire to fly them to safety.

Edgar H. Lloyd was born in Blytheville, AR. On September 14, 1944, near Pompey, France, Army First Lieutenant Lloyd was serving as a rifle platoon leader in Company E of the 319th Infantry. Assigned task of removing 200 enemy forces from their position, Lieutenant Lloyd's company was within 50 yards of the enemy position and suffered many casualties. Despite the enemy threat, First Lieutenant Lloyd encouraged his fellow soldiers by attacking enemy machine gun positions, personally destroying five machine guns. His valor inspired the men to overrun the enemy position.

Seymour W. Terry was born in Little Rock, AR. On May 11, 1945, on Zebra Hill, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Army First Lieutenant Terry led his company on an attack when his men came under heavy enemy fire. He singlehandedly began securing the hill, running directly towards the enemy and destroying the strongholds. He sealed 4 pillboxes with explosives, killed 20 Japanese and destroyed 3 machine guns. He continued his assault on the hill to allow his troops to advance. As First Lieutenant Terry was reorganizing the company, he was mortally wounded. His heroism inspired the platoon to continue the mission.

James L. Stone was born in Pine Bluff, AR. On November 21 and 22, 1951, near Sokkogae, Korea, First Lieutenant Stone's platoon was attacked by Chinese forces. Courageously, he stood and directed his men while repairing a faulty flamethrower. He was wounded but continued to fire on the enemy during a second attack and encouraged the platoon members' efforts to protect their position.

It is people like Maurice Britt, Nathan Gordon, Edgar Lloyd, Seymour Terry, and James Stone whose resilience, bravery, and courage exemplify the American spirit. Their legacies will live on as we remember all of our brave service members who selflessly serve our Nation to protect its ideals and interests.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the millions of brave

American veterans who have given of themselves to protect this great Nation and our precious liberties. I thank not only our veterans but also men and women currently in uniform and all their families. The sacrifices our veterans and service members make are enormous: remote deployments, long deployments, injuries, and worse.

Despite the inherent risk, the United States continues to attract the most qualified and dedicated citizen soldiers. The role of the citizen soldier in this country is older than the United States itself. From the first shots declaring our independence to the current war in Afghanistan, Americans have enjoyed unparallel freedom and security thanks to those among us who are willing to put themselves in harm's way.

This past Sunday, we formally honored our Nation's veterans and we celebrated how privileged we are to have a fighting force as committed to excellence as our own. Our expressions of gratitude, however, should manifest themselves in actions that make positive impacts on the lives of the veterans to whom we owe so much. President John Kennedy once said: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." So today I will utter words I hope you will join me in living by. When we say "we owe our freedom to our men and women in uniform," we must make sure our veterans are treated as such. We must make sure that those veterans who need help transitioning back to civilian life have the resources to do so. We need to be sure veterans can find suitable jobs. When our men and women return home, they should have access to the best medical care, education, and training available so they can continue to be beacons of model citizenry.

Let this Veterans Day be a catalyst for how we treat veterans for the rest of the year and beyond. The appreciation, gratitude, and respect shown to veterans today should be ever-present. The men, women, and families who protect us deserve so much more than just 1 day to be publicly appreciated. Every American can do something to repay our veterans. There are many organizations dedicated to helping veterans. For instance, I have had the distinct honor to work on legislation with my colleague C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER to help Fisher House, an organization that arranges for travel and accommodations for family members who visit their wounded warriors as they recuperate in hospitals away from home. Fisher House established a program called Hotels for Heroes which allows travelers to donate credit card hotel reward points to military families. Many of those families will be visiting their loved ones at Water Reed in my home State of Maryland. With fewer than 1 percent of all Americans currently serving in our All-Volunteer Armed Forces, the sacrifices of the few are not always felt by the many. Donating unused frequent flyer airline

miles and hotel points is a wonderful—and easy—way for Americans to express their appreciation for our brave warriors and their families. Another worthy organization is America's Vet Dogs, which is working with inmates provided by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to train service dogs to aid returning veterans who are disabled.

There are countless other groups doing an immeasurable amount of good for our veterans and their families but we always can—and should—do more. So on this Veterans Day, I ask that all Americans give something back to the people who have given so much for this country. Our veterans deserve it, and our country is made stronger when everyone makes sacrifices for it. Veterans understand sacrificing for others; we honor our veterans if we understood that too.

Mr. President, as we honor the brave men and women who have served in our military, we also must turn our thoughts and prayers to those who currently wear a uniform in service to our country, especially those in harm's way in Afghanistan and around the world. They are tomorrow's veterans. So during this lameduck session of the 112th Congress and as we prepare for the 113th Congress, I urge my colleagues to consider our Active-Duty service members, our veterans, and their families' needs as we legislate. It is my deepest hope addressing those needs will not be mired down by partisanship on either side of the aisle.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest and most sincere thanks to our Active-Duty service men and women, veterans, and their families. I thank you for your selfless service, your dedication, your strength of character, and your courage. As a nation, we owe you an eternal debt of gratitude and appreciation for your innumerable sacrifices on our behalf.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding military service of a group of incredible Coloradans. These World War II veterans each played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as the "greatest generation" through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to an organization dedicated to honoring these veterans for all they have done for us, these great Coloradans came to Washington, DC, to visit the National World War II Memorial, to share their experiences with later generations and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. It is an honor to have had them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to say a word about the volunteers from Honor Flight of Southern Colorado who made this trip possible. They are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to bring our southern Colorado veterans to Washington, DC, is truly commendable. They have been doing great work

since their inaugural flight in June 2012, this week bringing another group of American heroes to Washington, DC. The volunteers of Honor Flight of Southern Colorado believe our veteran heroes aren't asking for recognition, but they certainly deserve it. This opportunity to come to Washington is just a small token of appreciation for those who gave so much.

I wish to publicly recognize the members of the Southern Colorado Honor Flight who visited their Nation's Capital, many seeing for the first time the memorials their Nation built as a tribute to their selfless service. These are the lucky veterans, the ones who came home. Their war memorials also pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price. Today I honor these Colorado veterans on their visit to Washington, DC:

From the U.S. Army: Adolph Wolff, Jack Traxler, Earl Clark, Leroy Jensen, James Beham, and Sherwood Gray; from the U.S. Army Air Corps: Howard Casey and Will "Lew" Finlaynson; from the U.S. Navy: Raymond Feather, Howard Pease, Pete Demario, James Welty, and Clyde Womer; and from the U.S. Marine Corps: Jess Masias.

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals: to leave their families to fight in unknown lands against a deadly enemy. And each of these brave Coloradans bravely answered the call, placing themselves between this country and harm. They served our country through dangerous times, when democratic nations and ideals around the world were threatened, and they saved entire continents from falling to fascism and tyranny.

Please join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Southern Colorado for their tremendous service to an eternally grateful nation.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, we have all paused to remember our Nation's veterans this week. This year, the Daniels Scholars wrote letters to our country's heroes in uniform. These letters, published in *Because of you . . . Letters of Gratitude* from the 2012 Daniels Scholars to the Defenders of American Freedom, are heartwarming.

The Daniels Scholarship Program was created by a true American patriot, Bill Daniels. Bill was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in the Navy in World War II. He was called back into service during the Korean War. Bill went on to have a tremendously successful career. Due to his generosity, young people from Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado are selected to be Daniels Scholars. In addition to their college tuition and fees, they receive tremendous support and encouragement to give back to their communities.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter written by Megan Saylor from Casper, WY. May it inspire all who read it.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Dear Soldier,

I would like to begin by thanking you from the bottom of my heart for your military service to our country. I'm struggling to find the appropriate words that can explain how thankful I am, but the truth is, there are none. Because of you, I am able to sit in this room and freely express my thoughts and begin my path on to a bright future. You made the sacrifice for me, and now it's my turn to return the favor to you. I may not be able to repay you with what you gave me, my freedom, but I can assure you that I will reach for my dreams. I will be successful. I will make a difference. As a 2012 Daniels Scholar, I will live my life with integrity, honesty, loyalty, character, and I will contribute and give back to my community. All too often, we take for granted our rights and freedoms; we live in the best country in the world and you made that possible. You and your family. Actually, after listening to our speakers from the military, meeting with my friend who just returned from Afghanistan, and now writing this letter to you, my major could be changing. Helping our country's soldiers would be the ultimate way to return the favor. You are an amazing person for what you did for our country. Just know wherever you are, whatever struggle you are going through, just know you aren't forgotten. I'll think about you constantly, praying for you and those who are still fighting, and those who will never return. Because of you, I am living a better life, and I won't disappoint you, my country and my community. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. Never give up!

Sending my highest regards, respect, and love, Megan Saylor, Casper, Wyoming.

REMEMBERING RUSSELL TRAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to briefly honor a distinguished former Republican environmental and conservation leader. As my colleagues know, Russell Train passed away on September 17.

Mr. Train was the first head of the Council on Environmental Quality under President Nixon and the second EPA Administrator, serving under both Presidents Nixon and Ford. He was the chairman emeritus of the World Wildlife Fund and helped found the organization in the 1960s. He founded the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation in 1961 and was president of the Conservation Foundation from 1965 to 1969.

He was a shining example of the age when the political parties cooperated on environmental protection, and Republicans even sometimes led the way forward. He implemented and defended the Clean Air Act and helped protect the health and welfare of millions of Americans. In recent years, he specifically criticized the modern Republican party's rejection of health and science-based decisionmaking, especially as related to EPA's authority to address climate change and carbon pollution. In a 2010 interview, he stated that he had become a registered Independent.

I hope that the Republican Party will soon return to the example of statesmanship and good governance set by Russell Train. Our Nation has enormous environmental challenges, like