

vitro fertilization for service members, Ed and Karen recently welcomed the arrival of twins: Ryan David and Alana Marie. They are the first Army family to have used the technique after Congress passed a law authorizing TRICARE coverage of reproductive therapies for military families dealing with the consequences of catastrophic injury.

As a Vermonter, I am proud of Ed and Karen. Ryan and Alana are surely lucky to have them as parents.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the recent U.S. Army article entitled "Double amputee gets another chance of starting family" be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the United States Army, April 24, 2013]

DOUBLE AMPUTEE GETS ANOTHER CHANCE OF STARTING FAMILY

(By Maria Gallegos, Brooke Army Medical Center)

SAN ANTONIO.—The only thing he remembered was waking up five weeks later in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany—from a tragedy that nearly cost him his life and the chance of starting a family.

THE BEGINNING

Thirteen years ago, Ed and Karen Matayka, both combat medics with the Vermont National Guard, met and fell in love during their advanced training course at what is now Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Soon after, they married in 2004 and deployed together six months later to Kuwait in 2005.

"We honeymooned in Kuwait," said Karen.

They returned to Vermont a year later and were activated again in 2010 to go to Afghanistan, but this time they promised each other they would start a family after their deployment. Just after four months in theater, those plans looked to be lost.

In July 2010, Ed was on a convoy mission in Afghanistan when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device that caused multiple injuries to his body, including the loss of his legs, fractures to his spinal cord, a traumatic brain injury, and two strokes that caused nerve damage to his left side of the body. The blast also killed his driver, Spc. Ryan Grady, and wounded four other Vermont Soldiers.

"The doctors told me he probably won't survive," Karen recalled.

Because of the severity of his multiple injuries, he was treated and transferred to several military medical centers across the country before he was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center, or BAMC. At BAMC, he receives inpatient care at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, or SAMMC and specialty rehabilitation care at the Center for the Intrepid.

"BAMC is the best place for amputee rehab, (so) we needed to get Ed here," Karen said.

Ed has been rehabilitating at the CFI, BAMC's outpatient rehab center, since August 2011. He is now learning to walk again.

IN VITRO FERTILIZATION

Even though their plans of starting a family were temporarily on hold, their desire to start a family was never in question.

"We really wanted to have a family long before this happened, and we are not going to let his injuries change our plans," said Karen.

"We had decided together that we wanted kids—we just wanted to share some love, help guide the next generation," Ed added.

They turned to in vitro fertilization in hopes of making their dreams of a family a reality. The IVF process is a procedure in which eggs are removed and joined with a sperm outside of the body to fertilize and the resulting embryo is then placed back into the uterus.

They first started the IVF process, at the Boston's veteran hospital where Ed was receiving his spinal cord rehab—but because of the complexity of the injuries, the procedure was not successful.

After eight months of rehab at BAMC, and with Ed gaining more strength and independence, they decided to try again.

"We were initially told we had to pay for it ourselves, which we were fine with, and we didn't care. We wanted to do it, and then we were told that TRICARE was working on a policy that would change its IVF coverage for service members with severe injuries," Karen said.

A week before their IVF transfer, a bill was passed to cover reproductive services to active service members who have suffered from catastrophic injuries resulting in infertility. Since 2003, more than 1,800 U.S. military members have suffered injuries in Iraq or Afghanistan that impact their reproductive tract.

"TRICARE rules changed and we were 100 percent covered," said Karen.

After their first attempt of the IVF transfer process, Karen became pregnant.

Their twins, Ryan David and Alana Marie, were born March 21, at 28 weeks.

"The babies were born ahead of time but are doing very well here (SAMMC neonatal intensive care unit)," Karen said.

Ed is the first wounded warrior, nationwide, who has successfully had the IVF transfer procedure since the new TRICARE policy was implemented.

"It was an honor to help the Mataykas achieve their dream of having a family. They are true American heroes and having the opportunity to directly help our wounded warriors represents the most rewarding aspect of our profession," said Maj. (Dr.) Jeremy King, director of IVF, who performed their transfer.

Although their desire of starting a family was finally complete, they will never forget the tragedy that happened almost two years ago.

"We named our boy after Ryan, the driver who passed away from the blast and David who saved Ed's life by applying tourniquets to his legs," Karen said. "They are our true heroes."

Both praised the care they received throughout the procedure.

"The care here is great. The reproductive and endocrinology staff is phenomenal," Karen added, as Ed also agreed. "The entire staff is extremely caring and we all bonded throughout the whole process. We greatly appreciate everyone's care."

"We have already referred two other warriors of the services here at SAMMC," Ed said.

"The Mataykas were a pleasure to work with," said King. "IVF process is physically and emotionally challenging, but their attitude was always upbeat, positive and optimistic. That, I believe, helped them get through the obstacles and also lifted up our spirits whenever we saw them."

THE SERVICE

The In Vitro Fertilization and Reproductive Endocrinology services had been offered at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center since 1996. The program relocated to SAMMC in June 2011 due to the Base Realignment and Closure law.

SAMMC's IVF program offers the full gamut of diagnostic testing and infertility therapy treatments in the same location.

"We have over 1,000 babies as a result of our IVF program and it is the only onsite full service IVF center staffed solely by active duty physicians in Department of Defense," said Col. (Dr.) Matthew Retzlaff, Reproductive Endocrinology chief. "We offer this service to active duty members and their dependents, on site at SAMMC, from start to finish."

Reproductive endocrinologists provide full evaluation and treatment of all forms of infertility, polycystic ovarian disease, premature ovarian failure, hirsutism, recurrent pregnancy loss, reproductive tract anatomic abnormalities, endometriosis, premenstrual syndrome and complicated menopausal problems.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORECES

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT REX SCHAD, AIR FORCE STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL FANNIN, ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHARLES P. MCCLURE, ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT BRANDON LANDRUM

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to three American heroes who recently lost their lives while defending the United States overseas in support of the war on terror.

Army SSG Rex Schad, of Edmond, OK, died on March 11, 2013. The 26-year-old squad leader was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, GA. Rex was killed in Jalrez District, Afghanistan, after a member of the Afghan security forces opened fire on Rex and his fellow soldiers. Also killed was Army CPT Andrew Pedersen-Keel. Family and friends of Rex said that he took the idea of serving seriously and understood that it could require him to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He also had many family members serve in various branches of the military including his mother, brother, an uncle, and his grandfather. Rex is survived by his mother, Ms. Colleen Whipple, of Edmond, OK.

Air Force SSgt Daniel Fannin, of Morehead, KY, died on April 28, 2013, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Also killed in the incident were Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, Capt. Reid K. Nishizuka, and SSgt Richard A. Dickson. Daniel, who had just turned 30 three weeks prior, was assigned to the Air Force's 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. In addition to being a 12-year veteran of the Air Force, Daniel also lived for several years in Oklahoma with his wife Sonya of Oklahoma City. As his family recently said, Daniel died just as he lived—serving God and others. He died honorably serving his country so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms that many of us take for granted.

Army PFC Charles P. McClure, of Stratford, OK, died on May 2, 2013, serving our Nation at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Private First Class McClure was assigned to 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade

Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, CO. Charles was killed in a vehicular accident. He was 21 years old and was on his first tour overseas. Also killed in the accident was his battle buddy, 25-year-old SPC Trinidad Santiago, Jr.

Army 1LT Brandon Landrum of Lawton, OK, was a 26-year-old husband, father of two children, Army officer, and graduate of Cameron University. He was among five soldiers who died on May 4, 2013, after they were attacked by an enemy IED in Maiwand, Afghanistan. Brandon and his soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, at Fort Bliss, TX. Brandon enlisted in the Army in 2005 and deployed to Iraq 3 years later. Upon receiving his commission in May 2011, he graduated the Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course and Airborne School. First Lieutenant Landrum is survived by his wife, one son, and one daughter.

Our soldiers and airmen demonstrated courage and honor by volunteering for service in the Army and Air Force. While the deaths of these brave men are tragic, their lives encourage all of us to demonstrate courage and honor commensurate with their sacrifice. The fact that these men died alongside their fellow warriors is a reminder for us to stick by our men and women in uniform who continue to fight the enemies of our country. God bless them, and God bless their families.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it has been my practice over the past decade to honor the men and women of law enforcement during National Police Week.

This week is National Police Week. The annual candlelight vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial will take place this evening. I should mention that 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the candlelight vigil. This year, the names of 320 officers killed in the line of duty are being added to the memorial. These 320 names include 119 officers who were killed during 2012, plus 201 officers who died in previous years but whose stories of sacrifice had been lost to history until now.

Alaska did not suffer a law enforcement casualty in 2012. However, we have suffered three since the beginning of 2013, and I would like to take this opportunity to remember the three Alaskans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the heroes they are.

Today I recognize three men, each of different backgrounds but all united in their bravery and willingness to go the extra step. John 15:13 says: "There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend." In Alaska, where we treat strangers in need of a helping hand as friends, these three individuals demonstrated a spirit

not only worthy of their profession but that of a State and a people forever grateful for their sacrifice.

THOMAS MADOLE

In law enforcement there is spirited debate over who walks the toughest beat in America. The men and women of corrections think they have won that debate hands down, but I would suggest that Alaska's village public safety officers, or VPSOs, our first responders in the last frontier, are formidable contenders.

Alaska's VPSOs wear all four hats of first response. They are at the same time police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and search-and-rescue coordinators. They are the sole first responders in the bush villages of Alaska—villages with populations that might number 400 to 600 people—and carry out their dangerous work with no backup in the immediate community. The closest backup is often an Alaska State trooper in a rural hub, who must fly in to the village by air—assuming weather conditions allow the troopers to fly. I would submit to you that our village public safety officers, who patrol unarmed, in fact walk the toughest beat in America.

Thomas Madole, age 54, was the village public safety officer in Manakotak, AK. Manakotak has a population of about 400. It is in Alaska's Bristol Bay region. Ninety-four percent of its residents are Alaska Native descendants of the original people to occupy the area. Officer Madole was killed on March 19, 2013 while responding to a report of a possibly suicidal person. He was unarmed. His assailant was not.

There is much to say for how Officer Madole lived his life. He will be remembered as a man of peace. An ordained minister of the Assemblies of God Church, he preached and mentored in the Yupik hub community of Bethel Alaska for 6 years before moving to Manakotak.

Patricia Zulkosky, a board member of the Bethel Assemblies of God Church, referred to Madole in this way: "He was a man of God, he walked his talk." And in the community of Manakotak, Madole is remembered as a friend and a role model for the youth as much as a cop.

MEL NADING AND TAGE TOLL

Alaska is remarkable for many reasons, among which that the wilderness begins literally beyond the backyards of our homes. The Alaska State troopers rely extensively on aviation resources to get where they need to go and their pilots are some of the best in the world.

Mel Nading, originally a Hawkeye from Manchester, IA, was hired in December 2000 to be the primary pilot for the Alaska Department of Public Safety's Helo-1. Helo-1 bore the tail number "N911AA."

During Mel's 13 year career, he was the primary search-and-rescue pilot for the department and interacted with

other agencies to coordinate search and rescue efforts, going on almost-weekly missions. Mel also provided air support for law enforcement missions. In 2012 alone, Mel flew over 200 hours logging 73 rescues and 13 medical evacuations. He recovered eight bodies and assisted with two arrests.

In 2008, Mel and trooper Sergeant Bryan Barlow shared the Governors Denali Award Peak Performance for saving the life of a kayaker caught in a bore tide. During that daring rescue, Mel was able to hold the helicopter steady and close to the waters as Barlow leaned out and pulled the kayaker from Turnagain Arm, saving the man's life. This act was but one of many saves he made in his career.

These remarkable careers, however, are just a small part of what made Mel a valued member of the team. He was well known and well respected among the search and rescue community and was known for his attention to safety.

Trooper Tage Toll, of Talkeetna, joined the Alaska State troopers in 2003 after spending 2 years with the Kansas Highway Patrol. He served in Fairbanks, Glennallen, and Northway. Then in September of 2009, he transferred to Talkeetna at the gateway to Denali National Park. He was an expert marksman and a member of the regional SWAT team what we in Alaska refer to as the SERT. Like Mel, Tage was also a pilot and loved to fly his Super Cub.

On March 30, the Alaska State troopers dispatched Helo-1 to rescue a snowmachiner who crashed near Larson Lake, 7 miles east of Talkeetna. Mel flew from Anchorage to Talkeetna, picked up Tage and began a search. The pair found the snowmachiner around 10 p.m. They intended to fly to a nearby gas station to rendezvous with EMS personnel. The helicopter crashed a little over an hour later, and there were no survivors.

This National Police Week, as America focuses on the daily sacrifices of what those in law enforcement refer to as the "Thin Blue Line," I am honored to share the stories of these three outstanding Alaskans, who paid the ultimate sacrifice, with the Senate. In valor, there is hope.

WWII VETERANS VISIT

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, on May 19, 89 World War II veterans from Montana will be visiting our Nation's Capital.

With a great deal of honor and respect, I extend a hearty Montana welcome to each and every one of them.

Together, they will visit the World War II Memorial and share stories about their service. This journey will no doubt bring about a lot of memories. I hope it will give them a deep sense of pride as well.

What they achieved together almost 70 years ago was remarkable. That memorial is a testament to the fact that a grateful nation will never forget