

Force, which included St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officers, engaged in an effort to apprehend a dangerous fugitive in St. Louis. In approaching the fugitive's residence, the officers and deputies, discovering there were two children at the home, safely removed them and entered the home behind a ballistic shield. Upon entering the home and ascending a stairwell, the officers and deputies were fired upon by the fugitive. Both Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry and St. Louis Police Officer Jeff Helbling were wounded in the initial exchange of gunfire. Tragically, Deputy Perry's wounds later proved fatal. While other task force members engaged the fugitive, Officer Anna Kimble alerted supporting officers of the shooting over the radio system and Officer Joe Kuster provided perimeter security. A rescue attempt was mounted by the U.S. Marshals, during which another deputy U.S. Marshal was wounded. In the course of the rescue attempt, the fugitive was subdued by task force team members.

I am proud these three officers hail from my home State of Missouri. Their sincere dedication to duty and endless compassion for the residents of the city they serve are an inspiration to the people of St. Louis. First responders like these place themselves in harm's way every day, forsaking the safety many of us take for granted. They and their families make precious sacrifices so that we, the American public, may enjoy the freedom to live our lives to an extent made possible by the knowledge that someone stands watchful and ready on our behalf.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Jeff Helbling, Anna Kimble, and Joe Kuster for their distinguished service to the people of St. Louis. I thank them, and I thank all of you for joining me in recognizing these outstanding Missourians.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to honor two deputy U.S. marshals who played an instrumental role in the March 8, 2011, apprehension of a fugitive in St. Louis, MO, an incident that claimed the life of Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry and resulted in the wounding of Deputy U.S. Marshal Theodore "Ted" Abegg, as well as St. Louis Police Officer Jeff Helbling. Before I talk about the heroic service and incredible sacrifice of these two deputies, I have to mention the tremendous service the U.S. Marshals Service provides to the people of this country every day. As the Nation's oldest Federal law enforcement agency, the U.S. Marshals Service provides a variety of crucial services, including protecting Federal judges, operating the Witness Security Program, seizing illegally obtained assets from criminals, and apprehending Federal fugitives—a function which led to its cooperation with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and the formation of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force

in St. Louis. Since its inception in 1789, over 200 Federal marshals, deputy marshals, special deputy marshals, and marshals guards have lost their lives in the line of duty. When the U.S. Marshals Service's steadfast devotion to crime prevention and mitigation is considered alongside its traditional witness protection and judicial security duties, the law enforcement officials of this agency truly exemplify the values of "Justice, Integrity, Service."

I know how critically important the Marshals Service is to the Federal justice system and the impact these officials have in communities across Missouri. These highly trained men and women help form the backbone of our legal system, and I salute the countless acts of bravery performed by Federal law enforcement officers across Missouri and this Nation.

On March 8, 2011, members of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, which included St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officers, engaged in an effort to apprehend a dangerous fugitive in St. Louis. In approaching the fugitive's residence, the officers and deputies, discovering there were two children at the home, safely removed them and entered the home behind a ballistic shield. Upon entering the home and ascending a stairwell, the officers and deputies were fired upon by the fugitive. Both Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry and St. Louis Police Officer Jeff Helbling were wounded in the initial exchange of gunfire. Tragically, Deputy Perry's wounds later proved fatal. While other task force members engaged the fugitive, Officer Anna Kimble alerted supporting officers of the shooting over the radio system, Deputy U.S. Marshal Melissa Duffy administered first aid to Officer Helbling, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Shawn Jackson provided protective cover allowing wounded Deputy U.S. Marshal Abegg to withdraw. A rescue attempt was mounted by the U.S. marshals, during which another deputy U.S. marshal was wounded. In the course of the rescue attempt, the fugitive was subdued by task force team members.

I am proud these two deputies are based in my home State of Missouri. Their sincere dedication to duty and strong sense of justice are an inspiration to the American people. Marshals like these place themselves in harm's way every day, forsaking the safety many of us take for granted. They and their families make precious sacrifices so that we, the American public, may enjoy the freedom to live our lives to an extent made possible by the knowledge that someone stands watchful and ready on our behalf.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Deputy U.S. Marshals Melissa Duffy and Shawn Jackson for their distinguished service to the people of this country. I thank them, and I thank all of you for joining me in recognizing these outstanding individuals.

REMEMBERING JIM McCUSKER, JR.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Jim McCusker of Clinton, CT. The State of Connecticut has lost a great public servant, former first selectman, and loyal Marine. Jim was an inspiring leader and model of public service, and I am grateful for our friendship. My heart goes out to Jim's wife, Judy, and their children and grandchildren, whom he loved tremendously. Countless friends, touched by his generosity and big heart, will also miss him deeply.

Jim will be remembered always for his lifelong dedication to the town and people of Clinton. As first selectman, he expertly managed the town budget and contributed tremendously in energy and spirit. He had a magnetic gift of connecting with his community and neighbors.

In addition to his leadership as first selectman, Jim spent more than a decade on both the Clinton Board of Finance and the Clinton Board of Selectmen. He was also involved with the Clinton Education Federation, Families Helping Families, Meals on Wheels, and St. Mary's Knights of Columbus.

In tribute to Jim's service to his country as a United States Marine, flags were hung at half staff. He was always there to give a smile and engage in earnest conversation. Jim loved to sing Irish songs on St. Patrick's Day. As a patriot and veteran, he will be particularly missed this Memorial Day. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Jim McCusker's long-time, selfless service. Although missed, he will not be forgotten. Jim's sense of humor, warmth with others, and dedication to country will be felt throughout Clinton for years to come.

REMEMBERING LANCE CORPORAL LAWRENCE R. PHILIPPON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I have the great privilege of presenting a poem in memory of LCpl Lawrence R. Philippon of West Hartford, CT, who gave his life 8 years ago this May while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom as a courageous member of the United States Marines. In the Marine Corps color guard, Lance Corporal Philippon carried the flag at the funeral for President Reagan, but yearned to be on the front lines. It was there, as a brave member of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine expeditionary force that he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

As Memorial Day nears, we dedicate ourselves in gratitude to our heroes—our servicemen and women, both recent and throughout history—who have sacrificed and served for our freedom, protecting the founding principles we hold dear.

This special poem was written by Albert Carey Caswell, a longtime member

of the Capitol Guide Service, and prolific poet whose work has been recited many times on the Senate floor. It is a privilege to present Bert's touching piece, written in memory of Lance Corporal Philippon. I invite my colleagues to remember and honor Lance Corporal Philippon and all current and former members of the military, and their families, today and always.

THIS IS MY BLOOD

This . . .
This Is My Blood,
that I so bled!
ALLELUIA!
And this is my life,
that I so led!
ALLELUIA!
And these are all of the moments,
which I no longer so have!
ALLELUIA!
As for you,
I so gave up all that I had!
ALLELUIA!
That Last Full Measure,
My Life . . .
The Greatest of All Treasures,
that one so has!
ALLELUIA!
And I'm so very sorry Sister and Brother,
My Dearest Mother and Dad!
ALLELUIA!
And I know that you all so miss me,
and so want to be with me so very bad!
ALLELUIA!
And I know that it make's you all so very
sad!
ALLELUIA!
And these,
are all of your tears that you now so weep,
that you so have!
ALLELUIA!
All because your baby boy . . .
your son, your most precious joy . . .
your bother this one,
has so died hurting you all so very bad!
ALLELUIA!
All because,
in warm arms holding each other again we'll
never have!
ALLELUIA!
But, find comfort . . .
Because,
one day up in Heaven we will all be together
so very glad!
ALLELUIA!
For no Parent,
no Sister, nor Brother of another . . .
should so have to so watch their loved ones
being buried in the ground!
ALLELUIA!
And these are,
the Sons and Daughters that I shall never so
see!
ALLELUIA!
And this is the Wife,
that I'll never so grow old with so happy to
be!
ALLELUIA!
But take heart,
for all that I've given up . . .
Heaven so awaits all so for me!
ALLELUIA!
So wipe away all of those tears now so very
deep!
ALLELUIA!
Moments are all that we all so have!
ALLELUIA!
To Make A Difference!
To Change The World!
To March Off So Very Boldly,
With But Our Flags So Unfurled!
ALLELUIA!
So very proud,
wearing those most magnificent shades of
green,

to so show the world what the word honor all
so means!

ALLELUIA!
And to be One of The Few,
Hoo Rahhhh . . . A United States Marine!
Oh yes,
remember all of this my little boys and girls
what all so means!
ALLELUIA!
For Heaven so holds a place,
for all of those of such honor and selfless
grace!
ALLELUIA!
For it's far . . . far . . . better,
to have died for something!
Than,
to have lived for nothing at all!
ALLELUIA!
Because,
that's not really living,
no . . . no . . . not really living at all!
ALLELUIA!
As that's why,
I so answered that most noble of all calls!
ALLELUIA!
Because in life,
there is no higher height to which one can so
be called!
ALLELUIA!
And no greater thing,
then while all in the face of death to so stand
so very tall!
ALLELUIA!
Then,
but to lay down ones life but for The Greater
Good of It All!
ALLELUIA!
As why up in Heaven with our Lord Larry,
your fine soul has now so been called!
ALLELUIA!
As an Angel In The Army of Our Lord,
to so watch over us and protect us one and
all!
ALLELUIA!
For Larry,
we will hear you on the wind . . .
and we will feel you on the breeze . . .
As we carry you in our hearts,
all in our memories . . .
ALLELUIA!
And tonight in Connecticut,
as you so lay your heads down to sleep . . .
there comes a gentle rain . . .
ALLELUIA!
As it's our Lord's tears from up in Heaven,
washing down upon you to so ease your pain!
ALLELUIA!
Until,
up and heaven you and Larry will all so meet
again . . .
And you won't have to cry no more!
ALLELUIA!
This Is My Blood!
ALLELUIA!
AMEN!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM LEE RICH

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor William Lee Rich, a career Navy man. Bill, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bill Rich's service in the U.S. Navy, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Bill was born in Jamestown, NY, in 1947. After moving around the country with his family, he graduated from Spring Valley High School in New

York and enlisted with the U.S. Navy in Poughkeepsie in 1966.

Bill trained with the Seabees in Davisville, RI, before transferring to Mobile Construction Battalion 121 at Seabee Headquarters in Gulfport, MS. From there he was deployed to Phu Bai with MCB 121, just south of Hue City in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, Bill's unit was responsible for transporting South Vietnamese refugees out of Hue.

In February 1968, his unit saw heavy action during the Tet Counter Offensive. They were responsible for transporting a group of South Vietnamese out of Hue to the refuge center at Phu Bai. It was for their time in Hue that the MCB 121 received the Presidential Unit Citation. Bill also earned his Combat Action Ribbon.

Bill's deployment ended after 9 months, and his unit returned to Gulfport, MS before going back to Vietnam, this time to Camp Eagle in the Gia Lai Province. During his 8 months at Camp Eagle, Bill worked on various construction and electrical projects, both around the camp and in Hue. He also worked with the American-Vietnamese Civic Action Program to help construct engineering projects in the region.

After his two tours in Vietnam, Bill transferred to Naval Reserve Construction Battalion 19 for 4 years before returning to Active Duty.

Back with the Seabees, Bill was assigned to Italy and New Zealand before spending a year in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze. He was then assigned to Harold E. Holt station in Australia where he married his wife, Debby, a Helena native.

From Australia, Bill went to Winter Harbor, ME, and then to MCB 74 in Gulfport. He deployed from Gulfport to Japan and Puerto Rico. From battalion he went to Manama, Bahrain, in the Persian Gulf as a contract inspector.

From Bahrain, Bill went to the Naval Headquarters in London, England, for 4 years where his daughter Mariah was born.

Bill's last assignment was part of a five-man Active-Duty staff for Reserve Construction Battalion 13 at Camp Smith, Peekskill, NY. Before he retired, Bill received both the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and the Long and Faithful Service Medal.

Upon his retirement, he received both the Navy and Army Achievement Medals. Bill retired with the rank of E-6, construction electrician first class.

Bill transferred to Fleet Reserve and retired after a 30-year naval career.

Petty Officer Bill Rich moved to Helena to start his new life with his wife and daughter. He currently works for the State of Montana Department of Military Affairs here at Fort Harrison as an electrician.

After his service, Bill never received all of the medals he earned from the Navy.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his friends and family, it was my honor to finally present to Bill his Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device,