

others who have some persuasive powers in their ability to move this matter.

For clarification with respect to my colloquy with the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania, we are ready to send to the House all three components of the Senate amendment to H.R. 7, the version of S. 476, as passed the Senate, the Snowe-Lincoln child tax credit piece, and the Grassley-Baucus tax extenders piece. We are supportive of all these items. In order to help the Senator from Pennsylvania, we are ready to send all of them over separately, and of course, we are ready to go forward sending them over bundled just without the necessity of a conference.

Mr. SANTORUM. I appreciate the suggestion of the Senator from Nevada.

I suggest in response to that, again, this bill is the bill that has already passed the Senate. We already sent it over to the House. The House has already looked at the Senate bill and said: We have a better way. We do not want to have offsets to this bill; we do not want to have social service block grant funds; we do not want to have as generous a food donation provision. We want to have some other provisions that you do not have in this legislation. They sent it back.

Now when you have such differing viewpoints on how to solve this problem, the tradition in this body, and out of necessity, is to convene a conference and get that done. Sending different versions back and forth does not make progress and, with all due respect, I do not believe will solve the problem.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of Pfc. Anthony D'Agostino, of Waterbury, CT, who was killed in Iraq this past Sunday. He was just 4 days short of his 21st birthday.

Private D'Agostino was part of the U.S. Army's 16th Signal Brigade, based in Fort Hood, TX. He was one of 15 soldiers killed when a missile struck a Chinook helicopter that was carrying American troops to Baghdad International Airport for a trip home to spend 2 weeks with family and friends.

I join all of America in mourning each and every one of these brave soldiers, and in praying for the recovery of the 20 soldiers who were injured in the attack.

It's a sad fact of war that as the death toll mounts, the daily casualty reports can become almost routine. But each time I read the story of a Connecticut soldier who has perished overseas and this is the sixth such story in this war I'm reminded of how many lives are touched by every single man or woman who makes the ultimate sacrifice so that all of us can live in peace, freedom, and security.

Anthony was a true Connecticut son, spending virtually his entire life in our State. He grew up in Middlebury, attending Middlebury Elementary School and Memorial Middle School, and in 2001, he graduated from the W.F. Kaynor Regional Vocational-Technical High School, specializing in electricity. After graduating, he lived in Waterbury until he enlisted in the Army 2 years ago.

Men and women across America who make the decision to join our Armed Forces do so for a variety of reasons. For Anthony D'Agostino, it was a decision that was forged in the fire of the attacks of September 11, 2001. Like so many Americans, in the aftermath of those terrible attacks, Anthony decided that he wanted to contribute something to his country. Tragically, he and his family would ultimately make the most painful contribution of all.

Joining the Army was a homecoming of sorts for Anthony. He was born in Georgia while his father Steven was stationed at Fort Benning. And when it was time for Anthony to enter basic training 19 years later, he returned to the same base where his father once served.

Those who knew Anthony say he had a tremendous work ethic, whether that meant giving his all on high school sports teams, or mowing his grandparents' lawn with a stand-up mower. Even while he was in Iraq, he asked his family to send over Spanish books so he could use what little spare time he had to better himself. He had dreams of returning home and attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point.

Anthony D'Agostino knew he was facing serious danger when he left for Iraq 8 months ago. But it was a danger he was prepared and proud to accept as a soldier in the United States Army.

Anthony had a sense of responsibility, dedication, and commitment well beyond his years. And Connecticut will never forget him.

My heart goes out to Anthony's father Steven, his mother Deb, his stepfather Paul, and to his entire family.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to pay tribute to a truly remarkable individual whom I have had the privilege to know and work with, U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Patrick Sargent. Pat Sargent worked in my office for a year as a Congres-

sional Fellow in 2001. He is a helicopter pilot and is currently the commander of the 421st Medical Battalion stationed in Germany. Lt. Colonel Sargent served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and is scheduled to return for a second deployment shortly.

This past August, Pat received the General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Award by the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., an organization dedicated to preserving the amazing legacy of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen. This award is conferred annually to "a field grade officer who has exhibited outstanding performance in both professional and community service." It is the highest award given by this organization, and this year was the first time this honor has gone to an Army aviator.

Who were the Tuskegee Airmen? They were a group of American heroes who every American should know about. In recent years we have seen a surge in interest in World War II and the experiences of American servicemen who served in the worst conflict humanity has ever seen. Movies such as "Saving Private Ryan" have done much to illustrate the sacrifices of our World War II veterans, and we have begun construction of a World War II Memorial on the Mall here in Washington. All of these veterans sacrificed for the allied cause against totalitarianism.

But the Tuskegee Airmen faced an additional struggle on top of the war against the Axis Powers. They fought prejudice here at home, and they succeeded on both fronts. During World War II, the U.S. military began an experiment to determine whether African Americans were capable of successfully piloting combat aircraft. This "experiment" eventually evolved into the 332nd Fighter Group, consisting of four squadrons of fighter aircraft piloted entirely by African Americans. Under the command of then-Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, the 332nd flew 200 missions escorting U.S. bombers over Europe. It was the only U.S. fighter group of the war that never lost a bomber under its protection.

Pat Sargent is a modern-day descendant of those brave men. As I noted, he commands the 421st Medical Battalion. With 45 Black Hawk helicopters, 40 ground ambulances, 118 wheeled vehicles, and 591 personnel, it is the U.S. Army's largest medical evacuation battalion. Serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Pat became the first African American to command a medical evacuation battalion in combat in our Nation's history. The motto of the 421st is "Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime." It is only three words in length, but it is telling nonetheless. The battalion's men and women are deployed to sites across the globe, including the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa. They perform medical evacuations not only for American soldiers but for allied troops, wounded enemy soldiers that have been taken prisoner, and injured civilians. In Iraq, helicopters

from the 421st on MedEvac missions are routinely fired upon. Think about that. The crews of these helicopters, these amazing men and women, are being shot at as they strive to bring life-saving medical care to Iraqis and Americans alike. Anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Colonel Donald Gagliano, commander of the 30th Medical Brigade of which the 421st Battalion is a part, commented on Pat's recent award: "This exemplary senior Army aviator is the quintessence of excellence. He is the epitome of the Tuskegee Airman, and his character, demeanor and professionalism are reflective and very similar to that of Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr."

I cannot adequately pay tribute to Pat without also discussing his wife Sherry. She is also a Lt. Colonel in the Army and is currently stationed in Iraq as part of the 1st Armored Division. She and Pat met early in their careers, while they were both in training to become officers. Together they have a lovely daughter Samantha. Sherry has been in Iraq since the spring and is not scheduled to leave until spring, 2004.

As Pat and Sherry have found themselves both deployed overseas, they have had to make arrangements for someone to look after Samantha. Fortunately, Sherry's parents have been able to relocate to Germany indefinitely to help care for Samantha.

The Sargent family illustrates the fact that when our Nation calls upon our military to deploy, be it for peacekeeping, for combat, or for another type of operation, the sacrifices are borne by more than just those individuals who wear a military uniform.

September 11, 2001, was, of course, a tragic day for all Americans. Some of us were touched more directly than others. As I stated, Pat Sargent spent 2001 as a Congressional Fellow in my Washington, DC office. During that time, his wife was working at the Pentagon. On that terrible morning of September 11, Sherry Sargent learned that two aircraft had struck the World Trade Center. She walked down the hall to an office with a TV in order to learn what was going on. At 9:40 AM, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the portion of the Pentagon where Sherry Sargent's office was located. She lost many friends and coworkers that day. Had she been in her office she would almost certainly have been among those who were killed or injured. As soon as he learned of the attack on the Pentagon, Pat rushed to the scene to locate Sherry. He caught the last shuttle bus from Capitol Hill to the Pentagon before the area was sealed off. After a long search on the crowded Pentagon grounds, Pat was able to find Sherry and learn that she had, fortunately, survived the attack.

In an e-mail to my office a few months ago, Pat noted that "High-tech weapons played a part in the success of this war; but, it was won with human

capital—America's sons and daughters." He expressed his thanks for all that Congress has done to support our men and women in uniform.

Well, Pat, I want to thank you—and all of our dedicated service men and women—for your sacrifices, your commitment, and your bravery. And I congratulate you for your receipt of the General Benjamin O. Davis Award, an honor you richly deserve.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to honor a Virginia soldier, Captain John Robert Teal, who was tragically killed in action in Iraq on Thursday, October 23, 2003. I want to express gratitude, on behalf of the Senate, for his service to our Nation. The American people, I am certain, join me in expressing their prayers and compassion to his family.

Captain John Robert Teal followed his father Joseph, a retired firefighter, into public service. He understood the importance of his present assignment and despite the personal risk, wanted to serve the United States and the people of Iraq during this critical time.

A medical officer attached to the Army's 4th Infantry Division, he was a dedicated and compassionate young man who, according to news reports, spent his final days helping sick children.

Captain Teal leaves behind his father Joseph; his mother Emmie; and his sister Elizabeth Kormanyos.

His parents, Joseph and Emmie, with whom I have had the pleasure to speak, albeit under tragic circumstances, are brave souls who have sacrificed so much for this Nation. We owe them and the other families who have lost their loved ones a debt of gratitude.

John was a 1990 graduate of Benedictine High School. Upon graduating from Benedictine, he attended the Virginia Military Institute from which he graduated in 1994 and received a commission in the United States Army.

He was an exceptional young man with a bright future in front of him. He was known as a wonderful person and according to friends, the kind of individual that no one could say anything bad about. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the entire Nation shall mourn his loss.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Daniel Bader, a fellow Nebraskan and staff sergeant in the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Bader was killed on November 2 near Fallujah, Iraq when the Chinook helicopter he was aboard was shot down. Staff Sergeant Bader was one of 16 soldiers killed and 20 wounded en route to the United States for 2 weeks of leave. He was 28 years old.

Staff Sergeant Bader served in the 3rd Armored Cavalry, Tiger Squadron, based on Fort Carson, CO. He was deployed to Iraq on April 4, 2003.

A York, NE native, Staff Sergeant Bader was a dedicated soldier who was committed to his family and country. He joined the military shortly after

graduating from high school and "absolutely loved" his career in the Army, said his wife Tiffany. In addition to his wife, Staff Sergeant Bader leaves behind a 14-month-old daughter, Taryn Makenzie. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both at this difficult time.

Staff Sergeant Bader and thousands of brave American service men and women confront danger every day in Iraq—their tremendous risks and sacrifices must never be taken for granted. For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Staff Sergeant Daniel Bader.

MOVING TO SUSPEND PARAGRAPH 4 OF RULE XVI

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: "In accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4 of rule XVI for the purpose of proposing to the Committee Amendment to the bill (H.R. 2673), Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with respect to amendment No. 2068.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Mr. Robert Maricle, a bisexual man from Salinas, CA, disappeared from his community on December 14, 2002. Almost 4 months later, his body was discovered in a shallow grave. Mr. Maricle was reported missing after going out for drinks with three strangers. Police allege that those three strangers are responsible for Mr. Maricle's death, and committed the crime in part because of his sexual orientation.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974,