

his family and friends in Ogallala, but Captain Ford will also be remembered for the shining example of patriotism, dedication and commitment that he set as a brave member of the Marines.●

SP1 JAMES WOLF

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of SP1 James Wolf, a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 52nd Engineer Battalion of the 43rd Area Support Group.

Specialist Wolf stopped in to visit the students at the Lincoln Heights Elementary School in Scottsbluff, NE when he was home on leave just a few short weeks ago. He wanted to thank all the students who had written letters to him while he was in Iraq and he told them how the letters they had written lifted his spirits and how he shared their letters with soldiers around him who did not receive any mail of their own.

He recently returned to Iraq where he was performing valuable work rebuilding schools, homes, and providing safe drinking water. Tragically, he was killed on November 6, 2003 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his truck convoy.

His death was a blow to the Scottsbluff community where he was remembered as a young man with a lot of spunk and someone who wanted to make a difference. He is the son of Bob and Chris Wolf of Scottsbluff. His mother said of him, "He was very proud of what he did. He talked about making it a career, and he had such a sense of purpose. It was awesome just to hear him." James' sister Rachel, a 2003 graduate of Scottsbluff High, informed the school of her brother's death. Kirk Begley, principal at Scottsbluff High, said it was a "sad, sad day when we had to let the staff know." Begley said James Wolf was "just an all around great kid and was adamant about being a soldier."

Specialist First Class Wolf will be missed greatly by his family and friends and the entire Scottsbluff community. He will also be remembered as a soldier whose patriotism inspired his community. I would like to express my deepest sympathy for the Wolf family and I know all Nebraskans join me in remembering and honoring James' contributions to Scottsbluff and his sacrifice on behalf of his country.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the 250 outstanding Vermonters who served in the 10th Mountain Division during World War II. I want to commend the Vermont Ski Museum for recognizing the significant contributions of these exceptional men by inducting them into the Ski Hall of Fame.

As a fellow veteran who grew up in the era of World War II, I remember President Roosevelt's call for volunteers. It came as no surprise that when

the military asked for skiers, trappers, and woodsmen to serve in the 10th Division, many of those who responded to the call of duty were from our own Green Mountain State. For a young boy in Rutland, VT, these men were my heroes.

The 10th Mountain Division distinguished itself in fighting on the island of Kiska in Alaska and in the mountains of Italy. Recently we have been reminded of the effectiveness of these soldiers on skis. At a time when modern weapons and sophisticated technology seemed to overshadow the 10th Division's skills, recent conflicts in Afghanistan and other parts of the world have shown us that much of war boils down to human fortitude and a single man against the elements. Modern warfare has not proven to be more effective than the 10th Mountain Division when it comes to fighting in these extreme elements over rugged terrain. We are coming back to basics, and hopefully military planners will never doubt the necessity of divisions with skills like the 10th as part of our national defense.

After the war, many of the veterans of the 10th Mountain Division came home to leave their mark on the ski industry. Vermont was no exception, and the ski industry has flourished here due in part to the passion these individuals have for skiing. They are indeed members of the Greatest Generation and their selfless contributions are evident throughout our State.

I applaud the Ski Museum for acknowledging your individual sacrifices, your defense of our country and your contributions to skiing. It is a privilege for me to join the many others in honoring each of you. You continue to be my heroes.

THE ARMED FORCES RELIEF TRUST

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an important program that significantly assists our men and women who are fighting abroad.

The war on terrorism is being fought on many fronts and around the world. Today, there are more than 140,000 troops stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and many more around the world.

Many of these troops served in Afghanistan only to be almost immediately redeployed to fight in Iraq. These extended deployments have been trying for those left behind. But they have stepped up and met the challenge. They have answered the Nation's call with enthusiasm and dedication.

In Colorado, the large deployment from Ft. Carson has shown just how difficult it can be for many military families when our troops must be sent abroad. While the military is dedicated to taking care of its own, the current situation abroad means needs of the family will only continue to escalate.

To address this, the four relief agencies representing the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force recently

combined into one umbrella relief organization in order to better provide assistance.

The National Association of Broadcasters and its 1,000 television station and 6,000 radio station members recently produced and disturbed Public Service Announcements that encourage viewers and listeners to contribute to the Armed Forces Relief Trust.

Broadcasters have a long history of involvement in this country's national security. I commend them for dedicating airtime to this worthwhile cause.

Last year, together, the four relief agencies distributed \$109 million to military families in need. I am confident that by streamlining operations into one entity and with help from local broadcast stations to get the word out, the Armed Forces Relief Trust will be able to assist even more military families.

We are counting on our brave young men and women in the field. They are relying on the Armed Forces Relief Trust, and the trust is counting on local broadcast stations. Local radio and television stations are performing an invaluable public service through this program, and I salute them.

Since today is Veterans Day, I also salute those who have already experienced the hardships of war much like those currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. I believe the most important thing we can do for our veterans is say thank you for their service and sacrifice to our country.

NFL MILITARY AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on this Veterans Day I recognize a military public awareness initiative that Mr. K. S., Bud, Adams, the founder and owner of our NFL Tennessee Titans, played a strong role in instituting this past weekend. Mr. Adams, a U.S. Naval Officer during World War II, and five other National Football League owners who also served in the military during that same time, urged NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue to launch this campaign to help the hundreds of American families of our brave military servicemen and women who have died for our country in the line of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. Mr. Adams and his fellow NFL owners urged NFL headquarters to initiate an awareness campaign at NFL stadiums and on NFL game telecasts starting Veterans Day Weekend, November 9-11, to help bring attention to the difficult financial situation that our military dependents face in the days and weeks immediately after a serviceman's or woman's death in the Middle East.

The other five NFL owners who served during World War II are Tom Benson, New Orleans Saints; Wellington Mara, New York Giants; Art Modell, Baltimore Ravens; Alex Spanos, San Diego Chargers; and Ralph Wilson, Buffalo Bills.

As Commissioner Tagliabue said in announcing this new program: "Our clubs recognize that the men and women of our Armed Forces are tremendous NFL fans. This program is one small way to repay that support to families who lose a loved one in defense of our country in the Middle East. Our NFL owners, coaches and players speak with one voice when it comes to this project."

The campaign cornerstone is a new national TV and radio announcement produced by NFL Films that aired on every NFL game telecast this past Veterans Day weekend. It is narrated by Vietnam veteran and former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Rocky Bleier. The message encourages NFL fans to support the Intrepid Foundation's Fallen Heroes Fund, which provides an immediate \$10,000 grant to military families who have paid the ultimate price with the loss of a member in Iraq or Afghanistan. The following is the text for the television message narrated by Bleier:

The National Football League family is committed to supporting the courageous men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Mideast.

But the fight for freedom is not without loss.

And the NFL urges you to join us and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund in supporting the military families of those heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our country.

Please visit www.nfl.com/heroesfund and help support those families in need.

This program—and the \$100,000 contribution that the NFL made to kickoff the initiative—is the latest in the NFL's continuing support of our U.S. military personnel. That tremendous NFL support dates back at least to World War II when 638 NFL players served in the military, including 19 who were killed in action. The NFL has worked with the USO for decades in sending NFL players overseas to Vietnam, Korea and more recently Iraq to let our courageous troops know that they are not forgotten.

I hope you will join me in applauding Mr. Adams and the NFL for their latest "Families Helping Families" public awareness program and thank them for their support of our brave men and women in uniform.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a looming crisis for New England's groundfishermen. Last week, the New England Fishery Management Council voted to adopt a set of new regulations, known as Amendment 13. This package of regulations will permanently alter the character of New England's groundfish fishery, and will particularly harm the fishermen in my home State of Maine. This sweeping change in fisheries management is largely unneeded; in fact, most stocks of fish in the groundfish complex are rapidly rebuilding. There is a much larger problem in

the fishery management process that has subverted a system of rational management and forced these unnecessary changes on our fishing industry. That problem is excessive litigation.

Amendment 13, like many other regulations driven by excessive litigation, will permanently harm Maine's fishermen and related businesses. Historically, numerous coastal communities in Maine have taken part in and benefited from the groundfish fishery. Unfortunately, regulatory changes will force many of Maine's smaller groundfish boats out of the industry. Small fishing communities like Stonington, Rockland, and Port Clyde which used to be home to many groundfish vessels, are already suffering due to restricted access to fish stocks. The changes to these coastal communities clearly stem from regulations born of excessive litigation.

Further, these burdensome regulations will hurt boats of all sizes. Many small boats will not survive due to severe cuts in fishing time combined with the long distances that must be traveled in order to access fish stocks. In addition, Maine's larger vessels are leaving our States, moving to southern New England ports, in an effort to survive this latest round of regulations. The damaging effect of such an exodus on Maine's fishing infrastructure, which is at a critical minimum, will be irreparable. As Amendment 13 is put into place, revenues will continue to move south, and Maine's working waterfront will vanish, to be replaced by coastal development.

The drastic sacrifices demanded of our fishermen might be worthwhile if New England groundfish were truly at risk. However, fish stocks are rebounding at a tremendous rate. For example, Georges Bank haddock biomass figures have gone from less than 20,000 metric tons in 1994 to roughly 100,000 metric tons in 2002. Overall, groundfish biomass figures have tripled since 1994. This fishery is a success story. Unfortunately, litigants refuse to agree. They have stolen management authority away from the regional councils and given this power to the courts, which are particularly ill-suited to make biological decisions.

Excessive litigation also diverts precious resources from the main mission of the National Marine Fisheries Service: fisheries management. Each year the Service spends time and money defending itself in the courts. In fact, this year the Senate is considering appropriating \$5 million to the National Marine Fisheries Service exclusively for the purpose of fighting litigation. This money could be better spent conducting research, if our management system was not engulfed in litigation.

We all suffer when a management system is under siege from excessive litigation. As in the case of Amendment 13, management plans are developed under an aura of crisis where managers must meet court-appointed goals before court-appointed deadlines.

What we need instead, is fisheries management developed with measure and reason. We need a system where the views of stakeholders are valued.

In 1976, Congress passed the Fishery Conservation and Management Act. One of the strongest aspects of this act was the creation of regional fishery management councils. These councils rely on the participation of those who know the most about our Nation's fisheries. Unfortunately, some advocacy groups have chosen to bypass the council system by proceeding straight to court. In fact, one of these groups has already threatened to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service if they do not get what they want out of Amendment 13. This is truly discouraging, considering these regulations have yet to be published. Excessive litigation should not continue to diminish the participatory nature of fisheries management by removing decision-making authority away from those most qualified to manage our Nation's fisheries.

The Amendment 13 process is a clear example of why fisheries management belongs in the hands of fisheries managers. The courts handed our regional managers a set of impossible goals and an impossible time frame in which to achieve these goals. Nothing but the impossible can result from this situation, despite the efforts of regional managers to create a reasonable management plan. This entire process only demonstrates the weaknesses of regulation driven by excessive litigation, and the need to take management decisions out of the courts and place them back in the council system. That will require changes in the law.

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.

I would like to describe one such crime today. In September 1997, a gay man in Williamstown, NJ, was beaten enough to receive a black eye, at least two broken toes, and bruises all over his body. Later that day, his house was egged and a brick thrown through a window. Local kids, who allegedly committed the assault, screamed "you got what you deserve, you faggot," at the time of the incident.

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.