

Alfred Rose said his son and his wife met at North Carolina State University and married, living at Fort Campbell, Ky., the base of the 101st Airborne Division. Michele (Basso) Rose gave birth to their daughter Meghan Louise at Fort Campbell on July 31, and the baby never met her father, the elder Rose said.

Rose said that he was able to hook up a Web camera so his son could watch the baby over the Internet from Iraq, but that he died before he was able to get leave and come home to visit his new daughter. She is the couple's only child.

Rose said his son died with three of his fellow crew members, all of whom were very close friends. According to news reports, the Black Hawk was transporting two officials from the Army's Judge Advocate General corps from the Pentagon when the helicopter was hit.

Alfred Rose, himself a retired lieutenant colonel from the 82nd Airborne Division, said his son's mission on Nov. 7 was to transport "command and control" personnel from Mosul to Tikrit. His son was the crew chief.

He said his son was born in Attleboro, Mass., but grew up in North Carolina, attending high school in Fayetteville. He was captain of the wrestling team and also played soccer, was also involved in drama and debate. He graduated second in his class and attended North Carolina State on a full Navy scholarship.

But he switched to the Army even after receiving orders to the Navy's prestigious flight school in Pensacola, Fla., his father said, to combine his love of flying and his wish to be a family man. Navy flight training involves six month stints on aircraft carriers. "However, the world situation turned sour and he was deployed nearly continuously from Bosnia to the NCO School in Virginia and immediately to Iraq. Scott badly wanted to join his unit, which was already over there," his father recalled.

His father called him "the Tom Cruise of the Lancer flight line, he loved his work, he loved to teach others." "He was one of those rare great men, soldier, leader, husband, father . . . our son," he said.

The elder Rose said his son's unit was not expected back from Iraq until February or March 2004. According to an article in the Fayetteville Observer, Rose had started flying when he was 14 years old. In college, he started studying aeronautical engineering, but switched to history.

His son called his helicopter "Goat 26431." He named it so in honor of his grandfather's military aircraft, which was also nicknamed Goat. His grandfather also died on active duty.

The father said his son's helicopter came under fire the morning of Nov. 7. A second Black Hawk helicopter was following close behind and was not hit, but Rose said those in the second helicopter heard the impact of the weapon, saw flames erupt and his son's helicopter crash. At the time the helicopter was hit, they were about 280 feet above the ground and had slowed to make a landing in a designated area.

His son received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, as well as the Army Commendation medal. His wife's father and stepmother, Alfred and Paula Basso, live on Poppe Road in Springfield, according to William Young, director of the David Memorial Chapel, which is working closely with the military to plan Saturday's funeral. Details of the service are still being worked out, according to a spokesman at the funeral home.

Young said Rose would not be buried in Vermont as his remains were being cremated. The elder Rose said that a memorial account in his son's name has been set up to benefit his infant daughter at the Bryant Credit Union in Springfield.

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.

On October 25, 2003, a Miami, FL, teen was charged with a hate crime after police say he harassed a 19-year-old woman driving with a gay pride sticker on her car.

The teen leaned out of his car window at a traffic light to make an obscene gesture toward the young woman and said to her, "We hate faggots . . . we kill people like you." The truck pulled up to her again at the next light where he continued to make lewd comments and gestures. The teen cut in front of the woman and hit his brakes, causing the woman's car to swerve, according to police. Police say the driver then swerved his truck three times towards the woman's car, running her off the road.

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.

SBA ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING HURRICANE ISABEL

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues the well-coordinated and rapid response of the good people from the United States Small Business Administration in the days and weeks that have followed the disaster caused by Hurricane Isabel.

Virginia is still recovering from this terrible natural disaster. In Virginia, initial assessments indicate that 1,062 homes were destroyed; over 8,800 homes sustained major damage; 1.8 million customers lost electricity of varying duration from a day to over a week; there were 28 deaths in the Commonwealth; crop losses are in the tens of millions; and total damages are in the billions to homes, businesses, transportation and other infrastructure facilities.

Our Commonwealth was devastated and the residents of Virginia, as they always do, have come together to help neighbors repair damages, to help families find housing and to console those who lost loved ones in their time of grief.

Soon after the storm cut across Virginia, and the economic impact began to be felt, I contacted Small Business Administration leaders, seeking to bring direct assistance to these affected businesses. On September 22,

SBA representatives responded quickly. My colleague, JOHN WARNER, and I toured the significant damage to many flooded small businesses in Old Town Alexandria, VA.

The quick response, expertise and enthusiasm of the SBA leaders gave hope to small business owners who were upset at the great losses and burdened by damage to their infrastructure, uncertainty when to reopen, loss of inventory, very little capital and lost incomes. The people saw that there was help, that it was not just their own sweat, worry and furrowed brows, but that the SBA was there to assist them directly.

Herb Mitchell, associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Assistance at the SBA, Anthony Bedell, associate administrator for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Sue Hensley, associate administrator for the Office of Communications and Public Liaison and their leader Melanie Sabelhaus, Deputy Administrator for the SBA walked with us while we viewed the damage first hand, talking with business owners who were able to ask specific questions and receive answers and solutions.

On the spot, Melanie Sabelhaus of the SBA also set up an onsite Business Disaster Recovery Center with the local Chamber of Commerce in Old Town Alexandria to help business owners who suffered loss. Our top priority was to get small businesses dried out, disinfected and back in business, and I am proud that this team effort has proceeded successfully. By getting our boots in the mud, we were able to get a direct, human response to promptly assist distressed small business owners, who are the backbone of the American economy.

Later the same week they answered my call and came with me again to southeastern Virginia, to places such as Burwell's Bay in Isle of Wight County, Suffolk and Wakefield in Sussex County. There we witnessed the terrible devastation. People there not only experienced great trauma, difficulty and loss, they were still without power, looking to the SBA for assistance, which was able to provide human, personal attention to help get them up and running again. Small businesses such as Cameron Chemical and the Marina Restaurant, whose owners we were able to talk with, which were forced to close their businesses indefinitely, and which together employ dozens of hard-working Virginians were given hands-on assistance by the SBA to reopen in a timely manner. Low interest loans, business disruption assistance from the SBA visibly cheered their faces with hope and gratitude. Traveling with me again was Melanie Sabelhaus, along with Anne Bradbury, assistant administrator for congressional affairs and Becky Brantley, assistant administrator for disaster assistance.

I commend the Small Business Administration's leadership, under the direction of Administrator Hector