

hotel operators. The meeting resulted in an agreement by resort operators to end their segregation practices, and to make their casinos, restaurants, and hotel rooms accessible to all people regardless of race.

The "Moulin Rouge Agreement" made national news, and the building has since been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a living symbol and tribute to the struggle for equality and civil rights. Over the years, a number of owners tried to bring the Moulin Rouge back as a viable resort, but none was ultimately successful. Then, last year, a tragedy occurred. On May 29, 2003, one day before a new owner was scheduled to take over the property, an arsonist's fire ravaged the casino. The three-alarm blaze destroyed many irreplaceable historic photos and relics, including the famous Moulin Rouge wall mural and its unique mahogany bar.

Miraculously, the entire front facade and the historic Moulin Rouge neon sign survived the fire, along with the original tile-covered columns and the signature tower. These structures, along with the original hotel building which also survived, will provide the foundation from which a new Moulin Rouge will rise.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, so it seems fitting to announce that the Moulin Rouge, a symbol of civil rights change in Las Vegas, will rise from the ashes.

The Moulin Rouge Development Corporation, which was stymied in its efforts to purchase the hotel by the tragic fire, will soon finalize purchase of the property. This Thursday, January 29, the company will publicly announce its plans for the new Moulin Rouge.

These plans call for restoration of the original facade and the original hotel, along with construction of a new hotel, casino, and shopping mall. This new facility will include museum exhibits, provided by the Moulin Rouge Museum and Cultural Center, that celebrate the history of the property and the achievements of minority leaders, entertainers, and other pioneers of the civil rights era.

I congratulate Dale Scott, Rod Bickerstaff, Chauncey Moore, and other officials of the Moulin Rouge Development Corporation for their vision and hard work in bringing forth this proposal.

It has been a long road. But those of us who love history are delighted that the Moulin Rouge will be saved, and that its famous neon sign will shine once again. It will serve as a reminder of how far we have come, and how much remains to be done.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TWO BRIAN D.
HAZELGROVE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a

brave young man from Edinburg, IN. CWO2 Brian D. Hazelgrove, 29 years old, died outside of Mosul, Iraq, on January 23, 2004, after his Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed while returning from a combat mission. Brian joined the Army with his entire life before him. He chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Brian was the 24th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brian leaves behind his father, Ron; his wife, Kimmi; his half brother, Brad; and his children, Taylor, Zachary, Brandon, and Katelyn. May Brian's children grow up knowing that their father gave his life so that young Iraqis will some day know the freedom they enjoy.

Today, I join Brian's family, his friends, and the entire Edinburg community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is this courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Brian, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Brian graduated from Edinburg High School in 1994, where he played on the basketball team. Friends and family members remember Brian for the love he shared with his entire family, his energetic personality and his un-failing sense of humor. His half brother Brad spoke for all who were blessed to have known Brian when describing him to the Indianapolis Star as "just a joy . . . the guy was amazing."

After joining the Army in 1994, Brian began his military career in intelligence. He later became a helicopter pilot, serving with the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry Regiment from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY. Prior to Brian's service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, he also served two tours of duty in South Korea. He was deployed to the Middle East in November.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Brian's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Brian's actions will live on far long than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brian D. Hazelgrove in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just

cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Brian's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless us all.

TRIBUTE TO SGM PHILIP ALBERT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise in tribute to U.S. Army SGM Philip Robert Albert, of Plymouth, CT, who lost his life on duty in Afghanistan on November 23, 2003. He was 41 years old.

Sergeant Major Albert, a member of the 2nd Battalion of the 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, was killed along with four other soldiers in a helicopter crash in northeastern Afghanistan. His service to his country will not be forgotten.

Philip Albert was a career military man. He enlisted in the Army after graduating high school at 18 years of age, and he never looked back. He fought in the first gulf war in 1991 and was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Sergeant Major Albert was on the front lines in the war on terror, searching the mountains of Afghanistan for members of al-Qaida and the Taliban, protecting coalition forces as well as the Afghan people.

Like so many of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, Philip Albert didn't consider himself a hero. For him, putting his life on the line for his country was simply part of his job—a job he did with dignity, courage, and honor.

Sergeant Major Albert's devotion to his country was matched only by his love for his family. The youngest of 8 siblings, he enjoyed the company of his brothers and sisters, and he was especially fond of the time he spent with his many nieces and nephews.

In recent years, Sergeant Major Albert had spoken with his family and friends about the possibility of retiring from the Army. But it was difficult for an individual like Philip Albert to walk away from the job he loved. After he witnessed the horrific attacks of September 11, he must have decided that America could use his experience, his dedication, and his service. Because once again, when his country called on him, Philip Albert answered the call.

Philip Albert perished just a few days before Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving holiday will obviously have a very different meaning for his family and friends for many, many years to come. But I would like them to know that each and every one of us in the Senate—and indeed every single American—owes a tremendous debt of thanks to Philip Albert.

It is people like Sergeant Major Albert who make it possible for us to live each and every day in freedom, peace, and security. It is their sacrifices, in lands thousands of miles away, that keep us safe here at home. We must

never forget those sacrifices—especially those of people like Philip Albert who have left us with a debt we can never repay.

I offer my deepest sympathies to Philip Albert's family, and to everyone who knew and loved him.

IN MEMORY OF PFC JEFFREY BRAUN

Mr. President, I also rise to speak in memory of PFC Jeffrey Braun, of Stafford, CT, who was killed in Iraq on December 11, 2003. He was 19 years old.

Private Braun was truly an inspiration to everyone who knew him. He joined the Army shortly after the attacks of September 11, motivated by a desire to be part of the global campaign to rid the world of terror. After completing his senior year at Stafford High School in 2002, he became a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jeff Braun's heroic sacrifice in Iraq will never be forgotten. But in the words of a friend, Adrian Scarpa, "He was a hero even before he went over."

No matter what he did, Jeff Braun was always striving to be part of something greater than himself. At Stafford High School, wherever you looked, you could find Jeff Braun. He played soccer, wrestled, and ran track. He sang, acted in school plays, and was active in local community service projects.

Jeff's friends and family members knew him as a young man who always had a kind word, a smile, and an outgoing and infectious sense of humor. He would make friends with classmates who were lonely. He would give away his own lunch to students who didn't have any.

Jeff Braun was a fascinating person, and he had a fascinating life story. He was born in the village of San Pedro Sula in Honduras. When he was 6 months old, he was adopted by Meredith and William Braun, who brought him to Stafford. He came to love his adopted country so much that he joined its armed forces. But he also shared a deep and meaningful connection with his homeland. Even while in Iraq, Jeff was actively pursuing his dream of building an orphanage in his native Honduras. It's a dream that Jeff's parents have said they will strive to make a reality.

Jeff didn't have to enlist in the military. But with his enthusiasm, his generosity, his spirit, and his character, he simply couldn't stay on the sidelines and watch as his fellow countrymen fought overseas in defense of freedom. Jeff saw a job that needed to be done—and he knew that he had to be a part of it.

I join the town of Stafford, the State of Connecticut, and the entire United States Senate in mourning the loss of Private Jeffrey Braun, a truly remarkable individual who was taken from us far, far too soon.

I offer my deepest sympathies to Jeff's parents William and Meredith, to his sister Julie, his entire family, and the many, many people whose lives were touched by Jeff Braun.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see my good friend from Kentucky on the floor, and I want to take this moment to clarify a couple of funding issues in the Foreign Operations portion of the Omnibus Appropriations bill.

I notice that the conference report is silent on the issue of funding for Laos. Is it the chairman's intention that the administration should implement the language contained in the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Report, 108-106?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank the Senator from Vermont. Before I respond, I was wondering if he could take a moment to read the Senate report language for the benefit of our colleagues.

Mr. LEAHY. I would be happy to. It reads:

The Committee recommends that USAID provide \$2,000,000 in Child Survival and Health Programs Fund and Development Assistance to Laos—one of the world's poorest and most repressive countries—through non-governmental organizations. The Committee intends that these funds will not be used to offset or substitute INL funding that would otherwise go to Laos.

The Committee is concerned by the actions of the regime in Laos, which continues to be responsible for serious human rights abuses. The Committee is also concerned by the recent detention and trial of an American citizen and two foreign journalists in Laos. While the Committee is pleased that these individuals have recently been released, it is deeply troubled that the fate of four Laotian citizens accompanying the journalists is still unknown.

Mr. MCCONNELL. As I know my friend from Vermont is particularly interested in this issue, it would be both accurate and fair to say that it is our collective intention that this language be implemented.

Mr. LEAHY. I am pleased we are in agreement. As I know of your strong interest in the region, I hope we can continue to work together to support United States funded programs through Southeast Asia.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I look forward to our continued cooperation, and urge the State Department and USAID to meet with our respective staffs to discuss countries of particular concern, including Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Burma.

Mr. LEAHY. On the issue of Burmese refugees along the Thailand-Burma border, is it the chairman's expectation that funds from the ERMA account should be used to provide funding for these refugees?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes, it is. The situation on the Burma-Thailand border is disturbing, and if sufficient funds cannot be found from the MRA budget then the administration should consider using ERMA funds to ameliorate this situation.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Chairman.

BLACK ON BLACK CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, 1 year ago this month, a powerful new force

joined together and it has since swept through the neighborhoods in Arkansas. Its members said enough to the homicides plaguing our streets, enough to the violence in our schools and homes and enough to standing by to watch our communities crumble.

Members of the community saw that although African Americans comprised 12 percent of the national population, a staggering 45 percent of all murder victims in 2002 were black. A resounding 91 percent of those murders were incidents of black on black crime.

Homicide was and is still literally tearing apart African-American families, serving as the leading cause of death for black men ages 15 to 24, and the second leading cause of death for black women of the same age group. Black-on-black crime remains an epidemic, having a devastating impact on our families and ultimately compromising the safety and quality of life in my great State of Arkansas.

One year ago this month, community leaders, faith leaders, government officials, community organizations, and businesses did more than just say enough is enough. They formed the Black on Black Crime Coalition to inform and educate the citizens of Little Rock about black-on-black crime, but also to implement programs and initiatives to reduce homicides, reduce violent crimes and take back their streets and neighborhoods.

I am proud to be a partner of this coalition, to join with coalition members and its wide array of partners and raise public awareness about black-on-black crime. The coalition has spent its first year creating and supporting intervention and mentoring programs, conducting workshops for community organizations, supporting neighborhood associations, implementing youth programs and lobbying elected officials to implement policies for effective change. The coalition is working through the statistics, trying to understand the systemic causes, determining the solutions and reversing this epidemic that is stealing away our future leaders.

This January, in Arkansas, we celebrate Black on Black Crime Prevention Month. The coalition has organized a month filled with ceremonies, roundtable discussions, town meetings, and prayer to help meet its mission. By all means, these efforts are contributing to a better understanding of the challenges that Arkansas' black communities face each and every day, but we are also learning and implementing strategies to beat back and overcome these challenges.

As the former attorney general of my State, I have worked closely with law enforcement officers and the community to make Arkansas a safer place to live and raise a family. As a Senator, I have continued to fight for legislation, programs, technology and budgets to accomplish this goal. And I pledge to continue this commitment.

It is a tremendous responsibility that the Black on Black Crime Coalition