

Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Combat engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

1LT Kenneth Michael Ballard, age 26, died May 30 in Najaf during a firefight with insurgents. He was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, from Friedburg, Germany. He was from Mountain View, CA.

LCpl Dustin L. Sides, age 22, died May 31 from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 9th Communications Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Cpl Bum R. Lee, age 21, died June 2 as the result of multiple traumatic injuries received from an explosion while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Sunnyvale, CA.

LCpl Todd J. Bolding, age 23, died June 3 of wounds received due to hostile action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Jeremy L. Bohlman, age 21, died June 7 from hostile action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

PFC Sean Horn, age 19, died June 19 due to a non-hostile incident at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq. He was assigned to Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Orange, CA.

SSgt Marvin Best, age 33, died June 20 due to hostile action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twenty-nine Palms, CA.

SPC Thai Vue, age 22, died June 18 in Baghdad when a mortar round hit the motor pool where he was working. He was assigned to the Army's 127th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, V Corps, Hanau, Germany. He was from Willows, CA.

LCpl Pedro Contreras, age 27, died June 21 from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Deshon E. Otey, age 24, died June 21 from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Cpl Tommy L. Parker, Jr., age 21, died June 21 from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Juan Lopez, age 22, died June 21 from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

2LT Andre D. Tyson, age 33, died June 22 in Balad, Iraq, when enemy forces ambushed his ground patrol. He was assigned to the Army National

Guard's 579th Engineer Battalion, Petaluma, CA. He was from Riverside, CA.

SPC Patrick R. McCaffrey, Sr., age 34, died June 22 in Balad, Iraq, when enemy forces ambushed his ground patrol. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 579th Engineer Battalion, Petaluma, CA. He was from Tracy, CA.

LCPL Manuel A. Ceniceros, age 23, died June 26 from an explosion while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to Regimental Combat Team 1 Headquarters Company, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Santa Ana, CA.

Sgt Kenneth Conde, Jr., age 23, died July 1 due to injuries received from enemy action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCPL James B. Huston, Jr., age 22, died July 2 in a vehicle accident while his unit was responding to hostile action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Mr. President, 206 soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. I pray for these young Americans and their families, and I pray for those who are over there. I look forward to the day when we have a plan to bring our troops home.

I, again, thank Senators LEAHY and HATCH and I yield the floor.

AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ELIE WIESEL

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I do not frequently come to the floor—I assume not very many Senators do—calling to the attention of the Senate an article that has appeared in "Parade," the magazine that is inserted in our Sunday newspapers. But this past weekend I witnessed and then read an article entitled "The America I Love." It was by Elie Wiesel. I think we all have heard of him. He is a Jewish man who was in the concentration camps. He was freed by American soldiers and then came to America. He has spent much of his life here, becoming a citizen. He has been a professor for a long time at one of our universities and has written about 40 books.

I do not know why this article came up this weekend, but let me read excerpts from it, and then I will ask that the entire article be made a part of the RECORD.

At one point, Mr. Wiesel says:

In America, compassion for the refugees and respect for the other still have biblical connotations.

Grandiloquent words used for public oratory? Even now, as America is in the midst of puzzling uncertainty and understandable introspection because of tragic events in Iraq, these words reflect my personal belief. For I cannot forget another day that remains alive in my memory: April 11, 1945.

That day I encountered the first American soldiers in Buchenwald concentration camp. I remember them well. Bewildered, disbelieving, they walked around the place, hell on earth, where our destiny had been played out. They looked at us, just liberated, and did not know what to do or say. Survivors snatched from the dark throes of death, we were empty of all hope—too weak, too emaciated to hug them or even speak to them. Like lost children, the American soldiers wept and wept with rage and sadness. And we received their tears as if they were heart-rending offerings from a wounded and generous humanity.

Ever since that encounter, I cannot repress my emotion before the flag and the uniform—anything that represents American heroism in battle. That is especially true on July Fourth. I reread the Declaration of Independence, a document sanctified by the passion of a nation's thirst for justice and sovereignty, forever admiring both its moral content and majestic intonation. Opposition to oppression in all its forms, defense of all human liberties, celebration of what is right in social intercourse: All this and much more is in that text, which today has special meaning.

Granted, U.S. history has gone through severe trials, of which anti-black racism was the most scandalous and depressing. I happened to witness it in the late Fifties, as I traveled through the South. What did I feel? Shame. Yes, shame for being white. What made it worse was the realization that, at that time, racism was the law, thus making the law itself immoral and unjust.

Still, my generation was lucky to see the downfall of prejudice in many of its forms. True, it took much pain and protest for that law to be changed, but it was. Today, while fanatically stubborn racists are still around, some of them vocal, racism as such has vanished from the American scene. That is true of anti-Semitism too. Jew-haters still exist here and there, but organized anti-Semitism does not—unlike in Europe, where it has been growing with disturbing speed.

As a great power, America has always seemed concerned with other people's welfare, especially in Europe. Twice in the 20th century, it saved the "Old World" from dictatorship and tyranny.

America understands that a nation is great not because its economy is flourishing or its army invincible but because its ideals are loftier. Hence America's desire to help those who have lost their freedom to conquer it again. America's credo might read as follows: For an individual, as for a nation, to be free is an admirable duty—but to help others become free is even more admirable.

Some skeptics may object: But what about Vietnam? And Cambodia? And the support some administrations gave to corrupt regimes in Africa or the Middle East? And the occupation of Iraq? Did we go wrong—and if so, where?

And what are we to make of the despicable, abominable "interrogation methods" used on Iraqi prisoners of war by a few soldiers (but even a few are too many) in Iraqi military prisons?

Well, one could say that no nation is composed of saints alone. None is sheltered from mistakes or misdeeds. All have their Cain and Abel. It takes vision and courage to undergo serious soul-searching and to favor moral conscience over political expediency. And America, in extreme situations, is endowed with both. America is always ready to learn from its mishaps. Self-criticism remains its second nature.

Not surprising, some Europeans do not share such views. In extreme left-wing political and intellectual circles, suspicion and distrust toward America is the order of the

went to war only to please the oil-rich capitalists.

They are wrong. America went to war to liberate a population too long subjected to terror and death.

We see in newspapers and magazines and on television screens the mass graves and torture chambers imposed by Saddam Hussein and his accomplices. One cannot but feel grateful to the young Americans who leave their families, some to lose their lives, in order to bring to Iraq the first rays of hope—without which no people can imagine the happiness of welcoming freedom.

Hope is a key word in the vocabulary of men and women like myself and so many others who discovered in America the strength to overcome cynicism and despair.

Remember the legendary Pandora's box? It is filled with implacable, terrifying curses. But underneath, at the very bottom, there is hope. Now as before, now more than ever, it is waiting for us.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the full text of the article in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE AMERICA I LOVE
(By Elie Wiesel)

Born in Sighet, Transylvania (Romania), Elie Wiesel became a U.S. citizen in 1963. Since then, Wiesel—a Holocaust survivor, Boston University professor and the author of more than 40 books—has become one of our nation's most honored citizens. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow on a civilian. In 1992, President George Bush recognized Wiesel with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Wiesel, who has been an outspoken advocate of human rights around the world, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

The day I received American citizenship was a turning point in my life. I had ceased to be stateless. Until then, unprotected by any government and unwanted by any society, the Jew in me was overcome by a feeling of pride mixed with gratitude.

From that day on, I felt privileged to belong to a country which, for two centuries, has stood as a living symbol of all that is charitable and decent to victims of injustice everywhere—a country in which every person is entitled to dream of happiness, peace and liberty; where those who have are taught to give back.

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111TH VIBORG DANISH DAYS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the upcoming Danish Days Festival in Viborg, SD. This annual event attracts hundreds of people to the small South Dakota town to celebrate the area's rich Danish history. I especially applaud the Danish Days planning committee and the Danish Heritage Association for their work to make this event a success.

Denmark-native Peter Larsen Christensen first settled near Viborg in 1864, establishing a small general store on his homestead. Southwestern Railroad completed a line connecting Sioux Falls and Yankton in 1893, which passed through the present-day Viborg. The community incorporated on August 25, 1893, shortly after the railroad's arrival, and quickly grew into a bustling Danish community on the new South Dakota prairie.

Today, this town of 800 remains a vibrant community. In a time when small town stores continue to close, Viborg's Main Street features full storefronts offering a variety of services, including a pharmacy, grocery store and bank. The city's industrial park also continues to grow. Viborg's strong business community exists because of the town's strong foundation of community, established more than 100 years ago.

Each year, the Danish Days Festival provides Viborg residents, past and present, with an opportunity to celebrate the community's proud heritage. The event will feature a leadership luncheon for Turner County's public servants and an honoring reception for the decedents of 2004 Danish Days honorees, C.J. and Cena Glood. A parade, community barbecue, car show, and fireworks display are also planned.

The C.J. and Cena Glood family opened Viborg's first hardware and implement store shortly after the community was incorporated, and their decedents have continued to impact Viborg's prosperity through proud leadership. Most prominently, their eldest son, Royal, served 10 years in South Dakota State Legislature, advocating for the interests of Turner County.

Their daughter, Dagmar, maintained a medical practice in Viborg for nearly 20 years and made numerous contributions to the community. The family has had a substantial impact on Viborg's development and are worthy honorees.

Finally, the Danish Heritage Association will unveil Viborg's first Danish heritage museum during the festivities.