

DON NICKLES developed that level of expertise that other people do not. It is because he studies. He works.

He is going to be sorely missed by a lot of people around here because of what he had to offer and because of the contributions he has made.

I am 15 years older than DON NICKLES. I have been his junior Senator. I guess it is now time I become senior Senator.

I will miss his expertise, his charm, his humor, and most of all I will miss him because he is my brother. I will miss him dearly. Don, it is going to be goodbye to you but hang around. We look forward to working with you and accepting your advice because I know it will be there when we need it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. INHOFE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2997 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CPL. JOSEPH L. NICE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marine LCpl. Joseph L. Nice from Nicoma Park, OK, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on August 4, 2004. This fourth-generation soldier died defending the freedom he enjoyed and fighting to ensure it for others.

Lance Corporal Nice moved to Nicoma Park, OK from Newark, NJ, in 1998. He was a gifted young man—a musician, artist and sportsman, who used these gifts in the marching band and on the soccer team at Choctaw High School. From the age of 5, he had longed to follow in the footsteps of his father, his grandfathers, and his uncle in serving in the military. After weighing this tradition and putting on hold his plans to study law, Joseph Nice decided to join the Marine Corps in June 2003.

Lance Corporal Nice was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, CA. His unit was deployed to Iraq in February 2004, where Lance Corporal Nice and his fellow Marines faced daily attacks in the Anbar province. During one of these attacks on August 4, 2004, Joseph Nice was killed.

I represent the State of Oklahoma in paying my condolences to the family of this American hero. A friend of his said about him: "If you had a problem, he was always there for you." Through his service in Iraq, LCpl Joseph Nice demonstrated his worthiness to receive this highest compliment. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends today.

ARMY SPC. SONNY G. SAMPLER

Mr. President, we also pay homage to Army SPC Sonny G. Sampler from

Oklahoma City, OK, who died in the name of freedom in Iraq on 8 July 2004. He moved to Oklahoma City from Altus, OK and began attending John Marshall High School.

Specialist Sampler saw the Army as an opportunity for focus and direction and joined in 2001. He was deployed to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division based in Schweinfurt, Germany. In serving his country, Sonny Sampler did not shy away from his other duties. In the words of Maj. Gen. Douglas Dollar, "This young man was willing to go to a strange land and fight for people he didn't know." It is the same young man who sold some belongings to pay for a flight from Germany back to the United States at Christmas to surprise his mother. Such a family man is to be much valued.

Specialist Sampler was tragically killed when he was searching the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters for survivors, following an allied attack. When the ruins underwent an attack by insurgents, Sonny Sampler and five other U.S. soldiers died. He was 23 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers are with this American hero's family and friends at this very difficult time. We should never cease to be proud of this man.

SGT DANIEL LEE GALVAN

Mr. President, we also pay homage to Sgt Daniel Lee Galvan, who joined the Army to realize his childhood dream of working with helicopters. Earlier this year, Sergeant Galvan made the ultimate sacrifice for his country—his life. Sergeant Galvan was a dedicated defender of America who followed his father into the military. For this service and his sacrifice, I am proud to honor him in the Senate today.

Daniel Galvan was born in Fort Ord, CA, but later moved to Moore, OK, where he joined the Army reserve after high school but enlisted in 1996 to fulfill what he saw as his calling to be a soldier. Though he knew a career in the military would enable him to provide for his family, the paycheck was never his primary motivation. In the words of his wife, Sonya, "He joined because he believed in the cause. He believed in the military. And he was proud to wear the uniform and honored to be an American." Sergeant Galvan was a helicopter crew chief with the 2nd Battalion (Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light), based out of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

On August 12, 2004, the Black Hawk helicopter that was transporting Sergeant Galvan and fourteen other soldiers in Afghanistan developed mechanical problems and crashed near the Pakistani border. The fourteen others were wounded, but Daniel Lee Galvan, an honorable Oklahoman and example for us all, paid the ultimate price. Sergeant Galvan left behind his wife as well as two children, his daughter Audrey, 13, and his son Joseph, 11. Our

thoughts and prayers are with his family for the loss of such a special man.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I ask that we pay tribute to Sergeant Galvan and the men and women like him, who know the true meaning of service and sacrifice. These men and women have tasted freedom, and wish to ensure that freedom for those who have never experienced it. I honor the memory of our sons and daughters who have died for this noble cause, and especially the memory of Oklahoma's son, Daniel Lee Galvan.

CPL NATHANIEL T. HAMMOND

Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of a brave young American who gave his life defending the Nation. He felt a call to serve his country, to be part of something bigger than himself, and for that call he paid the highest price.

Cpl Nathaniel T. Hammond was assigned to the Marine Reserves' 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division in Chicago. Nathan wasn't a native Oklahoman—he was born and raised in Brighton, MO, where he graduated from high school in 1998 and then joined the Marines, but he lived in Tulsa and had trained with the Anti-Tank Training Company, a Marine Reserve unit, in Broken Arrow.

On November 8 in Babil province, Iraq, he was killed in an insurgent attack. He gave his life for the freedom of millions of Americans, and also for the peace and prosperity of the Iraqi people only now beginning to recover from decades under a totalitarian regime.

Corporal Hammond had a long-held desire to serve the military as a member of the Special Forces, but even as a member of the Marine Reserve, he was "doing what he wanted to do and what the loved to do," according to a childhood friend and fellow soldier. His parents have described how Nathan evinced the selfless attitude toward service to country that is so evident in all our military men and women.

We are all glad Nathan Hammond was willing to serve. His loss is grievous to all of us. Our thoughts are with his parents and the rest of his family back in Missouri. At the same time, we recognize his valor and commitment. It is for men like Nathan Hammond that I am proud to be a part of this great country. He was a special soldier, a true Oklahoman, and a true American.

PFC NACHEZ WASHALANTA II

Mr. President, I honor the memory of a courageous young Oklahoman who died while defending his Nation. Marine PFC Nachez Washalanta II grew up in the great State of Oklahoma, went to school in Ardmore and Silo, and joined the Marines in April 2002.

The road wasn't always smooth for Wash, as his fellow Marines called him. He grew up in a foster home with four other boys, and got his GED instead of graduating from high school. Eventually, Private Washalanta found a home with the United States Marine Corps. He was the driver of a light-armored

vehicle, and although he sometimes complained that he joined the Marines to fight and not to drive, he got his chance in Iraq.

Private Washlanta was a member of the 1st Light-Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton, CA. He paid the ultimate price. When you think about these five great Oklahomans, as well as others around the country, and some 1,100 who have lost their lives, it is a shame that so many people in America do not understand what these soldiers understand.

Mr. President, I have the honor of being, I guess, the second or third ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Consequently, I may have made more trips over to Iraq and Afghanistan than anyone else. I am always approached by these young people. They say: Why is it, Senator, that the people back home don't appreciate what we are doing? These people are dedicated, and they know exactly what they are doing. Unfortunately, we have a media that tries to demean everything they are doing. And I give the assurance to these young people that even though it might be that the networks, CNN, and the New York Times and the Washington Post do not know and appreciate what they are doing, we do, the real people of America. And they are heroes.

I think most of our young people realize our country is facing the greatest risk it has ever faced. This is not conventional warfare. This is not something that is predictable. Sometimes I say I look back wistfully at the days of the Cold War where we had two superpowers, and they were predictable. We were predictable, they were predictable. This is totally unpredictable, but it is a war that has to be won. I pay homage not just to those Oklahomans I mentioned today, but all who are there and many who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom right here in this country.

SGT MORGAN W. STRADER

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 Brownsburg, IN. Sgt Morgan W. Strader, 23 years old, died on November 12. After completing his enlistment, Morgan voluntarily extended his service, choosing to accompany his unit back to Iraq—a selfless choice that would cost him his life. Morgan was shot while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. With his entire life before him, Morgan risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Before moving to Crossville, TN, Morgan attended school in Brownsburg. Morgan graduated from high school and followed in his grandfather's footsteps by joining the military. Morgan's father, Gary, told the Indianapolis Star that "He was a Ma-

rine from the day that he was born . . . His grandfather was in the Army during Korea. He latched onto that and loved it." It was clear that from a young age, Morgan felt compelled to serve his country in the Armed Forces, just as his grandfather had done.

Morgan was the thirty-seventh Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team-1, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father and stepmother, Gary and Janet; his mother and stepfather, Linda and Timothy; his grandparents, Onza and Estelle Morgan; his grandfather, William Strader; his sisters, Amber, Jessica and Rachel; and his brothers, Brian, Chris and Matthew.

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

Morgan was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. When looking back on Morgan's life, his father, Gary, recalled to the Indianapolis Star a conversation that he had with his son shortly before his departure for a second tour in Iraq. Gary was trying to convince his son that he had done his part and his service was complete. Morgan told his father upon deciding to reenlist, "Dad, the guys in my unit aren't experienced in this . . . I need to help them." Morgan died in the same fashion in which he had lived by putting the well-being of others before his own. Today and always, Morgan will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Morgan'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 Morgan's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Morgan W. Strader 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 Morgan'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 be with all of you, as I know He is with Morgan.

FAREWELL

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President and colleagues, the last time anyone does anything in their career or in their life, I think it is a time for a certain degree of sadness and a certain degree of nostalgic remembrance of the times past. This evening will probably be my last opportunity to address this body as a Member, as a Member of the Senate, representing my great and wonderful State of Louisiana.

While some would say, well, it has to be a very difficult time to speak for the last time on the floor of the Senate, looking back at all the great memories, I look back with nothing but great pleasure over the many years I have spent in the Senate as well as in the House of Representatives.

I have been very honored to serve and be elected seven times to the other body, serving 14 years as a Member of the House, representing southwest Louisiana—it was a great and wonderful time—and then moving on to the Senate 18 years ago, representing the entire State of Louisiana.

So when you look back over those years, I think a lot of people would say: Well, it is your last speech, and it must be a very nostalgic time, and you really are sad. I am not. I am pleased. I am happy. I am overwhelmed with the opportunity that was presented to me for those 32 years in the Congress to serve the people of Louisiana in one capacity or another, both in the House, as well as in this Chamber.

Thirty-five years ago, I, with my wife, came to Washington for the very first time as a young staff person, legislative assistant, having just gotten out of law school. I worked in the Seventh Congressional District office for then-Congressman Edwin Edwards. It was a great learning period for me.

Shortly after serving as a staff person, there was a vacancy that was created, and I ran for that vacancy as a young 28-year-old member of the Bar Association in my State. I ran for Congress and had a slogan I remember back then, when I was 28, when I was running for Congress for the first time. My slogan was: "Experience makes the difference."

Most of the people I was running against were old enough to be my grandfather or grandparent, certainly old enough to be my parent. Yet I had the audacity to print the slogan on a bumper sticker that "Experience makes the difference."