

pride of his family and headed to Iraq with their full support. His mother recounted to a local newspaper, “[His co-workers] were crazy about him. Everyone was, you couldn’t not fall in love with him.”

Jonathan was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, KY. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother and stepfather, Peggy Jo and Jeff Hammond; his father and stepmother, Randy and Jackie Pfender; a 26-year-old brother; a 1-year-old half brother; stepsiblings and other relatives.

Today, I join Jonathan’s family and friends 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 Jonathan, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Jonathan was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Jonathan 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 Jonathan’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 Jonathan’s actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jonathan Pfender in the official record of the United States 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 Jonathan’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 Jonathan.●

THE CONFIRMATION OF GREG VAN TATENHOVE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I am so happy the U.S. Senate confirmed

Greg Van Tatenhove to sit on the Federal judicial bench.

By sending his nomination to the U.S. Senate, President Bush has presented the American people with a top-notch candidate for our Federal bench in the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Greg has great experience and strong qualifications. Although he is not originally from Kentucky, he made a smart decision by making a permanent move to our Commonwealth. Greg also received a great education from both Kentucky’s Asbury College and the University of Kentucky College of Law. I am proud to call Greg a fellow Kentuckian.

Greg has worked two stints for members of Kentucky’s Federal congressional delegation Senator MCCONNELL and Representative RON LEWIS. Greg also served as a judicial law clerk in U.S. District Court, and he served in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Division as a trial attorney. Over the last 4 years Greg has served admirably as a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

His time on Capitol Hill, in the Department of Justice, and within our judicial system has given Greg a wealth of knowledge and experience which can only make him a better judge. Clearly, Greg possesses the wisdom, temperament, and character to be a Federal judge. President George W. Bush and the U.S. Senate have done well working together to ensure Greg’s nomination and confirmation for service as a Federal judge.

I am proud to support Greg’s elevation for this Federal judgeship, and I am thankful to Chairman SPECTER and Ranking Member LEAHY, too, for their leadership on the U.S. Senate’s Judiciary Committee to ensure the swift approval of Greg’s confirmation. The United States and Kentucky are better off with Greg serving their citizens.●

OREGON’S DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with my practice of announcing publicly my intent to object to unanimous consent requests, I am asking to have printed in the RECORD a letter to Senator REID dated January 18, 2006. It explains that I will use every legislative and procedural tool at my disposal as a U.S. Senator to block any attempt to affect in any way Oregon’s Death With Dignity Act, which the Supreme Court upheld yesterday.

The letter follows.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 18, 2006.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER REID: I am writing to inform you of my intent to object to any unanimous consent request to consider any measure or matter that might affect end of life care generally and Oregon’s Death With Dignity Act in particular.

As you know, the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday upheld Oregon’s unique Death with

Dignity Act, and I intend to use every legislative and procedural tool at my disposal as a United States Senator to block any attempt to overturn, invalidate or otherwise affect Oregon’s law in any way.

Consistent with my practice of publicly announcing my intent to place a “hold” on a measure or matter, I will ask that this letter be printed in the Congressional Record. If your staff has any questions, please feel free to contact my Legislative and Policy Director, Carole Grunberg, or my Senior Health Policy Advisor, Stephanie Kennan at 224-5244.

Sincerely,

RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senator.●

BILL O’NEILL

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish today to acknowledge the good work of Bill O’Neill, a document checker at the Burlington International Airport in Vermont.

I routinely fly between Burlington and Washington, and it is always a pleasure to see Bill at the ID checking stand. He and I have been friends for decades.

I was pleased to see an article about Bill in the December 27, 2005, Burlington Free Press. I ask that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD. I know that once they read it, my colleagues will look forward to traveling through the Burlington airport as much as I do.

The article follows.

[From the Burlington Free Press, Dec. 27, 2005]

SECURITY WITH A SMILE, AIRPORT SCREENER
BILL O’NEILL HELPS TAKE STRESS OUT OF
FLYING

(By Emily Guziak)

SOUTH BURLINGTON.—Bill O’Neill’s job does not require that he fawn over babies.

Nor does it require that he greet everyone he meets by name with a heartfelt good morning, put their various airline receipts in order, hold cups of coffee, or provide tips on how to switch planes at the next destination.

O’Neill, a document checker for PrimeFlight Aviation Services at Burlington International Airport, is simply required to check departing passengers’ identification, boarding passes and number and size of carry-on items.

For frequent travelers, the document checker is often the nameless, faceless, overly efficient person hurrying passengers into inevitable security lines. For bleary-eyed, often-harried early morning travelers in Burlington, O’Neill’s station at Gate One is an oasis in the rush of processing passengers through ticket check-in and Transportation Security Administration security clearance.

“He’s brilliant; he’s great,” said business traveler J.P. Tardy, of Charlotte, N.C., queuing up in the security line for United Airline’s 7:48 a.m. flight to Chicago on a recent weekday morning. “He absolutely makes this airport.”

O’Neill, 72, is the document checker for United Airlines and US Airways passengers, from 4:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. His upbeat, helpful manner never wavers, those working around him say.

“He’s very people-oriented; people like him,” said Mark Salisbury, supervisor, transportation security officer, for TSA at Burlington International Airport. Salisbury supervises the security checkpoint near