

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY SERGEANT RUSSELL M. DURGIN

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to U.S. Army SGT Russell M. Durgin, a courageous young American from Henniker, NH, who on June 13, 2006, gave his last full measure in service to our Nation.

Russell, or Russ or Durgs to family and friends, was a 2001 graduate of John Stark Regional High School, Weare, NH, where he played lacrosse. Friends say his sense of humor, adventurous spirit, love of life, and wide smile made every moment spent with him a good one. Daniel Webster, speaking of early American leaders said, "While others doubted, they were resolved; where others hesitated they pressed forward." In this spirit, at the age of 17 while still in High School, Russ enlisted in the U.S. Army. He completed basic infantry training at Ft. Benning, GA, in July 2002. Next came a 1-year tour of duty in South Korea with the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, followed by assignment to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, and a 1-year tour of duty to Iraq from September 2003 to September 2004. Back in the United States during 2005, he successfully completed the U.S. Army's warrior leadership course, combat lifesaver course, and sniper school. In March 2006, he deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Tragically, in June 2006 during combat operations in the mountains of Korengel, Afghanistan, this brave soldier died of injuries sustained when his unit came under small arms fire. Sergeant Durgin's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, one with the combat distinguishing "V" device, two Army Commendation Medals, one with the combat distinguishing "V" device, two Army Achievement Medals, the Purple Heart Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon 2, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Expert Weapons Qualification Badge.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Kabul—and U.S. Army SGT Russell Durgin served in that fine tradition. Friends and family said he loved his work and was fiercely committed to the Army and to the people with whom he served. During these chaotic and violent times, Russ dedicated himself to serving his Nation because in his heart, he sensed a call to duty.

My sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Russell's parents, Jean and Lester, and to his other family members and many friends who have suffered this most grievous loss. The

death of Russ, only 23 years old, on an Afghan battlefield far from New Hampshire is also a great loss for our State, our benevolent Nation, and the world. He will be sorely missed by all; however, his family and friends may draw some comfort in knowing that because of his devotion, sense of duty, and selfless dedication, the safety and liberty of each and every American is more secure. In the words of Daniel Webster—may his remembrance be as long lasting as the land he honored. God bless Russell M. Durgin.

TRIBUTE TO MARY A. RYAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all of us who know Mary Ryan were saddened by her death on April 25. She was a truly outstanding American diplomat and public servant, and shall be greatly missed.

Mary Ryan dedicated her life to public service and to helping others. She joined the Foreign Service in 1966 and went on to serve the American people as a skilled diplomat for 36 years, including service as Ambassador to Swaziland and Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. She retired as one of the few Americans to achieve the rank of Career Ambassador, and one of the very first women to do so, a major distinction in her profession, but above all, she touched many lives in the State Department. She served as a mentor to generations in the Foreign Service, and many considered her to be the matriarch of America's diplomats.

As Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, from 1993 to her retirement in 2002, she frequently testified before Congress, and provided us with valuable guidance and impressive expertise. Thanks to her leadership, Congress made necessary changes to enable the Bureau of Consular Affairs to improve technology, efficiency and information-sharing. She worked aggressively to develop the TIPOFF terrorist lookout system, which became the basis of our current terrorism data system. She was recognized as a leader on consular issues around the world.

Mary Ryan exemplified the best in public service. In a commencement address she delivered some years ago at her alma mater, Saint John's University, she said, "I ask you what JFK asked the youth of my day to do, to return something to the community which has protected and educated you."

She encouraged young men and women to "reject the murderous din of materialism," emphasizing, "There is more to life than the amount of money on your W-2 at the end of the year."

Mary Ryan lived by those words, and they defined her own career and life.

In the immediate aftermath of the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August 1998, Mary put on a hardhat and climbed through the bombed rubble of the embassy in Nairobi, wanting to know the name and background of each of the

victims, both American and Kenyan alike. She dedicated much of her subsequent work to improving the security of our embassies around the world, and offering a more compassionate outreach to the State Department's most valuable assets, its men and women.

At a service in honor of one of the Foreign Service Officers who died in the Kenya bombing, Mary Ryan spoke these words:

"She was a beautiful, beautiful person. We are greatly diminished by her loss."

That was true of Mary as well. She too was a beautiful, beautiful, person, and we will miss her very much.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On May 26, 2003, in Lawrence, KY, Josh Graves, a 15-year-old boy who suffers from cerebral palsy, was attacked at a local park by four teenage boys. The four boys approached Graves, taunting him and asking him if he was retarded. They attacked Graves, knocking him to the ground before punching and kicking him. After the attack, Graves was left on the ground suffering multiple seizures. According to reports, the sole motivation for this attack was Grave's disability.

I believe that the 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF NEW NATIONAL
BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I congratulate a special group of Hawaii teachers, those who have successfully earned the designation National Board Certified Teacher. During 2005, a new cadre of 30 consummate professionals demonstrated that their teaching practice is consistent with the rigorous requirements for the profession as set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Their achievement brings the number of teachers working in Hawaii who have attained National Board Certification to 111.

These dedicated teachers are distributed throughout Hawaii's education

system. Some teach at the elementary level, some in middle schools, while others teach in high school classrooms. Some teach on Oahu, some are on the Big Island, and others on Kauai and Maui. Some teach language arts, math, or social studies, while others teach a variety of other disciplines. Some teach special needs students, a number are generalists, others are specialists, and a few are librarians. Nevertheless, all of them have one thing in common, their dedication to enabling the schoolchildren of Hawaii to achieve all that they can. I am proud to enter their names into the RECORD of this august body.

During the 2005 school year the following teachers received National Board Certification: Leslie Akena, Kailua High School; Amy Boehning, Waialua High and Intermediate School; Genevieve "Noe" Bunnell, Pearl Ridge Elementary School; Lisa Chang, Niu Valley Middle School; Susan Erikson, Washington Middle School; Marta Finley, Kealakehe Elementary School; Cathy Lynne K.L. Fong, Liholiho Elementary School; Candace Foster, Aina Haina Elementary School; Kimberly Fradale, Mid-Pacific Institute; Raejean Gamiao, Mililani Uka Elementary School; Douglas Garriss, Kamiloiki Elementary School; Lisa Hockenberger, Kalihi-Kai Elementary School; Janet Itano, Aina Haina Elementary School; Inga Kelly, Moanalua High School; Cristy Kessler, Education Lab School; Jill Laboy, Kailua High School; Sallie Lee, Lanakila Elementary School; David Mecham, Waimea High School; Melinda O'Herron, Konawaena Middle School; Carolyn Okunaga, Mililani High School; Dianne Pang, Aliiolani Elementary School; Margaret Prevenas, Kalama Intermediate School; Helie Rock, Keaau High School; Julie Shirai, Pearl Ridge Elementary School; Amber Strong, Kailua High School; Marla Thompson, Waianae High School; Patricia Uehara, Kealakehe Elementary School; Mark Watanabe, Keaau High School; Jennifer Williams, Roosevelt High School; and Ms Zami-Perez, Waialua Elementary School.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to them all. They have worked very hard to earn the designation, National Board Certified Teacher.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the organization that confers this designation, is a teacher-led association, which grants national certification to a teacher only after a very rigorous and comprehensive process. It requires the preparation of a portfolio featuring actual videotaped classroom lessons, including a written analysis of the lesson, lesson plans and student work samples. The teacher must also submit written discussion, analysis, and reflective commentaries concerning curriculum and practices used in the classroom. A third component of the portfolio includes records of activities benefiting the larger school community, including

families and activities that help to improve the teaching profession. Also required for this certification is successful completion of a rigorous set of examinations assessing the content knowledge of the teacher. This is a very arduous process requiring a commitment of up to 400 hours. However, in Hawaii help is available. The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, along with the Hawaii State Teachers Association, provides support groups for teachers undertaking this process. These sessions are held on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island, and they provide a support network for candidates as they go through the certification process. Most often support is offered through a qualified facilitator, a teacher who has already earned the designation of National Board Certified Teacher. These support networks are also places to meet with and support other teachers undergoing the same process. This assistance goes a long way in making this very difficult process possible.

National Board Certification does not replace the teacher licensure requirements as maintained by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, but instead identifies the recipient as an exemplary practitioner, someone at the top of his or her profession. It signifies the teacher as someone who is a recognized leader in the art and science of teaching. Research has shown time and again that students in classrooms with National Board Certified Teachers do better on assessments than do students in classrooms not staffed with nationally certified teachers. It is the only nationally based teacher evaluation and certification program to successfully undergo a scientifically based set of evaluations and to have shown improved results for students. I am very proud to honor these newly recognized teachers.

At a time when the country is working to improve education, when the No Child Left Behind Act is demanding a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, where schools, districts and states are required to make adequate yearly progress, where students are increasingly required to demonstrate achievement as measured by high stakes testing in order to graduate from high school, where districts and states are working to find, hire and retain professionals in this very difficult field, and where research has shown the knowledge and ability of the classroom teacher is the most important factor affecting the learning of the students, I am proud to say to these newly certified teachers "Well Done" and "Mahalo Nui Loa."•

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER ROBERT H. PACKARD

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Commander Robert H. Packard, of Charlottesville, VA, who has served honorably in the U.S. Navy for 40 years.

Robert Packard followed his father's footsteps in joining the proud tradition that is the U.S. Navy when he was sworn in by his father in 1966. In 1974, Packard graduated with a bachelors of science degree from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia while serving in the Naval Reserve. After serving various tours, Packard became commanding officer of the Mobile Mine Assembly Group from 1988 to 1992 in Yorktown, VA, where his unit received the REDCOM SIX award for the Best Small Unit, the Most Improved Unit and the Best Small Unit with over 50 percent enlisted. He served in Desert Storm from 1992 to 1994 and then from 1994 to 1997 Packard served as commanding officer of a medical logistics unit in Newport News, VA. Packard concluded his service with the Navy at the Pentagon as a commander assigned to the OPNAV N86 staff.

Commander Packard's leadership and dedication to preserving the freedoms and liberties that make this country so great is truly admirable. I am grateful for Commander Packard's service and contributions to the United States and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.●

CONGRATULATING CHAMPIONS FOR HEALTHY KIDS WINNERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate three Kentucky organizations: Pendleton County Education Foundation in Falmouth; Healthy Schools Inc. in Louisville; and Paducah Park Services. These three organizations have recently been named Champions for Healthy Kids winners.

Champions for Healthy Kids is a long-term grants program designed to instill good nutrition and fitness habits among our youth. The program calls on community groups to champion the health of our young people by developing innovative fitness and nutrition programs that can have a lifelong impact.

I congratulate Pendleton County Education Foundation, Healthy Schools Inc., and Paducah Park Services for their achievements. Everyone involved in these organizations are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to all that these organizations accomplish in the future.●

HONORING IBM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the 50 years of public contribution by an innovative technology company started in Rochester, MN, in 1956. International Business Machines, more commonly known internationally as IBM, has made economic growth possible in a competitive and continually changing marketplace.

In 1956, when IBM President Thomas Watson, Jr., met with 40 Rochester business and civic leaders at the Kahler Hotel to establish a new IBM facility, they probably never envisioned that