

These courageous service members—with the many faces of Ohio—came from the smallest villages in our state and from the largest cities. Some came from our farms. Some were born here in Ohio and in America. Others came to this state and this country from many, many miles away. Some were 18 or 19 years old. Some were in their 40s.

Some were Privates and Lance Corporals, while one was a Lieutenant Colonel. Some joined the military as a result of the September 11 attacks, while others planned on a career in the military from their youngest days, marching around as small children in their fathers' uniforms. Some had seen a lot out of life, while for others—most of them, really—their lives had just begun.

All of them, though, shared something in common. All of them changed lives in countless ways, leaving enormous impacts on their families and their friends and their loved ones. Their absence leaves a gaping whole in the lives of those left behind. And while that makes it very hard, we also know that the world is a better place because these brave men and women were a part of it. It is a better place because they lived.

We are all so very fortunate to have had them in our lives for the all too brief time that we did. And for that, we are eternally grateful.

We, as citizens, will never be able to repay these Ohioans for their service. We know that when we lose a service member, there is a tear in the fabric that holds us all, as Americans, together, and there really is no way to repair that. President Theodore Roosevelt perhaps put it best when he said, "Their blood and their toil, their endurance and patriotism, have made us and all who come after us forever their debtors."

We are, indeed, in their debt.

I did not personally know any of these men and women we honored in Sunbury at that memorial. I did not personally know any of these men and women who died in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and men and women who I have come to the floor tonight to honor or who I have come to the floor on other nights to honor. But I have spoken with many of their families. I have talked to many of their friends and comrades, and have read a great deal about each one of them. They were all unique—each with their own special story to tell.

One Marine worked as a police officer before going to Iraq. He would bring disco balls into his police cruiser to make his partner laugh and sometimes brought smiley faces into jail to entertain the inmates.

Another Marine was in the high school marching band. During one football game, he forgot his sousaphone and decided to march with the only available instrument in the band room—a banjo.

One soldier's parents remember their son following them around the house at

a young age, with his arms out, saying, "Big hug, big hug."

Another young man was a delegate to Buckeye Boys' State—a prestigious honor for high school students.

Several enjoyed riding their dirt bikes and fixing up cars. Some played sports. Some were in drama club. Others liked to play games, such as Scrabble.

Many married their high school sweethearts.

All of them made of our lives just a little bit brighter. They made us smile. They filled their loved ones' lives with great joy and happiness.

The recently dedicated memorial in Sunbury, OH, stands as a moving tribute and a lasting testament to these men and women and to their courage, honor, and sacrifice. They have stood tall in the fight against tyranny, aggression, and terrorism.

As John F. Kennedy once said, "A Nation reveals itself not only by the men [and women] it produces, but also by the men [and women] it honors [and] remembers." And that—that is exactly what this memorial is all about. It is about honoring and remembering each of these truly unique, wonderful souls.

Our Nation is proud of these Ohio men and women. They lived their lives well—with great purpose and commitment and love of family and country. And for that, we will never forget them.

SERGEANT MAJOR JEFFREY A. MCLOCHLIN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave soldier from northern Indiana. Jeffrey McLochlin, father of three, died on July 5 in small-arms fire in Orgun-E, Afghanistan. Jeffrey risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A city police officer in Rochester, Jeffrey had been a National Guardsman for 19 years. He was training Afghan soldiers in police tactics and was on patrol with coalition and Afghan forces when he was shot by antigovernment forces. Jeffrey was on his second tour of duty and had previously served his country in 2004 on a NATO peace-keeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A proud husband and father, he left behind his wife Nicholle and three children, Darby, 16, Connor, 8, and Kennedy, 5. Nicholle told a local paper, "This man was amazing. There will never be another, that's for sure. Eighteen thousand miles away, and he called me daily when he could. He did everything he could to be a good father and a good husband." I stand here today to express my gratitude for Jeffrey's sacrifice and that of his family and loved ones.

Jeffrey was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bat-

talion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, Army National Guard, Marion, IN. In addition to his wife and children, this brave soldier leaves behind his parents, Rich and Cindy McLochlin of Rochester.

Today, I join Jeffrey'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 working at home and abroad to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Jeffrey, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jeffrey McLochlin 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 Jeffrey'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 Jeffrey.

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT PAUL S. PABLA

Mr. President, I also rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Fort Wayne. Paul S. Pabla, 23 years old, was killed on July 3 by sniper fire in Mosul, in northern Iraq. Volunteering for deployment to Iraq, Paul risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Pabla enlisted in the National Guard while still a student at Huntington North High School in Huntington, where he graduated in 2000. Service to others came naturally to Paul, who in high school participated in church

youth mission work in Honduras. In Mosul, he especially enjoyed working with Iraqi children, calling them the "future of Iraq." Pabla was remembered by his senior-year English teacher, who told a local news outlet, "I think (enlisting) was something he felt really strongly about. Without question, he knew what he was getting into. He was really a young man with a sense of purpose." Paul was deployed to Iraq in January of 2006 on his first tour of duty there and had attained the rank of staff sergeant.

Paul was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 139th Field Artillery Regiment, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, Kempton, IN. This brave soldier leaves behind his mother, Lisa Carroll; his father, Sarvjit Pabla; stepmother, Leticia Pabla; a brother, Neil Pabla; half brother, Nicholas Pabla; as well as numerous other relatives.

Today, I join Paul'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 Paul, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Paul S. Pabla 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 Paul'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 Paul.

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LEBANON

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I appreciate being able to come to the floor to speak about something of great urgency for people in Michigan and all across our country who have family and friends who are trapped in Lebanon—and certainly people in Israel as well—as a result of what is happening with the violence in the Middle East. We understand those Americans in Israel are able to leave and come home, but we have literally up to 25,000 Americans who are in Lebanon and trapped and unable to leave. They are frightened, and family members here are worried about their families in desperate situations, and they are asking for us to act much more quickly than has been occurring.

It is deeply disconcerting to me as I watched other countries, such as Italy, Spain, Great Britain, and France, on Saturday beginning to evacuate their citizens from Lebanon, taking them to Cyprus or taking them to other places to safety, and yet I understand that even though we have had some helicopters that have gone in—and I am grateful to the Department of State for that because we have families from Michigan who have been evacuated because of medical emergencies—the vast majority of people are waiting for ships.

One ship was supposed to come today. I understand that was delayed, and now they are waiting until tomorrow. And there will be, I understand, two ships—one that will allow 1,400 people to leave, and one that will allow 1,800 people to leave. But we are talking about in Michigan alone over 5,000 people, mostly women and children who have gone to see grandparents, have gone home for weddings, funerals, birthday parties, gone to see grandpa and grandma or elderly, people going home who are frightened and who are in harm's way.

I am deeply concerned that we have not moved more quickly. I have images of people sitting on rooftops in New Orleans waiting to be evacuated, waiting to be rescued, and now we have a similar situation going on with people waiting now 5 days, 6 days to leave a country that is in a war zone.

On top of that, we are now hearing that people who find themselves in a war zone, not of their making, who thought they were going to visit family during their vacation time while the children were off school or for some special event, are going to have to pay. Our Federal Government is requiring them to sign a promissory note to pay to leave to take their families to safety. That makes absolutely no sense.

So I plan to introduce a bill that will give the Secretary of State the authority to waive the reimbursement requirement for U.S. citizens who wish to evacuate Lebanon. The bill would waive the requirement in two cases: if it would create an undue financial hardship for a family or for an individual who is evacuated or if those citi-

zens would be unable to recoup the cost of or reuse or get credit for a previously purchased airline ticket. That is the least we can do given the current situation that is underway.

This would give those who cannot afford thousands in unexpected travel costs an option for help. We cannot abandon American citizens who are currently in a war zone.

I have been in touch with hundreds of people from Michigan. I am proud to have thousands of members of Michigan who are an important part of our community, who have family members and friends trapped in the conflict in the Middle East. Frankly, our Government should be focused on the fastest, the safest way to bring people home, not how much we are going to bill them once they get here.

Let me share a couple of the hundreds of calls we have taken.

Iman Hatoum called her two young children, girls 14 and 7, who were in Lebanon visiting their grandmother when the conflict broke out. She was terrified, of course, for their safety, as anyone would be, and was working to get them out, but she was worried because this promissory note our Government is requiring them to sign would not be able to be signed by a minor. So we were able to help her work through that situation and to move forward. But she was terrified of what was going to happen to her children.

Samar Saad: Her family members—her cousins—were in Lebanon attending a wedding. They were all registered as requested by the Department of State on the Web site. But now one of her cousins was critically injured in the bombings and is in the hospital. We now find the family having to worry about medical bills because they were caught in a bombing and someone is now in a hospital, and they are having to pay for, of course, the physical injuries suffered by their family. We should not be charging them to come home, to come back to America where they will be safe.

Hoda Amine sent this very desperate e-mail to my office:

Here we are stuck in Beirut, Lebanon, with over 25 family members. We need you and others to contact our gov. locally and nationally to get us out of here. We are all U.S. citizens and tax payers. Let our money be put to good work by saving "real U.S. citizens who are in desperate need to be saved. We have infants (my granddaughter) and elders (in-laws and friends) who need help desperately.

It goes on to indicate that they have registered with the embassy three times and have been informed to stay put, paying \$150 each night at a hotel, and they say they are in a real, real emergency. Help us.

We need to do that. We need to be doing two things. We need to be getting ships there as quickly as possible. They should already have been there. If ships from other countries could be there Saturday or Sunday or Monday—now we are talking about not having something happen until Wednesday—there is no excuse for this.