

get one shot. I hope Members on both sides will recognize what an incredible opportunity we have right now to address this whole range of issues that have been languishing here for a long time, and do something that will be meaningful in terms of continuing to give our entrepreneurs in this country, small businesses, farm and ranch operations the opportunity to grow, to continue to build wealth, to create jobs, and to keep the economy strong. That is what this particular bill and what it contains is all about.

Again, my hope is that at the end of the day we will see a good, strong, bipartisan vote in the Senate as we saw in the House of Representatives, and be able to send this on to the President where he can sign it into law and we can demonstrate to the people of this country that we are addressing the issues they care deeply about and, most importantly, I say to them the issue of the economy, and dealing with energy costs today with an energy bill, dealing with the death tax, dealing with the minimum wage, dealing with these other forms of tax relief are all things that have been on the agenda for some time.

I believe we have an opportunity to get this done. I hope we can.

I appreciate the work of my colleagues who have labored so diligently to get this far in the process, to get it on the floor for a vote. I hope when Friday rolls around and we have this vote that we will have the 60 votes necessary to move forward and to get this done once and for all.

I yield the floor.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY CORPORAL NATHANIEL S. BAUGHMAN

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 Idaville. Nathaniel S. Baughman, 23 years old, was killed on July 17th by rocket-propelled grenades while on duty in Bayji, Iraq. Nate risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Baughman enlisted in the Army National Guard last spring and shortly after was deployed to Iraq. He was on his last mission when he was killed and was due to return home to Indiana in a few weeks. Baughman was remembered by his mother, Jill Baughman, who told a local news outlet, "He was a good dad, a great father. He was a hard worker who believed in what he was doing. We're proud of what he did for us, very proud of him." Nate was a 2001 graduate of Twin Lakes High School. He was married 2 years ago and had a son, Hunter, 4.

Nate was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, KY. This brave sol-

dier leaves behind his parents, Robert and Jill Baughman and Andy Skorup; twin brother Nick Skorup and brothers Ben, Joseph and Christopher Baughman; his wife Erin; son Hunter and Hunter's mother Amanda Conrad.

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

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Nathaniel S. Baughman 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 Nate'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 Nate.

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 July 29, 2006, in San Diego, CA, three men were beaten at the end of a

gay pride festival. As the three men were returning home, a group of men attacked them with baseball bats and knives. During the attack, the assailant yelled anti-gay insults at the victims. One of the victims remains hospitalized with a fractured skull while another victim suffered from multiple stab wounds. Police are investigating this as a hate crime.

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.

CRISIS IN LEBANON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since July 12th we have watched with growing horror as hundreds of Hezbollah rockets have landed deeper and deeper inside Israel, indiscriminately killing and injuring civilians, and Israeli bombs, missiles and artillery shells have destroyed much of the civilian infrastructure in areas of Beirut and southern Lebanon.

Some 550 Lebanese have died, the vast majority of them civilians, and an estimated 866,000 one in five Lebanese citizens have fled their homes and are either displaced in Lebanon, living in schools and public buildings, or as refugees in Syria. Fifty Israelis have died, and in Haifa and other towns in the north many families are living in terror in basements or shelters.

Meanwhile, three Israeli soldiers remain as hostages and their families remain in anguish hostages held in violation of the Geneva Conventions and every other international norm. In another sense, Hezbollah and its supporters Syria and Iran are holding the entire population of Lebanon hostage.

Of the 26,000 American citizens who were living in or visiting Lebanon when this crisis began, more than 12,000 have been evacuated, and the exodus continues. The cost to the U.S. Government of this air and sea lift is expected to be at least \$46 million.

The evacuation took too long to get started, and the delay and confusion caused a lot of frustration and anxiety among Americans in Lebanon as well as their families back home.

As after Hurricane Katrina, I hope the administration has learned something from this experience. At the same time, I want to commend the State Department employees and U.S. military personnel who worked around the clock to help Americans who were trapped in Lebanon find a way out.

The unprovoked, indiscriminate and utterly inexcusable kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and rocket attacks by Hezbollah should be universally condemned. Those who ordered it should be brought to justice. It has ignited a conflict that Hezbollah cannot win but which could engulf the region if a way

is not found to stop the spiral of violence from widening.

It is clear that a buffer zone patrolled by an international force is urgently needed along the Israeli-Lebanese border to prevent these kinds of violent incursions against Israel and its people, and that Hezbollah must be disarmed in order for Lebanon to finally finally—break free of Syria's harsh grip.

While hundreds of Hezbollah's missiles continue to rain down on Israel, Israel's military response has also caused the deaths of hundreds of civilians in Lebanon, including four United Nations observers. One of the latest tragedies is the destruction by an Israeli missile of an apartment building in Qana that resulted in 57 Lebanese deaths including 34 children, children who were not terrorists.

Secretary Rice's whirlwind visits to the region have been welcome but they have produced few tangible results. This type of crisis diplomacy rarely achieves lasting solutions. She is also occupied with a widening civil war in Iraq, resurgent Taliban violence in Afghanistan, an increasingly recalcitrant and aggressive regime in North Korea, a worsening humanitarian crisis in Darfur with no end in sight, the specter of a nuclear-weapons-capable Iran in the world's future, and other pressing problems. She is simply unable to focus the sustained, high-level attention on the Middle East crisis that is needed.

I and others like my friend from Nebraska, Senator HAGEL, have urged President Bush to appoint a special envoy with the stature and the authority to work on a continual basis to help broker an immediate cease-fire and long term solutions to Israel's conflicts with Hamas and Hezbollah someone who wakes up every single day with the challenge, the portfolio and especially the authority to help resolve this conflict. I renew this call for such an envoy again today.

Some U.S. officials have questioned the possibility of a cease-fire with a terrorist organization like Hezbollah. That is a valid question, but cease-fires have been achieved with other terrorist groups, and while imperfect the results have been sharp reductions in violence.

A cease-fire is needed immediately in Lebanon, to be followed with similar urgency by the deployment of an international peacekeeping force on the border. Too many innocent people are dying innocent people—in both countries. A peacekeeping force is necessary to prevent further loss of Lebanese and Israeli lives.

The United States is committed to protecting Israel's security and we support Israel's right of self defense, including going after Hezbollah fighters who often launch their attacks from civilian areas.

But for Israel's sake, for ours and especially especially—for the sake of innocent lives on both sides of these battle lines, it is vitally important to ask whether destroying Lebanon—not

Hezbollah, but destroying Lebanon—will make Israel more secure or instead rally Muslims behind Hezbollah and give rise to further hatred and insecurity. I believe that continued bombing of civilian areas in Lebanon will not destroy Hezbollah, but in a perverse way, it may strengthen it.

The fact that these attacks are being carried out with such intensity and are yielding so much death and destruction, with weapons supplied by the United States, and at a time when we are trying to repair our already frayed relations with Muslims around the world, is all the more reason for the United States and the people of Israel to consider and answer this question frankly and honestly. I am concerned, as others have also warned, that a short-term tactical victory—even if possible—could prove to be a hollow victory at great human cost.

We should also reflect on the circumstances that preceded this crisis. For the past 5 years, the Bush administration's approach to the Middle East has been either to ignore it or to parachute in for just enough time for a few handshakes and photographs. There has never been an effective strategy. They have never been willing to expend any political capital. Their policy toward Syria and Iran has been erratic and ineffective. Their relations with the Palestinians have stagnated.

It was clear since the earliest days of this administration that this laxity would define their approach to these tinderbox issues, and the terrible harm of that approach—to our ally Israel, to the Palestinians, and to the prospects for resuming a meaningful peace process in that region is all the more clear today.

I am not among those who believe that the United States pulls all the strings in the Middle East. There are forces there over which we have only limited influence.

But neither do I believe there can be a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without the active, creative and sustained engagement of the United States, including direct talks with those with whom we strongly disagree, like Syria and Iran. That has been sorely lacking under this administration, and we are witnessing the price of that neglect in Lebanon and Israel today.

A CALL TO DUTY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two acts of selfless courage that exemplify the willingness of Iowans to accept and fulfill their Nation's call to duty. The actions of US Marine Corps Sgt. R.J. Mitchell and Sergeant Major Bradley Kasal have earned each of them the Navy Cross. Awarded for their actions during a November 2004 assault on Fallujah, the Navy Cross is among the highest awards for gallantry our Nation can bestow on those who serve. More than this, they have earned the respect of a

nation and the thanks of its people by ensuring that the cause of freedom and its protection not only survives but thrives in the face of every challenge.

Sergeant Mitchell, who grew up near Carson, IA, was awarded the Navy Cross on July 28. Sergeant Major Kasal, originally from Afton, IA received his award May 1 as well as a promotion to sergeant major. During an assault on a house in Fallujah, both Iowans charged to the aid of fellow wounded marines, remaining in the line of fire and continuing to provide leadership to fellow marines until the last injured marine was safely evacuated. Over the course of the engagement, both sustained wounds from enemy fire and shrapnel but continued on in harm's way, saving the lives of several marines as a result of their selfless actions.

I extend my personal gratitude, that of all Iowans, and all Americans, to these brave marines. It is in their selfless acts of courage that the very meaning of honor can be found. The Navy Cross is more than an adornment, it symbolizes the respect and appreciation of the American people. Through these heroic acts in service to their country, Brad Kasal and R.J. Mitchell truly embodied the motto of Iowa, "Our liberties we prize, and our rights we will maintain."

THANKING SUMMER INTERNS

BILL BLEWETT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to thank Bill Blewett, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the state of South Dakota this summer.

Bill is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD, and Black Hills State University. Currently, he attends the University of South Dakota School of Law. He is a hard worker and has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I give my thanks to Bill and wish him continued success in the years to come.

DAN ENGLISH

Mr. President, today I rise to thank Dan English, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota this summer.

Dan is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and after returning from a year abroad at the London School of Economics will be a senior at the University of Richmond where he is studying economics and political science. He is a hard worker and has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I give my thanks to Dan and wish him continued success in the years to come.

KYLE HOLDT

Mr. President, today I rise to thank Kyle Holdt, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard