

him, while also quietly airing their greatest fears.

Stephen told his daughter, who pleaded with him not to go, that he was needed in Iraq. Putting her on his knee, Stephen told her that he was going to Iraq to help the children there—to keep them safe, so that they could have a chance at a better life.

Danica also pulled her brother aside and told him to be careful. “I told him to keep his head down,” she says. “Not to be a hero, not to do more than what he had to do to get by.” Stephen understood his sister’s motivations, but as his actions would demonstrate, and as his fellow soldiers would later recall, Stephen did anything but the bare minimum.

SP Phillip Pilcher, who was on patrol with Stephen that fateful day, recalls “Stephen was one of the hardest working guys over there; he would work two to three hours later than everyone else just to make sure that everything was where it needed to be.”

Specialist Gonzales, who credits Stephen with being instrumental in making him a better soldier, strikes a similar chord. “Stephen was the heart and soul of our squad and our regiment,” he says. “Even though he didn’t have the stripes on his arm, he was still a great leader.”

Many of the friends Stephen made over his 30 years came to say goodbye when he was laid to rest. BG Dan Bolger, who helped command the Second Infantry Division in Korea and asked to be the survivor-assistance officer for Stephen’s family, was astounded by what he saw that day: For a 22-mile stretch along the path of the funeral procession, people, some holding signs, others flags, stood in silent tribute to their fallen hero.

A few months before his death, Stephen wrote a letter to his mother, to be sent in the event he did not return. He wrote, “Different people will remember me for different reasons, but I would hope that everyone would think that I was over here for them.”

The devotion to honor and sacrifice expressed in those words tells us how Specialist Downing was able to touch so many people, and why so many people paid their final respects to his memory. As his mother recalls, “Stephen didn’t have friends—he had family.”

I thank Stephen’s mother, Stella Maynard, and his niece, Chelsea Downing, who have traveled to our Nation’s capital to—meet with me today, for sharing Stephen’s story. His children, Taylor and Stephen, his sister, Danica, his step-father, Jim Maynard, and other beloved family members are in our thoughts today as well.

We can never repay Specialist Downing’s family for their loss. But we can, and we must, honor the sacrifice of their beloved father, son, uncle and brother, and recognize that without his courage and the courage of the men and women of our Armed Forces, America could not lead the world in the defense of freedom.

Mr. President, Stephen’s mother, Stella, put it just right, and we are all blessed to have had SP Stephen Downing in our family.

#### MISSILE DEFENSE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the recent successes of the Missile Defense Agency. Last Friday, a week ago from today, the Missile Defense Agency conducted a test of the ground-based midcourse system and scored an intercept. This exercise was designed to evaluate the performance of several elements of the ballistic missile defense system, and it appears that all elements worked remarkably well. Although it was not a primary objective for the data collection flight test, an intercept of the target warhead was achieved.

The test marked the first time an operational interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base while the target flew from Alaska. It was conducted by crews who were manning operational fire control systems in Colorado Springs. It also marked the first use of the early warning radar at Beale Air Force Base in California.

I congratulate the head of the Missile Defense Agency, General Obering, and especially all the dedicated men and women of the MDA who helped make this test a success.

General Obering stated that the test is about as close as we can come to an end-to-end test of our long-range missile defense system. This success only builds upon a long record of missile defense intercepts and, more importantly, it is the fourth intercept in the last 90 days that used hit-to-kill technology.

In June, we launched a sea-based AEGIS interceptor that was successful in intercepting a separating warhead. In July, we launched a land-based terminal-phase interceptor, Terminal High Altitude Air Defense—or the THAAD—interceptor, successfully intercepting the target. Very recently, we had a successful Patriot-3 intercept that was conducted by the U.S. Army in collaboration with the Missile Defense Agency.

There have been many naysayers and doubters on missile defense, but I am proud to have supported the Missile Defense Agency over the past several years as it has grappled in an intensive effort to track down and eliminate or minimize risks that have contributed to setbacks in the past. There is an emphasis on quality that is paying off, as witnessed by our most recent tests. We learn from our mistakes, and we now see the fruit of the combined efforts of a wide range of dedicated military, civilian, and contractor personnel.

Testing will continue. We will encounter difficulties, but the program will move forward. We are succeeding in building an integrated and layered ballistic missile defense system. Our defenses will continue to improve, and our citizens will be increasingly protected and grateful.

While I am pleased that we have a limited missile defense capability, I believe our missile defense system needs to be challenged even further. We need more testing so that we can better understand the task at hand and discover the errors that must be corrected. I am confident that the Missile Defense Agency is on the right path. I look forward to supporting the Agency testing plan in the future. I do not expect perfection. In fact, I expect some failures. But in the context of several missile defense intercept tests per year, one or two failures only means that we are pushing to find out the real capabilities of the system.

We all know hit-to-kill technology works. We now need to further develop the midcourse system and introduce greater capability to that system. I look forward to assisting the Missile Defense Agency in its future programs so our Nation can rest assured that we are protected from rogue nations that wish to do us harm.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter addressed to me dated September 8, 2006.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,  
Washington, DC, September 8, 2006.  
Hon. TED STEVENS,  
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Select Committee on Intelligence, we submit the following unclassified reports, together with additional and minority views, for filing with the Senate: (1) Postwar Findings about Iraq’s WMD Programs and Links to Terrorism, and How they Compare with Pre-war Assessments and (2) The Use by the Intelligence Community of Information Provided by the Iraqi National Congress.

Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress (1976) charges the Committee with the duty to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to report to the Senate concerning those activities and programs. Pursuant to its responsibilities under Senate Resolution 400, the Committee has undertaken an in-depth examination of the matters described in the reports.

Both reports have been approved by the Committee in both classified and unclassified form. The classified reports are available to Members for reading at the Committee. The classified reports will also be provided to appropriately cleared officials of the Executive branch.

The unclassified versions of the reports, which are hereby transmitted for printing, are intended to provide the Senate, and through it, the American public, a substantial factual record upon which to consider the issues covered by the reports.

Sincerely,  
PAT ROBERTS,  
Chairman.  
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV,  
Vice Chairman.

#### DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of my amendment to