

Drought Monitor says is the third most extreme drought in the history of the United States. I do not know how they measure drought. I do not know how they make that determination. These are scientific experts. I trust that they know what they are doing.

I say to my colleagues that I have seen firsthand land that looks like a moonscape which would normally be lush.

These people are hanging by a thread. The question is, Do they have the chance to survive until next year or are they done? Many of them are going to be out of business. But many more will be, if there is a failure to act, if there is a failure by Congress to do what it has almost always done in the case of natural disaster, which is to provide disaster relief on an emergency basis.

We don't budget for natural disasters. There is no line item in the budget for natural disaster. Perhaps there should be, but there is none.

I, frankly, think it would be a wise thing to do. At least we could take the average for some period of time and reduce it by 25 percent and put that in so we would have some way of having additional discipline in the budget. But we don't have that. That is where we are.

Again, I hope we are able to reach some agreement today.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DEWINE be recognized for such time as he will consume and that I then be recognized following him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 100, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 100) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint reso-

lution be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

If not, without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 100) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER P. LYONS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this afternoon I come to the Senate floor to pay tribute to Marine LCpl Christopher Lyons from Mansfield, OH. On July 28, 2005, Lance Corporal Lyons was killed when his unit encountered hostile fire in Iraq. He was only 24 years old.

Lance Corporal Lyons is survived by his wife Bethany and their daughter Ella; his mother Phyllis Lyons; his father and step-mother, Paul and Debbie Lyons; his grandmothers Irmil Humphreys and Joyce Lyons; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Christopher's family and friends remember him as an exceptional young man, someone who was always full of fun. With a quick wit and an infectious smile, his own love of life always brought happiness to those around him. Caring, selfless, loving, and extremely intelligent, Christopher had the gift of bringing out the best in everyone. He was simply the type of person who stood out in a crowd.

Christopher graduated in 1999 from Shelby High School, where he was enrolled in the Tech Prep Program at Pioneer Career and Technology Center. His vice-principal, Tim Tarvin, describes him as a "big-hearted kid, who always wanted to do the right thing for people."

Kevin Adkins, Christopher's youth pastor, remembers the impact that Christopher had on everyone who knew him. He said this:

As a teenager, [Christopher] was the type of man that I have always strived to be. I'm not so sure how much I actually taught him, but just by his life, alone, he has taught me volumes. As a pastor, I was both humbled and uplifted by Chris's excellence and tenacity toward life. His example will live on in the many lives (like ours) that he has touched. I hope to raise my own two sons to be of such caliber.

After completing school, Christopher became a sales representative in the advertising department at the News Journal in Mansfield, Ohio. Advertising Director Scott Miller describes him as a polite young man who always took his obligations seriously. And Tom Brennan, publisher of the News Journal, said this about him:

Christopher was an outstanding young man. He was the ultimate professional. Simply put, he was polite and positive. Any employer would have found a spot for him. The staff here will surely miss him.

Christopher's widow Bethany recalls her husband's ability to make everyone

laugh and the way that he would tickle her to get her to smile. They were married in September 2003. Christopher's youth pastor remembers meeting Bethany for the first time. He remarked, "I will always remember that I thought you two were the cutest couple I have ever seen. It would take a very special person to catch Chris's eye."

Christopher was inspired to join the military by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. His unit was called to active duty in 2005, and Christopher was sent to California for training. In March of that same year, he was deployed to Iraq.

Months before his deployment, Christopher and Bethany became expectant parents. For Christopher, who was so devoted to his family, it was a momentous occasion, and he was so proud of a t-shirt he wore with the word "Daddy" on the front of it.

Christopher's daughter Ella was born while her father was serving in Iraq. Although he was overseas, Christopher was able to see his new daughter on a web camera and in the many photos that his wife and his mother sent to him. And as she grows up, Ella will have numerous emails and photos from Christopher to treasure.

Christopher regularly wrote to family and friends from Iraq. Two of these letters were sent to the News Journal in Mansfield and were published in their editorial pages. The letters told about Christopher's experience in Iraq, and what it was like to lose a sergeant in his unit during combat. "When all is said and done," he wrote, "the greatest act is when one of our own gives his or her life in service [to] our country and each other."

This, of course, is the sacrifice that Christopher, himself, made for our Nation and for the ideals of freedom and democracy that we all hold dear. Christopher believed in his mission in Iraq. And, while paying tribute to eight of his Marine brothers who had fallen in combat, he wrote the following in one of his letters:

The Corps values of honesty, courage and commitment have served as our cornerstone as we press on to put down the insurgency and win the war on terror.

The people [in the] villages were grateful for our presence, often showing gratitude and appreciation by offering tea, blankets, or simply a smile and wave.

Seeing this reaffirms that we have a purpose working toward a greater good in this country. Honoring our fallen brothers, we will continue the fight upholding the highest standards and working to break this dark oppressive force that lingers over the Iraqi citizens.

These are very impressive words, Mr. President, from a young man who was just 24-years-old.

Christopher's widow remembers that Christopher realized he could be killed while in serving in Iraq. But, she also remembers that Christopher, after being deployed, "saw how much good the United States was doing for Iraq."

Christopher's first person accounts of Lima Company's heroism spread to the