

in the Civil War. As Larry's grandmother Norma said, "We were very proud of him."

Larry, himself, took great pride in his military service. He joined the Army and simply loved what he was doing. His father remembers talking to his son at Christmas 2004, and even though Larry had shrapnel in his shoulder at the time, he was still positive and remained proud of what he was doing in Iraq.

When Larry died, he was a 7-year veteran, who was serving his second tour in Iraq and had been recently promoted to sergeant. SFC Herb Campbell remembers the dedication with which Larry served his country. He wrote the following in Larry's memory on an Internet tribute Web site:

I was there as [Larry's] recruiter when he joined, and he could not have been prouder to serve his country. I will never forget Larry as we formed a close bond—as soldiers and friends. He had the biggest heart, the greatest sense of humor, but was ultimately dedicated to what he believed in, serving his country.

And, SPC Eric Rodman wrote this, as well on the Web site, in remembrance of his friend:

I served with Sergeant Kuhns in the same platoon in Ramadi, Iraq. It was hard for me to deal with the loss. He was like a brother to me. I miss him so much.

Not only was Larry Kuhns a dedicated soldier, he was a devoted son, husband, and father. He loved his wife Courtney and their daughter Mackenzie more than anything else in the world. According to his dad, Larry thought and talked constantly about his family. Mackenzie was always uppermost in his mind. As Larry, Sr., said, "That little girl was his pride and joy."

Larry's devotion to his family was also clear to his comrades in Iraq, who saw everyday the love he had for his wife and daughter. His room in Iraq was simply plastered with pictures of his family—most of them featuring Mackenzie and Courtney. PFC Jason McCully, who served with Larry in Iraq, remembers how excited his friend was whenever he heard from those he loved and how he shared that excitement with his fellow soldiers. Private First Class McCully said that "every time [Larry] received a letter from home, everybody knew about it."

Even while serving in Iraq, Larry's family came first to him. The day before he died, he talked to his grandmother Norma. She recalls that the only thing Larry wanted to talk about was those he loved. "He didn't talk much about the war," she remembers. "He talked about family."

To Larry's cousins, he was like a brother. His cousin Jennifer Myers remembers both his strong belief in service and his wonderful sense of humor. She wrote the following in tribute to her beloved cousin:

The last time I saw Larry, he was home between assignments in Iraq, and a big group of us all went out. I remember how proud he was of his service, how much he loved being

in the Army and serving his country. I remember how much fun we all had that night, and seeing him laughing and just being good ol' Larry. That's how I will always remember Larry—my cousin, my friend.

[He was] a great guy, with a great smile and a beautiful heart. When I think of him, I think of him as he was that night—happy, smiling, laughing.

Indeed, Larry is missed by everyone who knew and loved him. Family members always fondly remember Larry the sports lover, Larry the outdoorsman, and Larry the devoted husband, father, and son. They will never forget him. As his father said, "I know the Army didn't make a mistake, but I still keep thinking the phone will ring and I'll hear him say, 'Hey, old man.'"

Army SGT Larry Kuhns lived a life that was a model of service and dedication. He was devoted to his family, his fellow soldiers, and his Nation. As a soldier, he served with conviction and honor. My wife Fran and I will continue to keep his family in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Mr. President, I have one final tribute tonight and appreciate the Chair's generosity and time.

SENIOR AIRMAN ALECIA S. GOOD

Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Air Force Senior Amn Alecia Sabrina Good. Alecia was assigned to the 92nd Communications Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base in the State of Washington. On February 17, 2006, Alecia lost her life from injuries sustained in a helicopter collision while on assignment in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Djibouti, Africa. She was 23 years old.

She is survived by her 2-year-old daughter Tabatha, her twin sister Ashley, her brother Paul, and her parents, Paul and Claire.

Alecia grew up in Ohio and joined the Air Force 1 month after the September 11 terrorist attacks. After basic training and technical school, she was assigned to Fairchild's 92nd Communications Squadron as a tactical radio operator and maintainer.

In early February, Alecia was deployed to the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa mission, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa was set up in Djibouti in 2002 and is responsible for fighting terrorism in eight African countries and in Yemen.

Alecia was flying her first training mission when she was killed in the helicopter crash. The training mission involved two Marine transport helicopters in the Aden Sea. Alecia was on board the helicopter to provide satellite communication back to the Joint Operations Center at Camp Lemonier.

Alecia's death has been felt by many. She was a devoted, compassionate, and vivacious young woman, and possessed all the qualities that make a service-member exceptional.

Alecia's twin sister Ashley described her sister as a vibrant, outgoing, young woman, who was full of fun and lived life to the fullest. "She was the silliest,

quirkiest person. . . . She really knew how to cut loose," Ashley said. "We'd go dancing and she'd make up these really crazy dances. There was one she called the 'Pepper Grinder' and [one she called] the 'Lawn Mower.' She was very hard not to love."

Ashley also said that Alecia was extremely devoted to her family, especially her 2-year-old daughter Tabatha. Alecia wished the absolute best for her family," Ashley said. She wanted her little girl to grow up in a world that was safe and a world that was free.

Friends, family, and comrades recall Alecia's passion for living. But, they also recognize her dedication and perseverance. U.S. Air Force Chaplain MAJ Donald Hoffman noted how Alecia enlisted in the Air Force exactly 1 month to the day after the September 11 attacks. "By her mother's own words, she was not afraid," Hoffman said.

Pastor Bruce Gallaher said that people should remember Alecia's spirit and make the most of their own lives. "She looked at life adventurously and wanted to live passionately," Gallagher said. The energy and spirit that drove Alecia Good shall remain an inspiration to many long after her death. We owe it to Alecia to celebrate her life.

I would like to conclude my remarks with a message that was posted on an Internet tribute website in honor of Alecia. A man named Leo Titus of Grayslake, Illinois—someone who never met Alecia or her family—recognized her service and bravery. He wrote the following eloquent words:

Thank you Alecia Good. You will not be forgotten. Your bravery goes beyond words. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your sacrifice. To [your] family and friends, [I send] my prayers and deep condolences in your loss. May God strengthen you from knowing that fellow Americans and people around the world care about you and grieve with you in your loss. God bless you all.

This message is signed simply—"A very appreciative fellow American."

Airman Good was buried with full military honors in Dixon, CA, on February 28, 2006. My wife Fran and I continue to keep her family and friends in our thoughts and in our prayers.

I thank the Chair and the staff and yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2006.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:30 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate December 6, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL J. BURNS, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR AND

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS, VICE DALE KLEIN, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

BERYL A. HOWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOHN R. STEER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

ROSEMARY E. RODRIGUEZ, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2007, VICE RAYMUNDO MARTINEZ, III, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Wednesday, December 6, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT M. GATES, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on Decem-

ber 6, 2006 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

DAVID H. LAUFMAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE JOSEPH E. SCHMITZ, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 5, 2006.

TRACY A. HENKE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AND PREPAREDNESS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE C. SUZANNE MENCER, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2006.