

Mulhair passed away when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle in Taji, Iraq. He was 35 years old and had been serving in Iraq since October.

Giving his life in service to our country, Sergeant Jeremy Mulhair is the paradigm of courage and selflessness. He is survived by his wife Suzie and three children, Celina, Jeremy, and Maybel, of Fort Hood, TX; his parents, Jerry and Mildred, of Kimballton, IA; his brother, Robert Mulhair, of Mead; and his sisters, Tammy Lines and Dixie Heisner, both of Omaha.

I offer my prayers and thoughts to Sergeant Mulhair's family. He made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that his children and others realize a peaceful and free world. Sergeant Mulhair was a soldier of incredible purpose and all Americans will never forget what he gave to our country.

LANCE CORPORAL MICHAEL SCHOLL

Mr. President, I rise today to honor LCpl Michael Scholl of Lincoln, NE.

Corporal Scholl will be remembered as a brave marine, a good friend, and a loving father and husband. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 2002, where teachers and classmates knew him for his easygoing personality and intelligence. He was also interested in cars, participating in a local car club, Camaros, Inc.

Friends say Corporal Scholl had dreamed of serving as a marine since he was young. When he enlisted it was only after being denied at first because he was diagnosed with a kidney condition as a toddler. His ability to overcome this obstacle set the precedent for his reputation as a reliable, courageous marine. Corporal Scholl's company commander told Scholl's family that the corporal had saved his life during a battle in October.

Corporal Scholl met his wife Melissa on a beach in Hawaii while training there. The couple married before his overseas assignment in Afghanistan. A few weeks after his deployment to Iraq, Melissa gave birth to their daughter, Addison. Sadly, Scholl was never able to see his infant daughter.

On November 14, 2006, while serving with the Marine Corps' 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Kaneohe Bay, HI, Corporal Scholl passed away from wounds received from a roadside bomb in Haditha, Iraq. He was 21 years old.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Cpl Mike Scholl is survived by his mother and stepfather, Debora and Jackson Chandler of Lincoln, and his father and stepmother, Steve and Donna Scholl of Friend.

Sacrificing his own life so that others could live, Corporal Scholl was the embodiment of bravery and the finest example of selflessness. I extend my deepest condolences to Corporal Scholl's family and friends. His unflinching patriotism and his dedication to his family will remain a source of hope and inspiration for all Americans. Corporal Scholl was a man of exceptional honor,

and we will not forget what he gave for our Nation.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS SCOTT E. NISELY

Mr. President, I rise today to honor SFC Scott E. Nisely, 48, of Marshalltown, IA.

Sergeant First Class Nisely will be remembered as a man of faith, a compassionate father and friend, and a dedicated soldier. Originally from Syracuse, NE, Sergeant First Class Nisely graduated from Doane College in Crete, NE, where he was a decorated track star, excelling in hurdles. His alma mater is renaming an annual track and field event as the Scott Nisely Memorial Track Classic. While in college, SFC Nisely enlisted with the Marines Corps Reserve, later rising to the rank of major, and serving in Operation Desert Storm.

After leaving the Active-Duty Marines, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Marshalltown, IA. In 2002, he enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard. On September 30, 2006, while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Al Asad, Iraq, with C Company, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa Falls, then-Staff Sergeant Nisely passed away when his military vehicle encountered small arms fire. He was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class.

Sergeant First Class Nisely is survived by his wife Geri of Marshalltown, IA, his son Justin of Greeley, CO, his daughter Sarah of Ames, IA, and his parents J.C. and Norma of Syracuse, NE.

I offer my sincere condolences to Sergeant First Class Nisely's family. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice in the name of freedom and hope to defend liberty. Sergeant First Class Nisely was a man of incredible bravery; he will be forever remembered as a hero who sacrificed everything for his fellow country men and women.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL JAMES L. JONES, U.S. MARINE CORPS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend GEN James L. Jones and to congratulate him on his retirement. General Jones has served this country through landmark events, including the Cold War and September 11, with consistent skill and with dedication, energy and intelligence. The country has greatly benefited from his service, and his clear-eyed counsel will be greatly missed.

I have known Jim Jones for almost 30 years. I was immediately impressed with his calm manner and obvious intellect when I first encountered him as a major in the Senate's Marine Corps liaison office. I had heard of his distinguished background to that point, which included service in Vietnam, where he earned a Silver Star, and

years as a company commander, motivating his marines with his steadfastness.

Over the years, I, along with all of my colleagues in the Senate, have watched Jim Jones grow into a stellar leader. There are two sides to military service—the field operations and the administrative side. While each presents its own challenges, both are absolutely essential to a strong Marine Corps. Jim Jones has been simply superb in both roles.

I remember encountering then Colonel Jones in northern Iraq after the first gulf war during Operation Provide Comfort, which sought to provide food and supplies to the Kurds. At one point, I accompanied him into the town of Zaku. While you would think that this would be one of the more dangerous places, with multitudes of refugees and harassing Iraqi forces, I must admit I have never felt safer as Marine helicopter gunships, Air Force A-10s, and well-orchestrated groups of marines provided cover. General Jones was utterly comfortable, and completely confident, in that environment.

Yet he was just as at home in the conference rooms at Corps Headquarters, at the Pentagon, and walking the historic Halls of Congress. Serving as the 32nd Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, General Jones provided remarkable leadership to the Corps before and after the September 11 attacks. The marines under his command took on critical counterterrorist activities, forging strong ties with our special operations forces. General Jones' leadership led to the Marine Corps' successful operations in southern Afghanistan. Always a persuasive advocate for adequate resources for the Corps, he was an equally outstanding contributor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he could only "partly" wear his service hat.

For someone with such multifaceted talent, skill and experience, it is little surprise that General Jones performed in equally spectacular fashion in his last, two-pronged position as Commander of U.S. European Command and as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. The 14th Supreme Allied Commander, he has encouraged our NATO allies to take on greater military responsibilities outside of Europe, including more leadership in ongoing operations in Afghanistan. His clear, well-spoken manner and obvious credibility have made General Jones an invaluable asset.

Through it all, General Jones has had no greater partner, confidant, and friend than his wife Diane. The commitment that they have shown in the good and bad times, to their children and to all who know them, is simply remarkable, and it is inspiring.

I join with my wife Marcelle, my fellow Vermonters, and all Americans in expressing our deep thanks to General Jones and his family. We owe this outstanding American, great marine, and dedicated representative of the very