

Sergeant Derenda was there to act because he volunteered to drive the lead vehicle, knowing the likely danger inherent in his choice. He stepped forward because most of his fellow soldiers had wives and children at home. This final heroic act defined who Robert was, how he lived, and how he served the country he loved.

For his valorous actions as a soldier, Sergeant Derenda was made an honorary Green Beret, and he received numerous awards and medals including the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Not only did the Army name a building after him in Fort Dix, NJ, but a street also bears his name in his hometown of Cheektowaga, a suburb of Buffalo, NY.

Robert graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a degree in psychology. No doubt that degree, combined with his long history of military service, is what molded him into a superb drill sergeant. At Robert's funeral, MG Bruce E. Robinson called him a "natural" at whipping young men into fighting shape.

After graduation, Robert served on active duty with the Army for 6 years. He returned to his alma mater and earned a chemical engineering degree while serving in the Army Reserve.

It was his work as an engineer that brought him to Calvert City, KY, leading Robert to live in nearby Ledbetter and call the Bluegrass State home.

However, this outstanding leader was shaped by more than the work that he so enjoyed. A cross-country runner in high school, Robert would return to his parents' home in New York each Thanksgiving to run in the annual Turkey Trot. When he wasn't running, you might see Robert on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, cruising around town.

Robert was also a deeply religious man. A fellow soldier described him as a "good Catholic boy," and his priest, the Reverend Theodore C. Rog, said simply that when it came to Robert's faith, "He lived it."

Robert also cherished his relationship with his two nephews, Nicholas and Thomas Kibby. Although his sister, Caroline Kibby, raised her family in a town near Pittsburgh, Robert remained close. He left his entire estate to Caroline, but told her that should anything happen to him, it was all to go to her boys.

His devotion to them, however, went deeper than any material wealth that he could offer. Robert told Caroline that the reason he wanted to go to Iraq with the Army was to make the world a safer place for Nicholas and Thomas. He understood the dangers that lurked in the world, and wanted his nephews never to know such evil.

Robert's beloved family members include his father, Valerian, his mother, Loretta, his sister, Caroline Kibby, his brother-in-law, Scott Kibby, and his two nephews, Nicholas and Thomas Kibby. I ask the entire Senate to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. I know they will be in mine.

No plaque or street name can heal the tragic loss of the Derenda family after their beloved son, brother, and uncle has been taken from them.

But there are two boys growing up near Pittsburgh right now who will always remember the example their uncle set for them.

And a lifetime of family, friends, and fellow soldiers will be inspired by SFC Robert V. Derenda's noble act of sacrifice. Such examples are worth far more than any bronze plaque could ever be.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1082, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1082) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Landrieu amendment No. 1004, to require the Food and Drug Administration to permit the sale of baby turtles as pets so long as the seller uses proven methods to effectively treat salmonella.

Stabenow amendment No. 1011, to insert provisions related to citizens petitions.

Brown (for Brownback/Brown) amendment No. 985, to establish a priority drug review process to encourage treatments of tropical diseases.

Vitter amendment No. 983, to require counterfeit-resistant technologies for prescription drugs.

Inhofe amendment No. 988, to protect children and their parents from being coerced into administering a controlled substance in order to attend school.

Gregg/Coleman amendment No. 993, to provide for the regulation of Internet pharmacies.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we continue the discussion today on S. 1082. I am joined by Senator ENZI as a cosponsor of that bill, with Senator KENNEDY. We are considering several amendments this morning that are designed to and will increase access to lifesaving prescription drugs. I wish for a moment to talk about a couple of those amendments.

One is the Stabenow/Thune amendment No. 1011, cosponsored by Senator LOTT of Mississippi and by me, which will stop drug companies from intentionally jamming up the Food and Drug Administration approval process for generic drugs, exploiting the citizen petition process to block price competition in the marketplace.

Free market economies rely on price competition. When brand-name drug companies block price competition, they are not only cheating generic drug manufacturers, they are cheating consumers, businesses, and tax-funded health care programs. None of us can afford that.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the Stabenow amendment will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 10 years. Those are just the savings that accrue to tax-funded health programs. There will also be significant savings to consumers and employer-sponsored health plans.

This amendment preserves the rights, as we should, of citizens to petition their government. But it stops the gaming of the patent system by the name-brand drug companies which have very effectively stymied price competition. I think unanimously in this body we support the whole idea of price competition.

The savings of this bill will go to seniors and others who have seen large out-of-pocket expenses in their purchase of prescription drugs. The savings will go to businesses helping us globally compete better than we might otherwise. The savings will go to taxpayers, through a variety of different Government programs that help people buy their prescription drugs. So every Member's support is crucial on the Stabenow-Thune amendment.

I want to highlight an amendment that has been offered by my colleague Senator BROWNBACK and myself. According to the World Health Organization, more than 1 billion people—nearly one in every six people worldwide—are affected by at least one neglected tropical disease. In addition, neglected tropical diseases claim roughly 500,000 lives each year.

However, less than 1 percent of the 1,400 drugs registered between 1975 and 1999—over a 25-year-period—fewer than 1 percent of the 1,400 drugs registered treated such diseases.

This disparity is clearly due to the lack of financial incentive for pharmaceutical companies to bring neglected tropical disease treatments to market because these diseases disproportionately affect low-income countries, with the poorest of the poor in those countries needing those medicines, most of them in Africa.

Creating incentives for companies to invest in treatments for these diseases is not only in our country's national interest, but it is consistent with our longstanding tradition of caring for those who are less fortunate around the world. In other words, it is consistent with American values.