

all these statistics is the sobering message that HIV/AIDS still devastates real people and real families across the Latino community. It is a message with special significance for me as the senior Senator from Nevada, where 18 percent of the newly diagnosed are Latinos.

We must be mindful of other statistics that provide context. According to the U.S. Census, individuals of Latino or Hispanic origin numbered over 44 million in 2005. They are also the fastest growing minority group in the Nation. In Nevada alone, the Hispanic population has soared by 40 percent from 2000 to 2005.

All these factors highlight the need to reverse the course of the epidemic among Latinos, if we are to make headway against HIV/AIDS in America. Fortunately, the disparities and challenges facing the Latino community also point to the steps we can take. From teaching health care providers to deliver culturally competent care to funding vital programs like the Ryan White CARE Act, these steps are critical to winning the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Educating and engaging the public remains a cornerstone of our efforts. In southern Nevada, for example, nonprofit organizations are partnering with public health officials to provide HIV testing and information to the public in observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Similar events are expected to take place across the Nation.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a time not just to spread the word about HIV/AIDS issues specific to the Latino community. It is also a day of hope, an opportunity to reflect on the milestones we have reached and to reaffirm the goals and ideals of this day. So, in looking toward the future, let us all renew our commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS crisis—among Latinos and all Americans everywhere.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JOSEPH B. MILLEDGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I must inform the Senate of the death of Sergeant Joseph B. Milledge a Glenwood, IA, native who was killed in Iraq on October 5, 2007, during combat patrol in Baghdad. Sergeant Milledge was part of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division stationed in Vilseck, Germany. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends, especially his wife Amanda and their 1-year-old son Joseph, Jr., as well as his parents, Carla and Jack.

Joseph Milledge was born in Council Bluffs, IA, and later moved to Glenwood with his family where he attended high school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2003, a year after he graduated. By all accounts, Joseph was a highly literate man who enjoyed reading books on religion and philos-

ophy and writing poetry. In fact, I understand he gave his wife a book of his unpublished poetry this summer. Joseph loved his family unconditionally and cherished spending time with his son, nieces, and nephews.

Sergeant Milledge was very dedicated to his country and the cause for which he was fighting. His mother explained that he didn't want to go back for a second tour because of his family but did so because he knew it was his duty to his country. Carla Milledge said, "You couldn't have asked for a better father or husband. He loved his wife and son. He loved them with his whole being."

I know his loss will be felt very strongly, not least by his infant son. But, as his wife Carla said, "He'll know his daddy was a hero and died for what he believed in." Sergeant Joseph B. Milledge is indeed a great American hero who will be remembered for his courage, his strength, and his love. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for his family, friends, and country, and we are forever grateful.

TRIBUTE TO JO ANN DAVIS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the First Congressional District of Virginia is, like all of Virginia, a unique treasure. Beginning not far from the Nation's Capital, it stretches down Virginia's eastern coast along the Chesapeake Bay, as far south as the cities of Newport News and Hampton. Today, the First District is home to crucial national defense resources, like the Marine Corps' installation at Quantico and Langley Air Force Base. It is also home to national historic landmarks like Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg, places that gave birth to Virginia and that are forever tied to the independence of our Nation and our Constitution.

On October 6, 2007, the people of Virginia's First Congressional District lost one of its most respected and admired leaders, a dedicated Member of Congress and loyal friend, Representative Jo Ann Davis. It is with deep sadness that I share my thoughts on the passing of my colleague.

Born in North Carolina, Jo Ann Davis attended Hampton Roads Business College in Virginia, later obtaining her real estate license and real estate broker's license over the next several years. In 1990, she started her own company, Jo Ann Davis Realty, and followed this successful endeavor with a run for public office in 1997. Serving as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly for 4 years, Jo Ann Davis became the first Republican woman to serve Virginia in the U.S. Congress after winning election in 2000.

Representative Davis was a relentless champion for the needs of the First District. It was my privilege to work with her on many matters, ranging from national defense to the environment, and in that regard she worked hard to improve the health of the

Chesapeake Bay. Also, I commend her diligent leadership in the removal of the James River Reserve Fleet from Newport News. From her support for the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge to her concern with the preservation of Dragon Run or providing funding for oyster restoration, she always put the quality of Virginia's environment above politics.

With sincere passion and concern, Representative Davis worked to improve our Nation's armed services and the lives of the men and women who bravely answer the call to duty. She provided strong representation for the communities in and surrounding the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren and the Marine Corps base at Quantico, ensuring that these facilities continue to make important contributions to protecting the Nation and to the economic foundations of their respective areas. Her initiative to increase the life insurance benefit paid to survivors of military members and her advocacy on behalf of the rights and benefits of Federal employees will continue to be appreciated in the years ahead.

I have always admired Representative Davis for her strong convictions and the tenacity that she brought to bear in acting on them. She fought a courageous struggle against cancer, and I will miss her insights and her friendship in our Virginia congressional delegation.

I close with a personal note that we both shared interests in equestrian activities. There is an old English saying that "the outside of the horse is good for the inside of the man." As an avid, accomplished rider, she often quipped with me that the saying applies equally to a woman. She loved the noble horse.

I join with my colleagues from the Commonwealth and from the entire U.S. Congress in expressing my deepest sympathies to her husband, her two sons, and her extended family. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers during the difficult days ahead.

BAN ASBESTOS IN AMERICA ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, In the nearly 7 years that I have worked to pass the Ban Asbestos in America Act, I have been aided by so many dedicated and driven individuals without whom this day would not have been possible. I wish to take a minute to thank them for all they have done.

I would like to begin by thanking my entire personal staff who have taken on this fight with me. Over 7 years many of them have come and gone, but I know they are all very proud today because each and every one of them, in their own unique way, has helped this effort along.

In particular I would like to thank Bill Kamela who, as the head of my HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, has carried the torch on this issue for so many years.

Bill has sat with me in countless meetings reassuring widows, clearing legislative hurdles, and pledging to all to make this ban a reality. Bill's hard work and expertise have been essential to making this possible. I would also like to thank Anna Knudson, a former member of my staff who had the vision and passion to begin this effort.

I would like to thank Bill's hard-working staff Crystal Bridgeman, Mike Waske, and Janice Camp who lent their know-how and support to this effort at a critical juncture.

I would like to thank Alex Glass and my entire press office for their work in spreading the word about the importance of this effort. And I would like to thank Pete Weissman who recently left my office but whose words often helped drive home the urgency of this effort. I would also like to thank Mike Spahn who worked with me on the Senate floor to guide this bill to passage.

I also want to recognize and thank Dr. Barry Castleman, Chris Hahn from the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, MaryAnne Dunlap from Senator INHOFE's office, Ed Egee from Senator ISAKSON's office, Linda Reinstein from the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, Dr. Aubrey Miller, Dr. Greg Meeker, Dr. Richard Lemen, Dr. Mike Harbut, Dr. Harvey Pass, Andrew Schneider of the Seattle PI, and Matt Bergman.

I also want to say that it has been a pleasure to work with Senator ISAKSON's staff, the staff from EPW, and Senator BOXER's staff.

It takes a lot of people to get something done. A tremendous amount of people have worked on this. I thank them. Because of their work, we are going to ban asbestos, we are going to dramatically expand research and treatment, and we are going to launch a public education campaign so all Americans understand how they can protect themselves from the deadly asbestos products that may be in their home.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR VAUGHN L. WARD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the valor, leadership, and service of MAJ Vaughn L. Ward, a third-generation Idahoan who grew up working on his family's farm in southern Idaho. On October 22, 2007, Major Ward received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for heroic achievement in combat while serving as a Marine Rifle Company Commander in Fallujah, Iraq, from March to October of 2006.

During 7 months of combat operations, Major Ward distinguished himself as an exemplary leader of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5. Charlie Company was centrally located in the center of Fallujah and colocated with the Iraqi Police Headquarters. Insurgent forces regularly attacked this strategic position. During the tour, in-

surgers launched over a dozen complex attacks against his position, utilizing more than 120 rounds of indirect fire, IDF, AK-47 and PKC fire, vehicle borne improvised explosive devices, VBIEDs, improvised explosive devices, IEDs, and sniper fire. Major Ward commanded his marines through these attacks and usually led the counter-attack against enemy forces. From March through October, Charlie Company engaged the enemy over 130 times, conducted nearly a thousand foot and vehicle patrols, and carried out over 100 raids against insurgent locations.

Major Ward's military honors are only the latest in a career marked by excellence, leadership, and achievement. After graduating from Boise State University, he worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide for former Senator Dirk Kempthorne in 1993. He joined the Marine Corps in 1995 and served until 2000, whereupon he entered the University of Maryland and obtained his masters in business administration, MBA, in 2002. He continued his public service by joining the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, where he trained as an operations officer and served in the Middle East and Africa. In January 2006, Vaughn went on military furlough from the CIA in order to reactivate with the Marines and serve in Iraq. He left active duty in January 2007 and resigned from the CIA in May 2007. Vaughn, his wife Kirsten, and their daughter Avé will return home to Idaho in November.

Vaughn's penchant for leadership and hard work has its roots on a small family farm in Shoshone. As young as 8 years old, Vaughn was working at his family's farm, which included a dairy with 70 cows, and a few thousand acres of grain and hay, and hundreds of free-range cattle. By age 11, Vaughn was operating a tractor, plowing the fields in the spring and fall and swathing the summer hay crops. He helped to run the family farm throughout most of his teenage years and feels very fortunate to have had this childhood experience. His grandfather homesteaded the farm, and it was there that Vaughn internalized a true appreciation for the importance of hard work.

He was cognizant at an early age of the family's financial challenges. At 14, the age when many teenagers were spending their money on things like music, clothes, and a new electronic invention—computer games—Vaughn bought his family a Christmas tree. They would not have had one, otherwise.

Vaughn credits his mom, Maria Tranmer, with his success and his character development. His mother recounts the circumstances of his birth: Due to complications, they did not expect Vaughn to survive. When the doctor came to his mother's room, he said, "Little girl, I don't know what this boy is going to do in life, but it's going to be something special." Maria took these words to heart and, according to

Vaughn, "she never pushed me to be something I'm not, but she pushed me to realize my potential. She always supports me and, from the time I was young, told me to do what I am capable of doing, and be the best at it. Her and my family's belief in me is what pushes me to do what I do, and accomplish what I have." Maria is a remarkable woman herself, raising Vaughn and his sister, Shellie, through many years of hardship alone, yet, in Vaughn's words, "never leaving us wanting for anything."

Vaughn also points to mentors that have been there for him along the way and helped him during his formative years—from a first-grade teacher who took the time to care to coaches in high school who acted as role models. At age 7, his stepfather, Andrew Ward, a former Marine Corps officer, introduced Vaughn to hunting and hiking in the Idaho mountains and taught him how to ride a motorcycle. He also calls his grandfather, William Tews, the primary male influence in his life. "My grandfather taught me how to shoot a rifle, drive a tractor and what it means to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps." Vaughn continued stating that "my grandpa, father, and coaches shaped the life of a young man and those experiences gave me courage and confidence and opened up unique opportunities for me."

Vaughn's time in Iraq cemented and honed his leadership skills. Vaughn observes that if the talk of leadership doesn't translate into the action of leadership, particularly in combat, your credibility dissolves. In war, he says, fear is a cancer, and leaders have to be willing to do themselves what they order others to do. He lived this in Iraq, personally leading foot patrols from the front against the advice of fellow officers. He felt that it was wrong to order his subordinates to do something that he was unwilling to do himself. This bravery and commitment to walk and stand with his men meant something to them. His award submission in part reads: "Major Ward's strong leadership style and his willingness to always lead literally from the front inspired his Marines to continue to engage the enemy."

For Vaughn, excellent leadership also means not being fully committed to one's own ideas in the formulation stage of the decisionmaking process. An effective leader knows how and when to listen to the counsel of others, evaluate all available information, and have the confidence to make a decision and execute that decision. Good leaders are accountable for their actions, good and bad, and a good leader shares accolades with those who are part of the effort—a leader, by definition, has to have able and committed followers. One of the lessons he learned in Iraq was the result of the patrols that he led regularly. He tells of patrolling in unfamiliar territory and encountering times when the way ahead was unclear. "All you could do was start walking,