

prices for necessary feedstocks and transportation to customers, along with all the other hurdles that must be overcome in the global economy, have put this industry, which began here and which supplied vital products to customers the world over, at risk of being another industry the United States could lose to our foreign trading competitors. However, this industry meets challenges every day. This legislation will allow American chemical companies to once again demonstrate a passion for excellence, safety, and innovation that will be a source of envy around the world and create a generation's worth of good-paying jobs that States like West Virginia can build an economy around.

Mr. President, I call on my colleagues to take up and pass the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER NATHAN H. HARDY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to special warfare operator CPO, SEAL, Nathan H. Hardy of Durham, NH. Sadly on February 4, 2008 while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, this brave 29-year old patriot gave his life for his team and for our Nation during combat operations in Iraq. Chief Hardy was a member of Naval Special Warfare Tactical Development and Evaluation Squadron THREE, Dam Neck, VA, and was serving our country in his fourth deployment to Iraq.

Nathan, or Nate to family and friends, was a 1997 graduate of Oyster River High School, Durham, NH, where he excelled in soccer and lacrosse. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on November 4, 1997, received basic training in Great Lakes, IL, Undersea Demolition/SEAL training in Coronado, CA, and attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. During his Navy career he served entirely with east coast-based SEAL teams.

Friends say from his youth Nate dreamed of becoming a U.S. Navy SEAL, one of the most challenging, rigorous, and elite fighting organizations in the history of the world. He applied his fierce competitiveness and team spirit to achieve success and served our Nation with deep pride and great courage. He loved what he did, and that was obvious.

The awards and decorations Nate received serve as testimony to his strong character and extraordinary performance. They include two Bronze Star Medals, Purple Heart, two Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon—approval pending—three Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Serv-

ice Medal, three Sea Service Deployment Medals, NATO Medal, Expert Rifle Medal and the Sharpshooter Pistol Medal.

During our country's difficult Revolutionary War, Thomas Paine wrote "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." In these turbulent times Chief Hardy stood with the country he loved, served it with distinction and valor, and earned and deserves our love and thanks. Because of his efforts, the liberty of this country is made more secure.

My sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Nate's wife Mindi, son Parker, parents Steve and Donna, brother Ben, and to his other family members and many friends who have suffered this most grievous loss. All will sorely miss Nate Hardy—devoted husband, caring father, dedicated son, loyal brother, good friend, outstanding SEAL. Laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Chief Hardy joins his fellow heroes in eternal peace at our military's most sacred place. His sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom. In the words of another son of New Hampshire, Daniel Webster—may his remembrance be as longlasting as the land he honored. God bless Nathan Hardy.

REMEMBERING JANEZ DRNOVŠEK

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to pay tribute to a good friend, Janez Drnovšek, who passed away on Saturday. Dr. Drnovšek served as the second Prime Minister of Slovenia from 1992 to 2002, and as President from 2002 to 2007. In these and other capacities, he played a truly historic role in giving birth to a free and independent Slovenia, while avoiding the bloodshed and warfare that engulfed other nations as they seceded from the former Yugoslavia.

Dr. Drnovšek was born on May 17, 1950, in Celje. He graduated from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Economics. In 1986, he finished his doctoral studies in economic science at the University of Maribor. In 1994, he received an honorary doctorate from Boston University. In 2004 he was named Protector and Honorary Senator of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg.

But Dr. Drnovšek will be best remembered as a statesman of enormous ability, vision, and courage. A brilliant economist, he unleashed the entrepreneurial spirit of the Slovenian people and played a historic role in establishing his new nation as a robust democracy with one of the most successful economies in Central and Eastern Europe. Today, thanks in large measure to Dr. Drnovšek's leadership, Slovenia is a full member of the European

Union and NATO, and a force for stability and democratic reform across the Balkans.

The world looks at Slovenia's success in the nearly 17 years since she declared independence, and it wonders: How could a nation of just 2 million people accomplish so much in so short period of time? As an American, I know the answer. Bear in mind that, when Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, America was also a nation of just 2 million people. Like Slovenians in 1991, Americans in 1776 dared to break away from a much larger and more powerful mother country. Like Slovenians, Americans demanded a democratic course for their new country.

But the most important parallel between our two countries is this: Historians of the American Revolution have marveled that a tiny nation of just 2 million people was blessed with such an extraordinary collection of thinkers and leaders, including Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin. At this crucial crossroads in Slovenia's history, it, too, has been blessed with extraordinary leaders. And Dr. Drnovšek will be remembered as one of the most talented of these Founding Fathers.

On a personal note, I was very fortunate to spend time with President Drnovšek during my trip to Slovenia in August 2005. Clearly, he was an independent thinker and a free spirit. One obituary in the Washington Post on Sunday noted that in his youth and early adulthood, he was a member of the Communist Party, which was the only political force in the former Yugoslavia. But he was never a Communist at heart, and he made a point of going off to ski whenever the party held a congress.

Mr. President, with the passing of Dr. Janez Drnovšek, the world has lost an important leader and a wonderfully decent human being. He was instrumental in founding and nurturing a free, democratic, successful Slovenia. History will not forget him, nor will the citizens of his grateful nation.

A TRIBUTE TO J. SHANE CREAMER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to express my thanks to Shane Creamer, on his extraordinary volunteer service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the State president for the American Association of Retired Persons, the AARP. I also express deep regret that Mr. Creamer will no longer serve on the Executive Council as the Pennsylvania State president for the AARP as he will be stepping down February 22, 2008. He currently holds the highest volunteer position within the AARP and has since 2002.

In 1951, Shane Creamer graduated from Villanova University and in 1953 graduated from Temple University School of Law. During his time at each institution he served as student body president. Immediately after earning