

campaign headquarters, but Nate's sign remains, a reminder of his commitment as well as his friendship.

But for all of Nate's artistic talent, his most enduring characteristic was his love of people, and his ability to inspire loyalty and affection from everyone he came in contact with.

Many of the volunteers on my campaigns have been young people, full of idealism and eager to learn. They have often been young enough to be Nate's grandchildren or even great-grandchildren. But Nate always relished their idealism. He tried to see people and events through their eyes and learn from that point of view, and he gently shared his experience and wisdom. It was remarkable to see the affection and respect he engendered in those idealistic kids.

My family and I were privileged to spend time with Nate in settings away from the political arena, and those occasions were simply a delight. They were times rich with humor and wit, as well as wisdom. Our conversations were filled with insight, not just into the past and present, but looking far into the future at the challenges our Nation and world will face. Nate knew that he would never face those challenges, but that his great grandchildren and great-grandchildren would.

Nate Wexler leaves behind a large family and friends of all ages and from all walks of life. He will be missed tremendously, but he lives on in all of us who were fortunate enough to know and to learn from him.●

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S LOST FIREFIGHTERS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the lives of Shawn Blazer, Scott Charlson, Edrik Gomez, Matthew Hammer, Dan Packer, Andrew Jackson Palmer, Jim Ramage, Steven Renno, Bryan Rich, Roark Schwanenberg, and David Steele. These brave men lost their lives while working to protect Californians from devastating forest fires.

On August 5, 2008, seven firefighters and two helicopter pilots were tragically killed in a helicopter accident while bravely fighting the Iron Complex Fire in Trinity County. I would like to say a few words about each of these men:

Shawn Blazer of Medford, OR, had been working as a firefighter for 1 year and told his family and friends that he had "discovered his calling." Shawn was dedicated to his family and had been caring for his mother when he died. He had a passion for photography, computer games and playing sports. He is remembered for his dedication and love for his friends and family.

Scott Charlson of Phoenix, OR, was a student at Southern Oregon University and worked as a firefighter during the summer to put himself through college. He had a passion for journalism, especially covering sporting events. His classmates recalled his ethics, excel-

lence in reporting and kind and caring nature.

Edrik Gomez of Ashland, OR, was a student at Southern Oregon University, double majoring in communications and political science and was in his first year as a firefighter. Gomez was known as a leader with great compassion and for his lighthearted spirit, interest in politics and close bond with his family and friends.

Matthew Hammer of Grants Pass, OR, was a recent graduate from Corban College with a degree in business. He married his college sweetheart this summer and had planned on making 2008 his last fire season as a firefighter. He is remembered as an athletic, friendly, fun-loving person who excelled under pressure.

Jim Ramage of Redding, CA, was a helicopter pilot who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war and had a distinguished career with the U.S. Forest Service and CAL Fire. Friends and family remember Jim's passion for aviation and protecting public safety. He is remembered for the bonds he created with his friends and the great love he had for his family.

Steven "Caleb" Renno of Cave Junction, OR, was a track and field coach for his alma mater, Illinois Valley High School, where he excelled in both track and cross country. After high school he attended Southern Oregon University and worked as a firefighter during summers. He will be remembered for his talent as a runner and as an avid traveler.

Bryan Rich of Central Point, OR, was a talented framing carpenter who recently began a career in firefighting. He loved spending time outdoors, playing sports and is remembered for his dedication to his family.

Roark Schwanenberg of Lostine, OR, was a U.S. Army trained helicopter pilot, who many of his colleagues consider one of the best helicopter pilots, with whom they have worked. He is remembered for his humor, great skill as a pilot, and love for his family and friends.

David Steele of Bend, OR, was a student at Central Oregon Community College and worked as a firefighter during the summer to pay for his education. He planned on becoming a career firefighter after graduating from both Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical Technician school. Friends and family remember his strong work ethic, love of his family and big heart.

We also mourn the loss of two other brave firefighters from the State of Washington who lost their lives battling California wildfires this summer:

Dan Packer of Sumner, WA, was the Chief of the East Piece Fire Department and past president of the Washington State Fire Chiefs. He had a passion for public safety and was known for his ability to relate to anyone. Chief Packer is remembered for his strong leadership abilities and dedication to his family. Chief Packer lost his life while battling the Panther Fire in Siskiyou County on July 26, 2008.

Andrew Jackson Palmer of Port Townsend, WA, was a 2008 graduate of Port Townsend High School where he was a standout athlete on the football team. Andy enjoyed playing a variety of sports and spending time with his friends and family. Andy's loved ones recall his kind heart, honesty and integrity. Andy tragically died while fighting the Iron Complex Fire in Trinity County on July 25, 2008.

These brave firefighters and pilots, like all those who fight fires across California, put their lives on the line to protect our communities. My heart goes out to their families and loved ones and my thoughts and prayers are with them. We are forever indebted to them for their courage, service and sacrifice.●

TRIBUTE TO JO PRICE CRAVEN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Ms. Jo Price Craven, principal of Piner Elementary School in Morning City, KY. Ms. Jo Price Craven was recently honored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals as one of the recipients of the 2008 National Distinguished Principals Award.

The National Distinguished Principals Program was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. One principal is chosen from each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, and this year Ms. Jo Price Craven has been selected as a National Distinguished Principal from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Throughout her time at Piner Elementary School, Principal Jo Price Craven has displayed herself to be an example of excellence in primary education. Her educational philosophy fosters a school environment that is considerate and challenging to allow teachers at Piner Elementary to mobilize and enhance student performance.

Kentuckians are extremely proud of Ms. Jo Price Craven. I am honored to pay tribute to her, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Principal Craven continued success as she continues her exceptional work in education.●

RECOGNIZING MS. KELSEY LANDT

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I recognize Ms. Kelsey Landt of Paducah, KY, who is a premed senior at the University of Kentucky at 13 years old. Before her teenage years Kelsey participated in spinal cord injury research at the University of Kentucky, and while at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, she utilized transcranial magnetic stimulation to understand reward processing. At the age of 10, she presented her work at the 2005 Community College Conference for Student Research in Madisonville, KY, and this year, she