

being a vocal champion in the fight against Alzheimer's and Lisa Genova who wrote the moving book, "Still Alice," about a brilliant woman blindsided by the disease.

In 2004 Senator MIKULSKI and I first introduced legislation in honor of Ronald Reagan, who took public awareness of Alzheimer's to the national stage. This legislation—a living tribute to the courage of our 40th President—made a Federal commitment to increase research for Alzheimer's and increase assistance to Alzheimer patients and their families.

Today, Senator MIKULSKI and I are still leading the fight in the Senate to pass this critical legislation. This year we reintroduced the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act. This bipartisan legislation strengthens our nation's commitment to Alzheimer's research and to finding cures and treatments for this devastating disease.

This legislation doubles funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to \$2 billion and makes Alzheimer's research a priority at NIH. The bill also provides support for families by providing caregivers with the vital resources and tools to assist them.

We can't afford to wait another 5 years to pass this bill. After all, in this country, someone develops Alzheimer's every 70 seconds. Experts estimate Alzheimer's could affect as many as 10 million baby boomers as they age. And in my State of Missouri, there will be as many as 110,000 people age 65 and older who will have Alzheimer's disease by 2010.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join me and Senator MIKULSKI in our fight against this terrible disease and cosponsor the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act. I also ask that today you keep all those who have lost loved ones to Alzheimer's, all those living with Alzheimer's and all those carrying on the fight against Alzheimer's in your thoughts.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

##### SERGEANT YOUVERT LONEY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of Army Sergeant Youvert Loney. Sergeant Loney, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO, died on September 5, 2009. Sergeant Loney was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Abad, Afghanistan, and sustained injuries when insurgents attacked his vehicle using small arms and rifles. He was 28 years old.

A native of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Sergeant Loney moved to Fort Carson in 2006 when he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. Sergeant Loney joined the Army in October 2005. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2006 until December 2007, contributing to renewed

efforts to successfully secure Baghdad. He had served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with Fort Carson's Fourth Brigade Combat Team since June. Last month, his battalion worked to ensure security for Afghanistan's recent presidential elections.

During his nearly 4 years of service, Sergeant Loney distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any challenge—no matter how dangerous. Commanders recognized his extraordinary bravery and talent, bestowing on Sergeant Loney more than 12 awards and medals, including two Purple Heart Medals, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Sergeant Loney is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional and friend who they could turn to in times of need. Most of all, they remember his devotion to his wife, his children, and his country.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Loney's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived without fear.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant Loney will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Sergeant Loney's father Loakim, his wife Flora, his children, and all his friends and family—I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that in time the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Youvert's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague, Senator Mel Martinez, who recently resigned his Senate seat. Senator Martinez has represented the State of Florida in the Senate since his election in 2004.

Mel Martinez's inspiring personal story is an example of how the American dream can be attained through hard work and determination. Born in Sagua La Grande, Cuba, Mel fled to the United States when he was 15 years old after the Castro government came to power in his homeland. Arriving in Florida with one suitcase and limited English language skills, Mel spent the next few years in youth facilities and with foster families until he was later reunited with his parents in Orlando.

He went on to earn a law degree from Florida State University, and he prac-

ticed law in Orlando for over two decades. In 1998, Senator Martinez was elected chairman of Orange County. He went on to serve as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President George W. Bush. Since 2004, Mel Martinez served the people of Florida in the U.S. Senate.

Reforming our immigration system was an issue close to Senator Martinez's heart. Mel worked vigorously with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to try to advance a solution to one of the most difficult problems confronting our Nation. As the only immigrant in the Senate, Senator Martinez brought a unique perspective to the immigration debate. By striving for comprehensive immigration reform, he hoped to share the American dream.

Senator Martinez was deeply concerned about advancing the cause of freedom in the most oppressive corners of the world. Mel experienced the loss of liberty that resulted from Castro's rise, and he often spoke out for those who lost their voices—not only for those in Cuba, but for those who suffered anywhere from tyranny and despotism.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and drought in the Midwest, Senator Martinez and I worked together in an attempt to bring relief to America's farm and ranch families. Even though agricultural production in North Dakota and Florida is far from similar, we were able to unite to support legislation that would have provided much-needed disaster assistance to affected farmers and ranchers throughout the country.

I thank Senator Martinez for his public service and wish him and his family the best in the future.

#### NOMINATION OF ALAN D. SOLOMONT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to the proceeding to the nomination of Alan D. Solomont to be Ambassador to Spain and Andorra at the Department of State for the following reasons.

I object to the proceeding to the nomination as I have yet to receive a full response to my letter(s) and document request(s). On June 12, 2009, I sent a letter requesting specific documents from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Mr. Solomont is the chairman of CNCS's board of directors. My request called for documents relating to the firing of Gerald Walpin, the former inspector general at CNCS. Despite promises to be responsive under Mr. Solomont's leadership, CNCS has complied with my requests selectively, withholding entire categories of responsive documents and refusing to even provide a log to identify the particular documents being withheld and the specific reasons for withholding them.