

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST CHAD DEREK CLEMENTS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of SPC Chad Derek Clements of the U.S. Army and Huntington, IN.

Specialist Clements was assigned to F Company, 4th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. He was only 26 years old when he lost his life on August 30th while serving bravely in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Arghandab River Valley in Afghanistan. He was only 3 weeks into his first deployment.

A Huntington, IN, native, Chad graduated from Huntington North High School in 2002. He enlisted in the Army in February 2009 and arrived in Afghanistan the second week of August. He followed in the proud military tradition of his father, Daniel, a Navy veteran who passed away in 2001.

Those closest to him described Chad as having a big heart. He deeply valued his family and his friends. Chad was an avid fan of the local Fort Wayne Komets and the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey teams, and he enjoyed collecting memorabilia of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt.

Today, I join Chad's family and friends in mourning his death. He is survived by his mother, Anne Beady Tarter; his stepfather, Ed Tarter; his sister, Danielle Clements; his grandmother, Betty Beady; his grandfather and step-grandmother, Marvin and Carol Beady; his grandfather, Everett Clements; his stepbrother, Corey Tarter; and his stepsister, Heather Tarter.

We take pride in the example of this American hero, even as we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to honor this fallen soldier, I recall President Lincoln's words to the families of the fallen at Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SPC Chad Derek Clements in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to our country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace.

SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER NEAL KARCH

Mr. President, I also rise today to honor the life of SGT Christopher Neal

Karch of the U.S. Army and Indianapolis, IN.

Sergeant Karch was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. He was only 23 years old when he lost his life on August 11 while serving bravely in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was 20 days from completing his second tour of duty.

Sergeant Karch graduated from Lawrence Central High School in 2005 and was pursuing a degree from the University of Maryland with plans to graduate in 2012. He joined the Army 2 months after his high school graduation, where he served in the same division and lived in the same barracks as his father Pat—also a veteran. A decorated soldier, Sergeant Karch earned the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Army Good Conduct Medal. His platoon leader described him as the "epitome of an airborne paratrooper."

Today, I join Sergeant Karch's family and friends in mourning his death. He is survived by his father, Pat Karch; his mother Lynn Kersey; his grandparents, Nick and Dian Nicholson, Bill and Joyce Seal, Norman and Denise Karch, and Jerry Hallgarth; and his uncle, Vince Karch.

As we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we take pride in the example of this American hero and cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to honor this fallen soldier, I recall President Lincoln's words to the families of the fallen at Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

I pray that Christopher's family finds comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said: "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Sergeant Christopher Neal Karch in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to our country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace.

SPECIALIST JUSTIN B. SHOECRAFT

Mr. President, today I also wish to honor the life of SPC Justin B. Shoecraft of the U.S. Army and Elkhart, IN.

Specialist Shoecraft was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment and was only 28 years old when he lost his life while serving bravely in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kakarak, Afghanistan. He had been in Afghanistan for 5 weeks.

An Elkhart native, Justin graduated from Elkhart Memorial High School in

2000. He shared a passion for working on old bicycles and cars with his father, Blue, who described his son as hardworking and dependable.

Today, I join Justin's family and friends in mourning his death. He is survived by his wife, Jessica; his mother and father, Donna and Carroll "Blue" Shoecraft; his sister, Sherry Schoonover; and his half-brother, Michael Garver, Jr.

We take pride in the example of this American hero, even as we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to honor this fallen soldier, I recall President Lincoln's words to the families of the fallen at Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Army SPC Justin B. Shoecraft in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to our country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace.

SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER SHANE WRIGHT

Mr. President, today I also honor the life of U.S. Army SPC Christopher Shane Wright.

Specialist Wright was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He was only 23 years old when he lost his life on August 19 while serving bravely in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Pech, Afghanistan.

Chris grew up near Jeffersonville, IN, where he attended Sacred Heart School. He later moved to Tollesboro, KY, and graduated in 2005 from Lewis County High School. Chris enlisted in the Army shortly after his 18th birthday and went on to serve in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Specialist Wright was highly regarded among his fellow servicemen. His regiment commander, COL Michael E. Kurilla, described Specialist Wright as "the epitome of a Ranger" and called him "a hero to our Nation, the Army and his family." Specialist Wright received the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Purple Heart.

Today, I join Specialist Wright's family and friends in mourning his death. He is survived by his mother, Linda Wright-Dennis; his father and stepmother, James Cochran and Michele Cochran; his grandmothers, Carol Cochran and JoAnn Stockton; his brothers, Zachary Pope, Zane Pope, and Andrew Dennis; and his sisters, Marianne Dennis and Katie Dorman.

We take pride in the example of this American hero, even as we struggle to