

Korean Service Medal, Japan Service Medal and a 50th anniversary medal for his service.

Many humble men and women who have served in our military are celebrated in communities across Colorado, and I wish to join them to express my appreciation and highlight the contributions of servicemembers of all backgrounds that make up the larger family of veterans who have given so much.

This November 11, I encourage everyone to take the time to thank a veteran and servicemember for his or her involvement in protecting America and the principles for which we stand.

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT THOMAS R. GDOVIN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, on this week of Veteran's Day, I rise today to recognize SGT Thomas R. Gdovin, of Cleveland, OH, for the exceptional bravery he displayed in combat on March 8, 1968, in Vietnam while assigned to the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. Earlier today I presented the Silver Star, one of our Nation's highest honors for gallantry in military service, to former SGT Thomas Gdovin here in Washington, DC.

SGT Thomas R. Gdovin enlisted into the U.S. Army on July 5, 1966, and served in the 101st Airborne Division. Today, during a ceremony over 40 years in the making, he received the Silver Star for his bravery during the Vietnam war when he risked his own life to save a wounded soldier during combat. I was honored to have Mr. Dan Phillips, the soldier rescued, attend the ceremony alongside Mr. Gdovin's family and friends in celebration of this well deserved honor.

I am honored to read the Silver Star Citation detailing Sergeant Gdovin's brave actions into the RECORD.

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 9 July 1918, has awarded the Silver Star to: Sergeant Thomas R. Gdovin, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) For Gallantry: in action on 8 March 1968, while serving as Squad Leader with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in support of operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gdovin's squad became the company's lead element during an attack on enemy forces when they received intense automatic weapons and rocket fire. The lead Soldier in the formation was severely wounded and was unable to move in an area open to enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin placed the squad into defensive positions and suppressed enemy fire. He then left the defensive position and with complete disregard for his own personal safety and advanced across open terrain toward the wounded soldier, exposing himself to intense enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin then reached the wounded soldier and under continued fire, brought him back to safety of the squad's position, where we was further evacuated. Sergeant Gdovin's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the United States Army.

This is truly an exceptional story and I was honored to play a small role in recognizing Sergeant Gdovin. This ceremony was an opportunity to say thank you to all veterans. We can never forget that they gave their time, risked their health, and even placed their lives on the line. This not only means honoring their sacrifices, but also honoring our promises and commitments to them as well. Let us ensure that we honor and remember all our veterans, not just this week but throughout the days and years to come. Their commitment to this Nation is a shining example to all of us.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER STANG

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I wish to formally congratulate Dr. Peter Stang of the University of Utah for being awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed by the United States upon scientists.

Dr. Stang has been a pioneer in his field, developing methods of creating molecular nano-devices that construct themselves from combinations of chemical building blocks. These devices hold the promise of eventually being used in many revolutionary ways, from enabling artificial photosynthesis to delivering medicine directly to specific individual cells in the human body.

In 1957, Dr. Stang's family fled to the United States from Hungary to escape the violent clashes between Hungarians and the Soviet Union. The greatness of the American spirit is reflected in the fact that this young immigrant became one of the nation's top scientists and is now being recognized by the leader of the free world.

I thank Dr. Stang for his tremendous efforts to improve our way of life.●

##### TRANSCONTINENTAL OVERLAND TELEGRAPH LINE

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on October 24, the Sons of Utah Pioneers celebrated the 150th anniversary of the final connecting of the Transcontinental Overland Telegraph Line in Salt Lake City, establishing the first coast-to-coast electronic communications system in American history.

Much like the Transcontinental Railroad revolutionized transportation in this country, the Transcontinental Telegraph Line revolutionized communication. Sending messages from Washington, DC to California, which had previously taken weeks, took mere seconds after completion of the line.

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Brigham Young sent the first message to President Abraham Lincoln, which confirmed that Utah was still loyal to the United States and not allied with the Confederacy. The line is credited with helping to ensure that most of the

West sided with the Union in the Civil War.

Congratulations to the citizens of Utah for marking the anniversary of an accomplishment that helped to hold this country together.●

##### ST. GEORGE, UTAH

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, 150 years ago, 309 families founded the city of St. George in southern Utah. It would become the main city in a region known as "Utah's Dixie" because of the cotton farms that were established in response to the cotton shortage of the Civil War. To celebrate this important milestone, several hundred people participated in a reenactment of the 100-mile journey of the original settlers, from the city of Parowan to the eventual location of St. George. The trek featured wagons, livestock, and many other aspects of life in the 19th century.

Today, St. George is a city of over 70,000 people, and is the seat of Washington County. Congratulations to Mayor Dan McArthur and the people of St. George for reaching the 150-year milestone.●

##### TRIBUTE TO EDIE DAHLSTEN

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, you have heard me speak many times about the importance of agriculture to my home State. It is a critical industry in Kansas and forms the backbone of our economy. Within the field of agriculture are many dedicated and talented leaders who serve and have served Kansans with distinction. I have had the privilege to know and work with many of them over the years, but there is one in particular I would like to highlight today. Edie Dahlsten currently serves as the vice president of the Kansas Farm Bureau. For nearly a decade, Edie has served in this role with distinction and this November she will retire at the end of her term.

The Farm Bureau is truly a grass-roots organization that begins with a single farmer, who joins together with his neighbors to form an organization that represents their way of life. Edie and Larry Dahlsten have been engaged in every aspect of that organization, beginning with their service on the McPherson County Farm Bureau Board near their home in central Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, for Edie and Larry, farming is more than just a way to make a living it is a way of life. Together they make a great team, and their commitment to the Farm Bureau and the values it represents is widely known. Edie and Larry's leadership and service together began more than 20 years ago when they served on the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. As an Outstanding Young Farm Family, they have represented their fellow producers on numerous committees over the years to advocate on behalf of producers at the local, State, and national level.

Edie's leadership and advocacy began with humble beginnings on the soil of a