

and 2013, each time refining and building upon the great work that VAWA does each day.

This legislation stands today as an example of what we are really called here to do—meeting people's day-to-day needs. That means protecting people, making their lives better, and providing vital resources to those in need. No woman in this country should live in fear that her partner will hurt or kill her or her kids. I have zero tolerance for domestic violence. If you are beaten and abused, you should have somewhere to turn for help and a path to recovery.

VAWA is crucial in all of our communities. Every day VAWA is providing services to families in desperate need. I hear from my constituents far too often about the challenges they are facing, often involving significant economic struggles only to be complicated by deep emotional pain and fear.

Here are the statistics: 1 in 4 women will be victims of domestic violence. 16 million children are exposed to domestic violence every day. And over 2 million will be victims themselves of physical or sexual violence each year. 20,000 of these cases are in my own State of Maryland. Since we created the legislation in 1994, the national hotline has received millions of calls. Millions of women felt in danger and had the chance of being rescued.

In my own State of Maryland VAWA is making recovery possible for victims by finding them legal help to separate from their abusers. They are also getting vital services at rape crisis centers and navigating our immigration system to ensure protection.

Through the years I have heard from too many Marylanders about their struggles. Fortunately, VAWA programs existed to help them. I heard from one of my constituents, Jean on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Jean was married to her husband for 10 years and shared 2 children. She benefited from VAWA's Legal Assistance for Victims Grant after being abused so brutally one evening. Jean called the hotline and got the legal assistance to file for a protective order, which she ultimately was awarded and is now living her life safely with her children.

I also heard from Danielle. Danielle was sexually assaulted at the age of 19 by an associate that she knew. She was aided by VAWA's Sexual Assault Services program when she made the connection with the rape crisis center a few days after her attack. Danielle got the support she needed at the crisis center. She received personalized safety planning and counseling and was provided a lawyer to help her get a peace order.

I also hear from law enforcement in Maryland who say VAWA is helping them make communities safer. The Lethality Assessment Program, pioneered in Maryland and now a model for the Nation, was strengthened in the last VAWA reauthorization. The program is used to identify high risk situ-

ations at the outset to link up local police with domestic violence professionals to provide wrap around services and empowerment to get victims out of harm's way and reduce homicides. This was made possible because of VAWA which provided the Federal funding to make this a reality.

As chair of the appropriations subcommittee that funds the Justice Department, I have secured funding for the Violence Against Women Act programs at the highest levels ever. These programs ensure tougher penalties for abusers, coordinated assistance with community organizations, and court advocates for abused women to boost reporting and prosecution.

In the fiscal year 2015 CJS spending bill I provided a robust \$430 million for Violence Against Women grants, continuing a strong commitment to VAWA programs. I also provide strong investments in core VAWA programs including: \$195 million for STOP formula grants, which coordinates community response to domestic violence and also trains police, prosecutors and judicial staff; \$30 million for sexual assault services that direct services for victims of rape; \$26 million for transitional housing grants so victims have safe and affordable housing after shelters; and \$50 million for Grants to Encourage Arrests, which teaches police and prosecutors how to support victims and ensure offender accountability.

So today, as we mark 20 years of VAWA, we reflect on what it has done for families across our country and women in desperate need. But we also reflect with the renewed knowledge that the programs that have been in place are reducing domestic violence and improving outcomes. If it is anything that the last 20 years have shown us, it is that VAWA works. I am proud of it and am so happy to mark this important milestone.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I was absent on July 28, 2014, and missed the opportunity to vote on the confirmation of Ms. Pamela Harris to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Vote No. 242.

I wish to state for the record my support for Ms. Harris's nomination, and that I would have voted aye on Ms. Harris's nomination.

RECOGNIZING JOE SCOTT

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, on September 16, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming will celebrate their 16th Annual Awards and Recognition Breakfast. During the event, they will honor a member of the community who has significantly contributed to the Boys and Girls Club. I am delighted that this year's honoree is Joe Scott, a Casper, Wyoming-native, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

Joe was born and raised in Casper. He attended St. Anthony's Catholic

School, East Junior High, and Kelly Walsh High School. His uncle, Jack Sullivan, put Joe to work on the family's ranch in Wyoming's Shirley Basin. Joe collected his first paycheck when he was in the third grade and has continued to work hard ever since. As a young man he worked as an oil pumpjack for McMurry Oil Company. The McMurry's could always count on Joe to get the job done. Joe stayed with the company through the 1990s as they discovered and developed the Jonah Field. Following his long career with McMurry Oil, he used his tenacity and entrepreneurial spirit to found energy ventures, including a water treatment company and a mud motor company.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming are grateful for Joe Scott's contributions to their critically important mission. The club offers programs and services that promote and enhance the development of our youth. Their activities provide the youth with a sense of competence, usefulness and belonging.

My wife Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Joe and thanking him for his dedication to Wyoming and its youth. He is the perfect example of a citizen who has truly paid back to his community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL STEPHANIE A. HOLCOMBE

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to recognize Oklahoma resident Col. Stephanie A. Holcombe of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, who will retire from the U.S. Air Force on January 1, 2015, after 25 years of distinguished service. Col. Holcombe significantly impacted the global fight against improvised explosive devices during her final tour of duty as JIEDDO's chief of public affairs. She directly contributed to creating a global awareness about the IED threat; and helped inform and educate people about JIEDDO's work to reduce the effectiveness of IEDs and eliminate the enemy networks that seek to use these devices to harm our troops.

Col. Holcombe is a distinguished graduate of Oklahoma State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps in Stillwater, OK, class of 1989, with a degree in photo journalism. She also achieved two master's degrees from the University of Florida and the National War College.

During her 25-year long career as a public affairs officer, she held assignments with Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Material Command, Air Force Special Operations Command and on the Headquarters Air Staff. In 2004, she deployed to Baghdad where she worked with the U.S. Embassy and conducted operations for Multi-National Forces—Iraq.

Col. Holcombe earned numerous awards and decorations including the

Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal, among others. She also received Air Force wide accolades for her excellence in journalism, twice earning the Thomas Jefferson Award.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Col. Stephanie A. Holcombe's military career. I wish her all the best in her retirement. ●

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST WILLIAM E. ALLMON

● Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SPC William E. Allmon, of Ardmore, OK who died on April 12, 2008, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device while serving his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq.

William was a combat engineer who joined the Army in June 2000 and was on his second deployment to Iraq. He previously deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January 2005 to January 2006. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA.

"If you didn't know him, you missed out on a lot," wrote SGT Richard White in a letter read tearfully by his wife during a funeral service. "You are not only my best friend, you are my brother."

A funeral service was held on April 22, 2008 at Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church in Silver Creek, GA.

William is survived by his wife Jennifer, their son Damien and stepson Jason "Luke" Johnson, his mother Donna Fortune, and his father William Allmon.

He loved his family and his children. "We're going to miss his smile and his antics—he was a kid at heart. When we went to Chuck E. Cheese, he'd get as much out of it as the kids," said the soldier's father, William Allmon.

Today we remember Army SPC William E. Allmon, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

STAFF SERGEANT KEVIN R. BROWN

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my honor to also honor the life and sacrifice of Army SSG Kevin R. Brown, of Harrah, OK who died on September 25, 2007, of wounds suffered from a roadside bomb while serving his Nation in Muqadiyah, Iraq.

A cavalry scout, Brown joined the military in September 1988, a year after graduating from Harrah High School. He was inspired to join the military by his father Richard Haynes Brown, a senior master sergeant who retired at Tinker Air Force Base, OK after 22 years of service.

In April 2006 he was assigned 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Di-

vision, based in Fort Hood, TX and deployed for his second tour to Iraq in October 2006.

A funeral service was held at the Brown family plot in Rineyville, KY, near Fort Knox, TN.

Kevin is survived by his parents Glenda and Richard Haynes Brown, his wife Lena of Killeen, TX, the couple's daughters Maria, 13, and Charlene, 14, a sister Brandy Ross of Moore, OK, and two stepchildren Jeremy and Pamela.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Kevin's family. He lived a life of love for his family, friends, and our country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who twice volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CODY M. CARVER

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I also wish to remember Army PFC Cody M. Carver who died on October 30, 2007 of wounds sustained when enemy forces engaged his unit with small-arms fire and an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq.

Born June 23, 1988, Cody joined the Army in November 2006. Upon completing basic training he returned to Oklahoma to serve as a hometown recruiter. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA where he was deployed to Iraq on September 28, 2007.

Cody's father, Darrell Lee Carver, was wounded during the Vietnam war. That, along with the September 11, 2001 attacks was his motivation for joining the Army, his mother said. "He had talked about joining the Army since the ninth grade. I guess it was about the same time 9/11 happened. That bothered him so bad, he just wanted to go and make it right," she said.

A memorial service was held on November 10, 2007 at Coweta High School, with burial at the Vernon Cemetery in Coweta, OK.

His mother remembers him as very much a single man with a huge sense of humor. "I asked him at Valentine's Day if there was anyone he wanted me to send flowers to," said his mother. "He said, 'Mom, that would be too many flowers. You couldn't afford it.'"

Cody is survived by his parents Darrel and Pam Carver of Haskell, OK, brothers Lee and Jake Carver of Haskell, OK, and his grandparents Charles Orsburn and Barbara Phillippe of Wagoner, OK, and Ronald and Edna Carver of Coweta, OK.

Today we remember Army PFC Cody M. Carver, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DAVID R. HURST

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my honor to also honor the life and sacrifice of Army SFC David R. Hurst, of Fort Sill, OK who died on June 8, 2008, of wounds suffered from a roadside bomb while serving his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq.

Born October 21, 1976, David was a 1994 graduate of Ridgewood Prep School in Metairie, LA. He enlisted in the Army in March 1995 and completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, GA before being honorably discharged in June 1998.

Returning to active duty in August 1999, he served as a basic training drill sergeant at Fort Sill, OK, from November 2005 to October 2007 and was then reassigned to 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Polk, LA.

A funeral service was held on June 17, 2008 at Schoen Funeral home with internment at Lake Lawn Park Cemetery and Mausoleum in New Orleans, LA.

David is preceded in death by his mother Harrette Kock and survived by his father Max Wayne Hurst, his stepmother Lillian T. Hurst, his brothers Chris and Mark Hurst, and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to David's family. He lived a life of love for his family, friends, and our country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who twice volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEFFREY D. KETTLE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my honor to also honor the life and sacrifice of Army SFC Jeffrey D. Kettle who died on August 12, 2007 of wounds suffered from a roadside bomb while serving his Nation in Nangarhar province near Kuzkalakhel, Afghanistan.

Born August 26, 1975 and listing Madill, OK as his home of record, Jeff was a product of Texas City, TX. Military service ran in his family with his grandfather, uncles, brother, and father also completing service time. "Jeff was the ultimate warrior," said Ronald Kettle, noting his son joined the Army in 1993 right after graduating from high school. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group based at Fort Bragg, NC and was on his fourth deployment.

A memorial service was held August 31, 2007, at Calvary Baptist Church in Texas City, TX. Jeff was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on August 22, 2007. His flag-draped coffin was carried to the grave site by a six-man casket team of soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment. In the brief ceremony, relatives including his parents and his wife recited the Lord's Prayer. His father said his son, 31, wished to be at Arlington because "he wanted to be buried among heroes."

Jeff is survived by his parents Ron and Cindy Kettle, his wife Brandi Kettle, two sons Jeffrey and Logan, grandmother Anne Moore, and two brothers Ryan and Clay Kettle.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Jeff's family. He lived a