

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would just say Senator DURBIN is an excellent advocate, but this is the fourth time that this bill in substantially this form has been before this body. It has been marked up in the Judiciary Committee four times. We have had weeks on it each time it has come up for debate here. After several weeks of debate, the last time it came up it passed 83 to 15.

The issues that he raises are really covered by the bill. If someone, anyone is disabled and they have a continuing extra medical expense, that would be considered in whether or not they would ever have to pay any of their debts back. If their income is below median income, they would never be required to pay their debts back. All they would have to do is introduce some evidence from their pay stubs or their income tax, what their income is. Certainly we have a right to ask that before we discharge, wipe out, eliminate all debts, as people do when they come into bankruptcy.

I really would just say that we have given great consideration to these issues. We could disagree, but these amendments, for the most part, have been up before. I do not believe that most are going to be accepted. But there is every right of my colleague's side to offer them.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be 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.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS P. STEAD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Francis P. "Frank" Stead, who passed away at the age of 90 on January 31, 2005, following an extended illness.

Frank Stead and I were neighbors in Springfield, IL starting in 1969 when I returned home to Illinois after graduating from Georgetown University Law School. He was a good neighbor, a good friend, and he will certainly be missed by the many people whose lives he touched.

Frank was one of the many unsung heroes of an era that journalist Tom Brokaw has dubbed "The Greatest Generation." Coming of age during the Great Depression and serving our country during World War II, Frank shared in the values of a generation that helped make our country what it is today: a sense of honor and bravery, a commitment to service, and above all, a love of family and country.

In 1943, at the height of the U.S. action in World War II, Frank enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the Pacific theater, leaving behind his sweetheart, Dorothy Mlaker. While on duty in the Pacific, Frank sent a letter

to Dorothy proposing marriage. Later, after receiving her acceptance letter, Frank ordered an engagement ring from the catalog of a Chicago jeweler. He sent payment to the jeweler via money order, with instructions for the ring to be mailed to Dorothy. When he was able to take leave, Frank returned to Springfield and wed Dorothy on July 26, 1944.

Frank was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1945, having been awarded the Asiatic-Pacific and Good Conduct Medals. Upon his return to civilian life, Frank began his 25-year career as a salesman with several of Springfield's finest men's clothiers, including Robert's Brothers, Arch Wilson's, and Myers Brothers.

Frank again answered the call to serve his country when he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1949. He was called to active duty during the Korean war in 1952, and he was stationed with the Department of Defense in Arlington, VA. In 1979, Frank retired from the Naval Reserve, having served 30 years and achieved the rank of chief petty officer yeoman.

Frank demonstrated his commitment to service not only through his career in the military, but also through his many civic activities. He served the community of Springfield as an active member of AFSCME, as a parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, and as a life member of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, Frank Stead served on the board of directors and was past president of Saint John's Hospital Samaritans. He also served on the board of directors of the Illinois chapter of AARP.

In 1974, Frank Stead was appointed executive director of the Springfield Election Commission, serving in that post for 15 years before retiring in 1989. Later, he would serve as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman in Springfield. I came to know Frank and his wife, Dorothy, well through their involvement in Springfield politics. They volunteered countless hours for my campaign when I was running for the House of Representatives.

Frank and Dorothy Stead shared nearly 60 years of marriage before Dorothy passed away on February 4, 2004. They are survived by their four children: one son and three daughters, along with seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to know this fine member of our Nation's "Greatest Generation." His military service, civic involvement, commitment to his faith, and love of family have left an enduring impression on those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be missed.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL TRAVIS EICHELBERGER

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a truly heroic Kansan, CPL Travis Eichelberger.

Corporal Eichelberger, a member of the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Marine Division, was one of the thousands of valiant young men and women who fought for the cause of liberty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sadly, in March 2003, while lying in a shallow foxhole in the sand, a 67-ton Abrams tank rolled over him, crushing his pelvis and severely damaging his lower body. Corporal Eichelberger, a native of Atchison, KS, returned home to the United States for rehabilitation and, in April 2003, was awarded a Purple Heart for his war injuries.

Recently, the Marine Corps realized their terrible mistake. While this brave young man's wounds occurred in a combat zone, he was not injured by hostile fire, a necessary qualification for the Purple Heart. For the sake of the award and all those who have been honored by it, the Marine Corps decided to revoke Corporal Eichelberger's Purple Heart. GEN Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, has appropriately personally offered his apologies to Corporal Eichelberger. I, too, extend my sincere sympathies to Corporal Eichelberger and his family during this trying and confusing time. This error has caused significant embarrassment to my fellow Kansan, as well as to the Marine Corps, and we must take care that it is never repeated.

After speaking with Corporal Eichelberger, I sense that his is a resilient spirit—and no one can doubt his courage. Corporal Eichelberger's service and dedication will long be remembered and honored. His unwavering commitment to our great Nation is a badge of honor he can proudly wear for the rest of his life.

I commend Corporal Eichelberger for his distinguished service and sacrifice.

SECOND LT. RICHARD B. "BRIAN" GIENAU

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to a noble Iowan who has given his life for his country. 2LT Richard "Brian" Gienau was killed on Sunday, February 27, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when his military vehicle was struck by an explosive device. He was 29 years old, a fellow alumnus of my alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa, and a member of A Company, 224th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Burlington, IA.

Second Lieutenant Gienau is remembered as a hard-working family man with a history of military service. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1994 and enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 1999. After graduating in 2003 from University of Northern Iowa, he was commissioned in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps as a second lieutenant. He was mobilized last October.

Second Lieutenant Gienau is survived by his mother, Debbie Way, of Dunkerton, IA, and his father, Richard Gienau, of Waterloo, IA. He also leaves behind a young son. My prayers go out today to his family and friends in their time of loss. Let us today remember