

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. 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.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MARINE CORPORAL TODD GODWIN

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to an exceptional young man who gave his life in the defense of freedom. Marine Cpl Todd Godwin, from Zanesville, OH, died on July 20, 2004, when the Humvee he was riding in was struck by shrapnel from a roadside explosive in the Al Anbar province in Iraq. He was 21 years old.

CPL Godwin was a sniper with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division and was on his second tour-of-duty in Iraq. Always ready with a smile or a joke, Todd was an easy going, respectful person with a big heart. He was also a Marine through and through—something he took very seriously—something he had been training for his whole life.

Born on March 4, 1983, to Bill and Kathy Godwin, Todd was an alert, energetic child who grew up with an interest in the military. His father remembers him playing with G.I. Joes, wearing fatigues, and simulating wars. According to his brother, Aaron, the two boys would hang dolls outside and shoot at them with a BB gun, honing their targeting skills.

Apart from these activities, Todd sought to perfect his body. He could often be found working out at “the Fieldhouse” fitness center or practicing his Tae Kwon Do, for which he received two black-belts. Whether intentional or not, Todd seemed to be grooming himself for the military, acquiring a host of skills that would serve him well in the Marines.

After graduating from Zanesville Christian School in June 2001, he joined the Marines. His high school principal said that Todd “had a goal of being a Marine, and he wasn’t going to let anything get in the way of that.”

Todd excelled as a Marine and completed the intensely competitive and selective sniper training to win a spot in the sniper platoon. It was a spot he wanted because, according to his mother, “He wanted to be with people who were really serious about what they did.” Indeed, Todd Godwin was a serious Marine who took pride in his duty to defend our country and to spread freedom to other parts of the world.

Todd was an exemplary Marine and also just a good, decent person—the type of person others remember as having “a way about them”—the type of person who was quick to smile, who was compassionate, and who was good at making people feel at ease. It seems as though everyone who knew Todd liked him.

One of his friends, Austin Thompson, remembers Todd’s ability to laugh in almost any situation: “He always had a great sense of humor, and he was also very loyal to his friends. He always looked out for them and loved to be with them.”

Todd encouraged one of his friends, Josh Carpenter, to “hang tough” in Marine boot camp. He wrote a letter to Josh that said, “I’m sure you can’t wait to graduate and get some of the comforts of life back. Just remember you have to pay your dues, just like every Marine. I’m sure you’ll do fine—I have confidence you’ll succeed.” Josh had joined the Marines because he looked up to Todd. Todd’s letter helped Josh get through the challenges of boot camp, so that he, too, could be one of the few and the proud.

A letter like that is a little thing, a small deed, but Todd Godwin was always doing those “little things” for others. That is just who he was. When Todd saw that his fiancée’s younger brother, Caleb, was wearing a U.S. Navy tie clasp, he brought him a Marine clasp to wear, instead. It was a small gift that meant a great deal to Caleb, who describes Todd as “my best buddy I ever had.”

One of Todd’s friends from high school, Kimberly Burley, remembers another of his deeds that took place on the night of the Zanesville Christian School junior-senior banquet:

It was raining that night, and he came out to greet all the girls at their car with an umbrella.

Such a gallant act was really typical of Todd. It was just another “little thing” he had done for others.

But, when we look at all the “little things” together—the letters, the tie clasps, the way he acted always, the jokes that made people smile—we see such a much bigger picture, a picture of an exceptionally caring, thoughtful, generous young man. We see that he did the “little things” for people because he had a very big heart.

Todd also had big plans. He was engaged to Andrea Mendenhall, whom he loved dearly. They were planning on getting married when Todd finished his tour of duty in Iraq. Todd and Andrea were going to go to college with money Todd was saving through the GI bill. They also talked of someday moving to Corpus Christi, TX. These plans, of course, were not realized because Todd, once again, was looking out for others, as he did all his life. His dreams were put on hold so that others could be free and safe and able to fulfill their own dreams.

Mr. President, and Members of the Senate, a uniform does not make a marine. The person wearing that uniform makes a marine. And, each color of that uniform signifies the characteristics of the marine inside it. Todd Godwin wore his uniform with pride. He exemplified the blue standing for bravery, the white standing for honor, and the red standing for sacrifice. Unique to the Marine uniform, of course, is the

bright, red stripe that runs the length of each trouser leg—the “bloodstripe.” It represents all the blood shed by marines in battle. It is a red stripe of sacrifice—and for Todd Godwin, it represents the ultimate sacrifice.

Todd was truly a man of faith, who lived the Marine credo “Semper Fidelis,” which means, of course, “always faithful.” Todd was forever faithful to his friends and family, through his love and care; to his community, through his respect and good deeds; and to his country, through his courage and his sacrifice. For all that Todd gave us, we honor him today.

My wife, Fran, and I continue to keep Todd’s parents, Bill and Kathy; his brother, Aaron; his sisters, Sarah and Anna; his grandparents, Clement and Esther Jones; and, the love of his life, Andrea Mendenhall, in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

THE HEAD START
REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I cosponsor 1107, the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, a bill to reauthorize Head Start. I join my colleagues Senators ENZI, KENNEDY, and DODD in support of this legislation.

I would like to see Head Start expanded and serve more children but first we must ensure that this program is accountable, financially solvent, and meeting the purpose for which it was intended.

This bill strengthens the Head Start program, making four key improvements by:

No. 1, establishing 200 Centers of Excellence that would serve as model Head Start programs across the country;

No. 2, providing that grantees shall re-compete to receive grants every 5 years to help ensure a constant, high level of quality;

No. 3, clearly defining “deficiency” so that local Head Start providers know the standards by which they will be held accountable; and

No. 4, providing clear authority to the governing boards to administer—and be held accountable for—local Head Start programs while ensuring policy councils, on which parents sit, continue to play an important advisory role.

Head Start has been one of our country’s most successful and popular social programs. That is because it is based upon the principle of equal opportunity, which is at the core of the American character. Americans uniquely believe that each of us has the right to begin at the same starting line and that, if we do, anything is possible for anyone one of us.

We also understand that some of us need help getting to that starting line. Most Federal funding for social programs is based upon this understanding of equal opportunity. Head Start began