

At the end of subtitle A of title IX, add the following:

**SEC. 903. AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK.**

(a) **MISSION.**—The American Forces Network (AFN) shall provide members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and their families stationed outside the continental United States and at sea with the same type and quality of American radio and television news, information, sports, and entertainment as is available in the continental United States.

(b) **POLITICAL PROGRAMMING.**—

(1) **FAIRNESS AND BALANCE.**—All political programming of the American Forces Network shall be characterized by its fairness and balance.

(2) **FREE FLOW OF PROGRAMMING.**—The American Forces Network shall provide in its programming a free flow of political programming from United States commercial and public radio and television stations.

(c) **OMBUDSMAN OF THE AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network.

(2) **HEAD OF OFFICE.**—

(A) **OMBUDSMAN.**—The head of the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network shall be the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network (in this subsection referred to as the “Ombudsman”), who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

(B) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Ombudsman shall have recognized expertise in the field of mass communications, print media, or broadcast media.

(C) **PART-TIME STATUS.**—The position of Ombudsman shall be a part-time position.

(D) **TERM.**—The term of office of the Ombudsman shall be five years.

(E) **REMOVAL.**—The Ombudsman may be removed from office by the Secretary only for malfeasance.

(3) **DUTIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Ombudsman shall ensure that the American Forces Network adheres to the standards and practices of the Network in its programming.

(B) **PARTICULAR DUTIES.**—In carrying out the duties of the Ombudsman under this paragraph, the Ombudsman shall—

(i) initiate and conduct, with such frequency as the Ombudsman considers appropriate, reviews of the integrity, fairness, and balance of the programming of the American Forces Network;

(ii) initiate and conduct, upon the request of Congress or members of the audience of the American Forces Network, reviews of the programming of the Network;

(iii) identify, pursuant to reviews under clause (i) or (ii) or otherwise, circumstances in which the American Forces Network has not adhered to the standards and practices of the Network in its programming, including circumstances in which the programming of the Network lacked integrity, fairness, or balance; and

(iv) make recommendations to the American Forces Network on means of correcting the lack of adherence identified pursuant to clause (iii).

(C) **LIMITATION.**—In carrying out the duties of the Ombudsman under this paragraph, the Ombudsman may not engage in any pre-broadcast censorship or pre-broadcast review of the programming of the American Forces Network.

(4) **RESOURCES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network such personnel and other resources as the Secretary and the Ombudsman jointly determine appropriate to permit the Ombudsman to carry

out the duties of the Ombudsman under paragraph (3).

(5) **INDEPENDENCE.**—The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to ensure the complete independence of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network within the Department of Defense.

(6) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Ombudsman shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense committees each year a report on the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network during the preceding year.

(B) **AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.**—The Ombudsman shall make available to the public each report submitted under subparagraph (A) through the Internet website of the Office of the Ombudsman of the American Forces Network and by such other means as the Ombudsman considers appropriate.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this amendment relates to the Armed Forces network. It is provided in this amendment that the Armed Forces network would provide members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Defense Department, and their families stationed outside of the continental U.S. and at sea with the same type and quality of American radio and television news, information, sports, and entertainment that is available in the continental U.S. There are other provisions about fairness, balance, free flow of programming, et cetera. I am not familiar with the details.

I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER DANIEL R. HEALY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel Healy of Exeter, NH for his service and supreme sacrifice for his country.

Daniel exhibited a willingness and enthusiasm to serve and defend his country by joining the United States Navy. He was dedicated to a cause much greater than himself, demonstrated by his decision to join the U.S. Navy SEALs, one of the most challenging, rigorous, and elite fighting organizations in the history of the world. Navy SEALs are named after the environment in which they operate, the Sea, Air, and Land, and are the foundation of Naval Special Warfare combat forces. They are organized, trained and equipped to conduct a variety of Special Operations missions in all operational environments. SEAL training is extremely demanding, both mentally and physically, and produces the world's best maritime warriors that live by the motto of “the only easy day was yesterday.” Daniel knew

that he would be continually challenged and surely would face dangerous assignments when he signed up for this premier fighting organization. He was a stellar example of today's elite warriors that are upholding the values of freedom and democracy around the world.

Daniel graduated from Exeter High School in 1986, and answered the call to serve our great Nation when he enlisted in the Navy on June 5, 1990. He attended Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL School and Basic Airborne School from 1991–1992, and then was assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE for four years. After attending a year of extensive language training in California, Daniel was assigned to SEAL Delivery Team TWO in 1998 and was most recently stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI, again with SEAL Delivery Team ONE. Daniel dutifully and confidently led a training platoon in submerged delivery vehicles. He was deployed to the Middle East in March of 2005, for what should have been a six-month tour. Tragically, on June 28, 2005, Daniel made the ultimate sacrifice for this great Nation. Daniel and 16 other service members were killed while conducting combat operations when the MH-47 helicopter that they were aboard crashed in the vicinity of Asadabad, Afghanistan in Kumar Province.

Throughout his career, Daniel earned a series of awards which testify to the dedication and devotion he held for his fellow SEALs, the Navy, and his country. Daniel's hard work and perseverance contributed greatly to his unit's successes and placed him among many of the great heroes and citizens that have paid the ultimate price for their country. Daniel was recognized throughout his distinguished career by receiving the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Good Conduct Medals, and three National Defense Service Medals. He also attended the Basic Airborne School and was a graduate of language training at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA.

Daniel was truly an exceptional special operations warrior with more than 15 years of service and an unparalleled dedication to serve his county and fellow Navy SEALs. Daniel was also a noble and selfless family man, being a compassionate husband and father of four. He leaves behind a family proud of all that he had accomplished throughout his distinguished life and career in the military. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom.

My condolences and prayers go out to Daniel's family, and I offer them my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for the service, sacrifice, and example of their Navy SEAL, Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel Healy. He was respected and admired by all those