wounded soldier. They may face new temporary housing costs or added expenses just to live nearby and support in the soldier's recovery.

Thanks to action in our Armed Services Committee, there is a provision to continue some of the specialty pays for imminent danger for our wounded soldiers as long as they are in the hospital. The House Defense authorization includes a similar provision that creates a new pay provision specifically for rehabilitation from combat-related injuries.

I support such provisions, and in fact, I introduced S. 461, the Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation Act, to maintain full pay for soldiers during recovery. I was proud to have Senators KENNEDY, CLINTON, and SALAZAR as cosponsors.

My commitment to this legislation was based on hearing the plight of wounded soldiers. My West Virginia caseworkers have heard from many soldiers and families who are struggling. While everyone is tragically aware of the more than 2,000 soldiers, including 15 West Virginians, who have lost their lives, we do not hear as much about our wounded soldiers.

Current estimates are that 16,220 soldiers have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 104 are West Virginians. Thanks to better medical care and better equipment, when it is available, our soldiers are surviving devastating attacks, but too often at high costs including the loss of limbs. Such soldiers face long recoveries, and they need their families nearby to support them. But there are extra costs for families at this time, and we should not be substantially reducing the pay of our wounded heroes.

As the conference committee is appointed and we begin the hard work of resolving the differences between these two bills, I hope that we will keep in mind the struggles and financial hardships of our wounded soldiers and their families. We need to provide them with adequate pay in honor of their distinguished service.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO MR. HENRY OSCAR WHITLOW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I today honor the life of a prominent Kentuckian, Mr. Henry Oscar Whitlow, and to pay tribute to the numerous contributions he made to his community and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A native of Ballard County, KY, Mr. Whitlow spent his professional life practicing law in Paducah. In addition to being a respected attorney, he was also an active member of the Broadway United Methodist Church, and served as President of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, the Paducah Jaycees, and the Paducah Rotary Club.

People like Henry Whitlow are what make Kentucky such a special place. I extend my condolences to his wife of 55 years, Elizabeth Ann Clement Whitlow, his son Mark Whitlow, his daughter Rebecca Gutherie, and all those that mourn the passing of this great man.

Earlier this week the Paducah Sun marked the passing of this community icon in a piece titled, ''Whitlow remembered for community contributions.'' I ask that the full article be printed in the RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in paying our respect to this beloved Kentuckian.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Paducah Sun, Nov. 8, 2005]

WHITLOW REMEMBERED FOR COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

(By Bill Bartleman)

Henry Oscar Whitlow was remembered Monday as soft-spoken and unassuming, but strong and powerful in his contribution to the community and the legal profession.

Whitlow, 91, died at 5:42 a.m. Monday at Lourdes hospital. His son, Mark Whitlow, said he had suffered from Alzheimer's and had been in a nursing home since last year.

Visitation will be held at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Services will be at Broadway United Methodist Church in Paducah at 1:30 p.m. Friday followed by burial in Mount Kenton Cemetery.

Whitlow, a native of Monkey's Eyebrow in Ballard County, began practicing law in Paducah in 1937 with the Waller and Threlkeld law firm. He eventually became a partner and the firm is now known as Whitlow Roberts Houston and Straub. It is one of Paducah's largest and most prestigious firms.

He was a member of Broadway United Methodist Church for almost 70 years and held every leadership position in the church. He also was a lay speaker and a Sunday School teacher.

He also was active in civic affairs and served as president of what is now the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, the Paducah Rotary Club, the Paducah Jaycees and many other organizations.

Senior U.S. District Judge Edward H. Johnstone described Whitlow as a leader with humility, a litigator with compassion and a scholar with the common touch.

''He was a great man,'' Johnstone said. ''The thing that distinguished him from present-day lawyers is that he built his reputation by what he did, not how much he advertised or blew his own horn. His work is what sold him to the public. He never sought glory or credit. He was unselfish and always a perfect gentleman.''

U.S. District Judge Thomas Russell said Whitlow had a profound effect on those around him. Russell was associated with Whitlow's firm for almost 25 years.

Without Whitlow as a mentor, Russell said he would have never risen to the federal judgeship. ''You can learn the practice of law from a lot of people, but he taught me what it takes to represent people—to feel their sorrow, their joys and their concerns.''

Whitlow served as the attorney for the Paducah Board of Education for more than 40 years. Bill Black Jr., a long-time board member, said Whitlow viewed his work with the board as public service. ''The fees he charged were not what he could get investing his time in other legal work,'' Black said.

He said Whitlow never tried to influence board decisions and only got involved when he thought the board was straying in the wrong legal direction.

''He listened very carefully and said very little,'' Black said. ''But when he did speak, we always knew it was our time to listen to his wisdom and take his advice.''

Black noted that Whitlow was the board attorney in 1956 when the city schools were integrated. He said Whitlow's legal advice undoubtedly played an important role in the successful and peaceful integration that had been mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court.

''Many schools in the South started integrating in the 1st grade and did it over 12 years,'' Black said. ''Paducah allowed any African American who wanted to attended a previously all-white school to do it in the first year.''

Away from the legal profession, Russell said Whitlow set an example of how a person should be a good citizen. In addition to being a church leader, Russell said Whitlow was active in the Boy Scouts, charitable work ''and was past president of the Rotary Club and every other civic organization that he belonged to. ''In all that he ever did, he didn't seek any kind of recognition.''

Mark Whitlow, also an attorney, said his father was an inspiration.

''We all love our fathers,'' Whitlow said. ''But he also was an outstanding mentor in terms of being a scholar of the law and in his love for the community and public service. He set a good example for all of us.''

Fred Paxton, chairman of the board of Paxton Media which owns the Paducah Sun, said Whitlow's slight frame and soft voice were deceiving.

''He was a very rugged individual and very, very strong,'' Paxton said. ''If you exchange a hand shake with him, you knew that. He also had a delightful sense of humor. It was very low key and subtle, but rich.''

In 1993 Whitlow was honored as the Kentucky Bar Association's ''Lawyer of the Year.''

He was humbled by the honor. ''It was like a bolt out of the blue,'' he told the Paducah Sun. ''I still don't know how the lightning happened to strike me. I am just an old country boy who came up in the Depression.''

In addition to his son, Whitlow is survived by his wife of 55 years, Elizabeth Ann Clement Whitlow; a daughter, Rebecca Gutherie of Maryland; a sister, Mildred Hughes of Tucson, Ariz., and two grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EVERETT RAINS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a great leader in public service, Mr. Everett Rains. Everett served as county clerk in Whitley County, KY, for 24 years. I first met him when I started my political career in Kentucky, more than two decades ago. Everett was known for his numerous acts of kindness and generosity. He inspired others to serve, including his own nephew Tom Rains, who succeeded him as Whitley County clerk.

Last month, Everett passed away at the age of 88. He spent his career serving the people of Whitley County, and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

On October 26, 2005, The Williamsburg News Journal published an article highlighting Everett's contributions, caring nature, and strong character. I ask that the full article be printed in the RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in paying our respect to this beloved Kentuckian.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Williamsburg News Journal, Oct. 26, 2005]

FAMILY, FRIENDS HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF RAINS, FORMER COUNTY CLERK

(By Mark White)

Everett Rains will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the most successful politicians in Whitley County history, but his nephew, current Whitley County Clerk Tom Rains, says he will remember Everett more as a generous man that always tried to help people.

''Many times at the Corbin hospital we would go visit the sick men, who were his friends. If the men didn't have a pair of socks on, that really bothered him the most,'' Rains said Monday afternoon, unsuccessfully trying to choke back tears. ''He would pull his socks off and give them to them. He would leave and go home without any socks on. I've never seen anybody do that before in my life; that was how generous he was.''

Everett Rains, who served as Whitley County Clerk for 24 years, passed away Saturday afternoon at the Oak Tree Hospital in Corbin at the age of 88.

''He was a tremendous gentleman. They called him the best politician in Whitley County, but it all came from his heart. Everything came out of Everett's heart. He did things for people out of his heart, not because he was county clerk. He was just that type of person,'' said Tom Rains, who worked for Everett for eight years before succeeding him as county clerk. ''He treasured this office. He was a good county clerk.''

Everett Rains began his career in politics serving one term as Whitley County sheriff from 1954 through 1957. At the time, sheriffs couldn't succeed themselves, and Rains made a failed bid for county clerk in 1957 against incumbent Ernie Hickey. He ran again for county clerk in 1961, and was elected to the first of his six terms in office. Rains was unopposed in his bid for re-election during three of his six terms, and left office in 1985. Kay Schwartz, who has worked in the county clerk's office for nearly 31 years and who worked for Everett Rains for 11 years until he left office, described her former boss as an easygoing person, who never raised his voice to any workers.

''He would always tell us in a kind way how things needed to be done, or what he needed done. He never did anything to humiliate you. He always wanted to help you,'' she noted.

''He was a very good man. He was always kind to people. It didn't matter if they came in mad, they never left mad. He always calmed them down, and took care of their needs. It didn't matter what they needed, he always tried to help them,'' Schwartz said. ''Even if he knew somebody was against him, he was kind to them when they came in. He shook their hand, and he helped them. It didn't matter to him. He was a man that would turn the other cheek. He was always good to people.''

Tom Rains said some of his fondest memories as a child were of he and his twin brother riding around with Everett as he traveled the county buying and selling cattle.

''We used to come down and sit on the sheriff's counter. While he was working we used to get to stay a few hours at the courthouse. It was the biggest treat ever. He was a special person, who made you feel so good,'' Tom Rains said.

Everett Rains and his wife of 46 years, Delois, never had any children. The couple didn't marry until they were 42 years old, Tom Rains noted. Still, the couple had a large family, including seven nephews and five nieces.

Everett and Delois attended 73 birthday parties for their great-nephews and nieces in Tom Rains' family, only missing one birthday party due to illness.

Tom Rains noted that Everett had a great love for children, period. ''There is probably not anyone in this county that Everett Rains didn't buy a bottle of soda pop for when he was young. Young boys would run to the county store when they saw Everett coming down the road because they knew Everett would buy them a pop. Every child everywhere he went, he would give them a quarter and in later years he would give a dollar to every child he saw. He was really so generous,'' Tom Rains said.

In addition to being a politician, Rains was also an active farmer, who raised crops and cattle on his farm near Dal Road until last year.

''He had a real closeness to all the farmers in Whitley County,'' Tom Rains noted Monday. ''Back in the '40s, '50s and '60s, everyone had a milk cow; in Whitley County that was the most valuable thing on your place. Everett would loan people milk cows. So many people came to me today, and said, 'I remember when your uncle brought us a milk cow.' He didn't ask nothing.''

Rains said about a year ago, Everett suffered a bump on his head that required surgery in Lexington for internal bleeding in his brain. After the stint in the hospital, he developed lung problems, and had suffered from pneumonia for the past month until he passed away Saturday.

Funeral services were scheduled for 2 p.m. today at the Ellison Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Bill Mitchell officiating. He will be buried at the Highland Park Cemetery in the Davis Addition.

The Whitley County Courthouse closed at noon Wednesday for the funeral, and remained closed for the remainder of the day.

VALARIE YOUNG—2005 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Valarie Young, a high school social studies teacher at the Advanced Technologies Academy in Las Vegas, who was selected as one of two winners from Nevada of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for 2005.

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program, which began in the early 1980s, provides public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals who strive for excellence in education. By honoring outstanding educators from across the United States, the program's goals are to attract, develop, motivate, and retain talented educators.

It takes a special, dedicated educator to make a subject come alive for students and to teach them that knowledge about history will serve them in their future.

Mrs. Young's creativity makes history come alive for her students, and this Milken Family Foundation distinction validates her efforts. I salute Valarie Young for her service and dedication to the students of the Advanced Technologies Academy, and extend my best wishes for a successful future.

ELLEN FALLON—2005 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Ellen Fallon, a sixth an eighth grade teacher of advanced mathematics at Carson Middle School in Carson City, who was selected as one of two winners from Nevada of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for 2005.

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program, which began in the early 1980s, provides public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals who strive for excellence in education. By honoring outstanding educators from across the United States, this program seeks to attract, develop, motivate, and retain talented educators.

Strong mathematics instruction is an integral part of preparing students for the global economy. Her dedication to this goal is what makes Mrs. Fallon's recognition all the more significant.

Carson Middle School is all in the family for the Fallons: Mrs. Fallon is an alumni, her husband is a sixth grade English teacher, and her daughtr is a seventh grade student at the school.

I trust that her example will influence others to pursue teaching excellence and applaud the Milken Family Foundation for recognizing her leadership. I salute Ellen Fallon for her service and dedication to the students of Carson Middle School, and extend my best wishes for a successful future.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 20 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since October 7. This brings to 477 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 23 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

LANCE CORPORAL SERGIO H. ESCOBAR

At age 18, Lance Corporal Escobar died October 9 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Ar Ramadi.

He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

He was from Pasadena, CA.

STAFF SERGEANT JERRY L. BONIFACIO

At age 28, Staff Sergeant Bonifacio died in Baghdad on October 10 when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his checkpoint.

He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, Dublin, CA.

He was from Vacaville, CA.

SPECIALIST TIMOTHY D. WATKINS

At age 24, Specialist Watkins died in Ar Ramadi on October 15 when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Bradley Fighting Vehicle during combat operations.