

Was it something in the water? How was it that all three Vogelmann offspring wound up with advanced degrees in science?

The question brought a blank look to Tom's face.

"A lot of conversations around dinner table . . ." he said vaguely.

About what, besides butternuts?

"Could be about anything," he said, "from fossils to . . . We used to walk through plowed fields, we'd find artifacts, and we'd talk about them."

Or, he mused, maybe it had to do with the ambience in which they came of age. Some kids grow up in a corporate culture. They grew up in a university culture.

Hub still enjoys hearing Tom talk about the doings at UVM. Some things don't change, Hub said.

They don't just talk shop, though. Each one brags about the other's garden.

"He grows some of the world's best celeriac," Tom was saying before Hub showed up.

Celeriac, Tom explained, is a big root that you can grate into soups or salads. The leaves look like celery leaves.

After Hub arrived and sat down, the porch conversation soon got back to gardens.

"He has the biggest garlic patch in Vermont," Hub said.

"No, I don't," Tom said.

"How many plants do you have—a thousand?"

"Over a thousand," Tom said. "That's a lot of holes to make with your thumb."

"How many varieties?"

"Forty-two," Tom said.

Hub smiled. He seemed to know what was coming.

"It all tastes pretty much the same," Tom said.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the past few months have been marked by several high-profile, tragic shootings that have left families to grieve and communities to ponder why. While many of the details of these recent shootings vary tremendously, one fact remains constant, our current gun laws have failed to keep firearms out of the hands of those who should not have been able to acquire them.

In 1983, James von Brunn, a white supremacist and Holocaust denier, was convicted of attempting to kidnap members of the Federal Reserve Board, after he was caught trying to enter a board meeting carrying multiple firearms. As a convicted felon, Mr. Von Brunn was legally barred from possessing firearms. Despite this fact, on June 10, Mr. Von Brunn walked into the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and fatally shot security guard Stephen T. Johns, a 6-year veteran of the facility, before being shot himself by other officers. Holding a .22-caliber rifle, this man entered a museum that welcomes 30 million visitors and school children annually. Tragically, this type of violence is not uncommon.

On June 1, a 24-year-old man shot two soldiers, PVT William A. Long and PVT Quinton Ezeagwala, outside of a military recruiting station in Little Rock, AR. Private Long, who had just completed basic training and was vol-

unteering at the recruiting office before starting an assignment in South Korea, was killed in the shooting. The man accused in this incident was later found with two rifles and a handgun, despite being under investigation by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. The day before, a 51-year-old man with a history of mental illness walked into the Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita, KS, and shot Dr. George Tiller in the head while he served as an usher during Sunday morning services. The accused in this incident had been arrested by police in 1996, after being found with bomb-making material in his car.

These senseless acts of gun violence frequently also target police officers. On April 4, a 23-year-old man, dishonorably discharged from Marine basic training, armed with three guns, including an assault rifle, ambushed and gunned down Officers Eric Kelly, Stephen Mayhle, and Paul Sciullo in Pittsburgh, PA. A fourth officer, Timothy McManaway, was shot in the hand. This shooting occurred just 2 weeks after a 26-year-old man, with a prior conviction for assault with a deadly weapon, turned two guns, including an assault rifle, on police officers in Oakland, CA. SGTs Mark Dunakin, Ervin Romans, Daniel Sakai, and Officer John Hege were fatally shot in what was the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since September 11, 2001.

In the span of a few months, a security officer, a doctor, two soldiers, and seven police officers lost their lives. All devoted their professional lives to the protection of others; all gunned down by someone who should not have had access to a firearm. These are not uncommon events, but rather simply the latest high-profile shootings to capture national headlines. In a nation which suffers 12,000 gun homicides, 17,000 gun suicides, 650 accidental gun deaths, and another 70,000 nonfatal gun injuries every year, there are still those who resist legislation aimed at putting an end to these tragedies. I urge my colleagues to act immediately and pass urgently needed commonsense gun legislation.

CLOSE THE SILO/LILO LOOPHOLE ACT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I have been extremely concerned about the problems lease-in/lease-out and sale-in/lease-out transactions cause our tax system for years. I have made clear before that gaming the system at the taxpayers' expense is simply unacceptable. In 2004, Senator GRASSLEY and I successfully shut down the loophole that allowed losses from these deductions, but the current economic crisis has created new problems. I applaud the work of Senator MENENDEZ to address these issues, and I support his efforts to resolve this problem.

COMMENDING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KEVIN J. GALVIN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the long and distinguished service of chief warrant officer and ancient keeper, Kevin J. Galvin of the U.S. Coast Guard.

For over 30 years, Chief Warrant Officer Galvin has served proudly in our Nation's Coast Guard, exhibiting the classic attributes of a "Coastie": a profound dedication to duty, unsurpassed technical expertise, and an uncompromising commitment to operational excellence.

Since June 2006, Chief Warrant Officer Galvin has served as the commanding officer of Castle Hill Station in Newport, RI. Through this period, during which the Coast Guard has taken on an increasing burden to help secure our homeland, Chief Warrant Officer Galvin exhibited sound and capable leadership. Under his watch, the Castle Hill Station exceeded every operational expectation, including the successful execution of over 350 search and rescue cases which resulted in 46 lives saved, 428 persons assisted, and \$23 dollars in property secured. Chief Warrant Officer Galvin also oversaw more than 500 law enforcement boardings, directed multiple ports, waterways, and coastal security missions to protect critical infrastructure, provided security for visits by the President and foreign heads of state, and led his crew in providing security and SAR response for Tall Ships 2007, where 27 ships visited Rhode Island from around the world culminating in a Parade of Sail with over 6000 spectator vessels.

On June 21, 2008, Chief Warrant Officer Galvin relieved master chief boatswain's mate John E. Downey as the ancient keeper of the Coast Guard, becoming the second recipient of the Joshua James Ancient Keeper Award. The Ancient Keeper Award is presented to a Coast Guard member on Active Duty in recognition of their longevity and outstanding performance in boat operations. The award's namesake, CAPT Joshua James, is the most celebrated lifesaver in Coast Guard history with 626 lives saved. Only those who have exemplified the finest traits of maritime professionalism and leadership are appointed keepers. The ancient keeper is charged with overseeing Coast Guard boat operations to ensure the service's traditional professionalism remains intact. Chief Warrant Officer Galvin has carried out this responsibility with honor and distinction.

On July 1, 2009, Chief Officer Galvin will bring his long and impressive career in the Coast Guard to an end and will be relieved of his duty as the ancient keeper and commanding officer of the Castle Hill Station by another outstanding member of the Coast Guard, CWO Thomas Guthlein.

Again, I commend Chief Warrant Officer Galvin for his dedicated career in the U.S. Coast Guard and thank him for all he has done in service to our country.