

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

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA EYSTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today, after more than 20 years of service to the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, Rebecca Eyster will retire. Rebecca is one of the official reporters of the debates and proceedings in this Chamber. She is one of the many dedicated employees who are essential to the daily operations of the Senate.

For more than 12 years, Rebecca has been part of the team that produces a verbatim transcript of all of the Senate floor proceedings. Before that, Rebecca spent 8 years in the House of Representatives in a similar capacity. These jobs can be very demanding. When speeches and votes go late into the night, our dedicated reporters like Rebecca are always here. They produce a historical record about some of the most important legislative debates in our Nation's history.

I am proud to have worked with Rebecca and appreciate her important contributions to the Senate. I know I speak for the Senate family as we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL LIFESAVING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to show my appreciation for the actions of seven young Americans who make up this year's School Safety Patrol Lifesaving Award recipients as chosen by the American Automobile Association. In 1920, the American Automobile Association, AAA, began the School Safety Patrol Program in hopes of promoting traffic safety amongst school children. The AAA School Safety Patrol Program has been awarding its highest honor, the Lifesaving Award, to those patrollers who have acted to save the life of another since 1949. This year, seven heroic school safety patrollers are receiving this award, and it is my honor to recognize their courageous actions.

On February 2, 2011, Paul Hardin, a fifth grader at Canterbury Woods Elementary School in Annadale, VA, averted a possible tragedy by preventing an adult female pedestrian from stepping out into oncoming traffic. When the pedestrian approached the crosswalk, Paul verbally warned her to stop. She ignored Paul's warning and continued walking into the crosswalk at which time Paul stepped off the sidewalk and grasped the woman's arm to prevent her from crossing. An approaching car was within 5 feet of the crosswalk. Paul put the safety of a parent before his own in his heroic effort to prevent a dangerous situation.

Marisha Little and Sierra Walters, safety patrollers at Ranson Elementary School in Ranson, WV, worked together to save the life of a kindergarten student who wandered away

from the school heading toward a major road crossing. This life saving incident that occurred on January 18, 2011, was the first of two that Marisha Little took part in at Ranson Elementary. The patrollers remembered seeing the student walking alone away from the school and became worried when they no longer had him in sight. After alerting her safety patrol advisor, Sierra left her post to find him. Sierra found him and brought him back to the post where she instructed him to stand behind Marisha. Shortly after, he darted into the street in the path of an oncoming car when he saw his aunt approaching the school area. Marisha jumped into action, grabbed him and pulled him back to the sidewalk. Their keen awareness and quick thinking brought him back to school and prevented him from being hit by the car.

Marisha Little and Talyn Underwood were credited with the second life saving incident at Ranson Elementary School in the same month. On January 31, 2011, they prevented a second grade student from being struck by a moving vehicle. The student was horsing around, talking to his friends while running backwards into oncoming traffic. Marisha and Talyn noticed that the vehicle driver closest to the student was looking in the other direction. Marisha and Talyn screamed loudly to alert the student at the same time working their way toward him. Talyn reached him first and pulled him by his jacket from the direct path of the moving car. Both students were very quick to respond and didn't think about their own safety in their effort to save their fellow student.

Kamryn Mendell is a safety patroller at the Fox Chapel Elementary School in Germantown, MD. On September 28, 2010, during morning patrol duties, Kamryn immediately reacted when she realized that a first grade student was beginning to walk into the pathway of a school bus that was turning into the school's bus loop. Kamryn and her partner were holding back students from crossing when Kamryn's partner had to step away to remove a cone to allow the bus to enter the loop. Kamryn kept the children from crossing with one hand and reached out to grab the first grader who was now 4 to 5 feet in front of the bus. The bus driver didn't see him and continued driving into the loop. Kamryn's fast thinking and immediate actions averted a certain life threatening injury.

Evan Siegel, a safety patroller at Salmon Creek Elementary School in Vancouver, WA, saved a 7-year-old girl from being hit by an oncoming car. On a December morning in 2010, Evan noticed a car approaching the intersection. It was driven by a teenager who was texting and totally unaware that the little girl had entered the crosswalk without permission. Evan reacted quickly by putting his crosswalk stick in front of her and pulling her to safety. At the time the car was 10 feet away from her and the driver was not

slowing down. Evan's courage and quick actions are to thank for keeping this young girl safe.

Jake Vowell, a fifth grader at George B. Carpenter Elementary School in Park Ridge, IL, is credited with saving the life of a 6-year-old student on February 2, 2010. He was on morning patrol duty, when two cars failed to stop at the stop sign when Jake noticed a young girl attempting to cross the street. He bravely went out into the street and pulled her back to safety. His dedication and awareness put him in a position to save this young girl from harm.

These seven heroic young leaders demonstrate courage, awareness, and a commitment to safety. Moreover, these traits are what the AAA School Safety Patrol Program embodies as an institution. Patrollers exemplify the kind of services that are needed so that young people safely navigate traffic hazards to and from school. I applaud their commitment to improving our community.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST BRENT M. MAHER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I address my colleagues today. A hero from my home State, SPC Brent M. Maher of Honey Creek, IA, was killed in action on Monday, April 11, 2011 in the Paktya Province of Afghanistan. He was 31 years old. Specialist Maher was the gunner on a "Cougar" mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle, MRAP, that was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Specialist Maher served in the Iowa Army National Guard, Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, out of Shenandoah, IA. Specialist Maher has been posthumously promoted to sergeant. Prior to his service in the Iowa National Guard, Specialist Maher served over 7 years in the U.S. Navy. In all, Specialist Maher dedicated 11 years of his life to serving and protecting our Nation. Words simply cannot express the debt we owe to Specialist Maher and all of the other servicemembers fighting for our Nation.

My thoughts and prayers are with Brent Maher's family and friends, including his wife Brenna and his three children, as well as his mother Cheryl and everyone else who will be grieving his loss.

Specialist Maher truly loved his job in the U.S. military. He was proud of the difference that he was making in the lives of the Afghan people. It is because of individuals like specialist Maher and his loving and supportive family that America is the nation it is today. At times like these, I think that it is important that we pause and remember the lives of those lost in order that we can enjoy our way of life. As we go about our lives as free people, we ought to bear in mind the sacrifices made by Specialist Maher and others in our Armed Forces.