

their corporate allies and stacking the deck against working people.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT TRAVIS W. ATKINS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, in honor of National Military Appreciation Month, I want to recognize a Montana hero, Medal of Honor Recipient SSG Travis W. Atkins of Bozeman, Montana and the Nation are eternally grateful for the sacrifice he made to protect his fellow soldiers and his country. His memory will live on in the hearts of all Montanans for years to come.

I ask unanimous consent that a poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE GREATER GOOD

The Greater Good . . .
 In all you could . . .
 Oh what would?
 What would you do?
 In honor should . . .
 All in that moment of truth . . .
 As there lies the truth . . .
 So lies the proof . . .
 In life and death . . .
 When courage crest's . . .
 To give all that you have left . . .
 All in your most heroic quests . . .
 As so surely lies our very best . . .
 Our world shall bless . . .
 Goodness . . . Evil . . . Darkness . . . Light
 . . .
 Those Brave Hearts who evil must fight . . .
 Who bring the light . . .
 But, for the greater good . . .
 To fight the darkness as Travis you so would
 . . .
 And what child may be born . . .
 From a future love you saved which may live
 on . . .
 Who might save the world or touch hearts oh
 so warm . . .
 For only the future tells . . .
 For only our Lord knows so well . . .
 As you Travis showed us all how future An-
 gels are born . . .
 All in honor's code . . .
 As you so bore the load . . .
 With all your splendid splendor so . . .
 As we now so weep . . .
 As your family and your Brothers In Arms
 will always keep . . .
 Your most gallant memory in their hearts so
 deep . . .
 My son, your battle is over now . . .
 But, your new one is about . . .
 Is about to begin my friend . . .
 As an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, time
 and again . . .
 As you will watch over us my friend . . .
 And in Montana when there comes a gentle
 . . .
 Our Lord's tears shall wash down upon your
 loved ones to ease their pain . . .
 Until, one fine day once again . . .
 Up in heaven you'll meet then . . .
 And you won't have to cry no more . . .
 At Ease . . .
 As a new Angel rises up to heaven to bless
 . . .
 As now we lay your fine body down to
 rest . . .
 Who but For The Greater Good all of us so
 blessed . . .
 Amen . . .

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER SLUTMAN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an American hero and patriot who was taken from us far too soon. Earlier this month, I was standing in the flight line at the Dover Air Force Base alongside Congresswoman LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER and Senator CHRIS COONS. We were there to receive the remains of three marines killed in action on April 8, 2019, when a roadside bomb went off in Afghanistan. Two of the servicemembers killed were Active Duty: Cpl Robert A. Hendriks, of Long Island, NY, and SSgt Benjamin S. Hines of York County, PA.

There was a third: SSgt Christopher Slutman, a Reservist, a 15-year member of the New York City Fire Department, and a Delawarean. The 43-year-old U.S. Marine was also a loving husband to his wife Shannon and father to three daughters: McKenna, Kenley, and Weslynn. In life and in death, Staff Sergeant Slutman epitomized the best of America. He selflessly put his life on the line to protect and serve his country and his community.

It was Winston Churchill who once said, "The reservist is twice the citizen." By that measure, Christopher Slutman was three times the citizen. He wore two uniforms in service to our Nation. He was staff sergeant in the U.S. Marines, serving in the 25th Marine Regiment, Fourth Marine Division in the Marine Forces Reserve, based in Harrisburg, PA. He was also a decorated 15-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department.

Friends say that Christopher always dreamed of being a firefighter. He grew up in Maryland and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, where he played football, baseball, and wrestled and achieved Eagle Scout status. Eventually, he volunteered with fire departments in Maryland and Washington, DC. Most recently, he split his time between the Bronx and Wilmington, DE. Most days, I ride down to Washington, DC, from my home in Wilmington to do my job. Staff Sergeant Slutman took the train the opposite direction to do his job. He so wanted to serve that he would travel from his home in Delaware to Ladder Company 27 in New York City. In fact, he was on military leave from Ladder Company 27 and nearing the end of his most recent deployment with the Marine Reserves in Afghanistan when he and two comrades lost their lives.

It was Slutman's work in the Bronx where, in 2014, he won the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal for rescuing an unconscious woman from the seventh floor of a high-rise apartment building.

Scripture tells us in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Staff Sergeant Slutman lived that kind of profound love: dedicating his life to serving others, even at his own peril, and it seems that this kind of selfless-

ness and devotion to service was a hallmark of the Slutman household. Staff Sergeant Slutman is survived by three brothers. One of his brothers is in the Marines, another in the Army. The third is a firefighter in Washington, DC. Their father is an Army veteran and was a volunteer firefighter, as was Slutman's mother. Here is a family who has, and continues to, truly give of themselves in service of others.

Last Friday, I was honored to have been able to join Staff Sergeant Slutman's family, friends, and fellow servicemembers in New York City to pay our respects to a man who gave his life for this country. The first speaker at his funeral was Marine SgtMaj Christopher Armstrong, who served alongside his friend Chris for 8 years. Armstrong remembered his friend with these words. He said, "Upon joining the unit, I began observing the Marines; who they watched, how they looked at their leaders, and what they said. There were a small number of men that when they spoke, silence fell; when they issued an order, the response was immediate; and when they were looked upon, it was with reverence. Christopher Slutman immediately stood out as a leader who was respected and admired. He didn't pound his chest, he didn't try to impress or go on about what he was going to do. He just did it."

Armstrong continued. "He placed his Marines' welfare before his own, always. Chris never sought credit, but he always gave it."

FDNY Commissioner Dan Nigro also spoke. He described Slutman as "the type of American we can all be proud of." And he added, "Chris was a protector of those in danger, a defender to those who needed him, a rescuer to those who needed saving, and a leader who demonstrated his valor on every tour of duty both here and abroad."

It was a poet named Edgar Guest, who spent his life in Detroit, MI, and was often referred to as the People's Poet, who once said, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day." Christopher Slutman's life was a better lesson than any sermon. He demonstrated the absolute best of this country every day with his heroism and service to others. The way he lived his life and gave his life is a language that is clear to one and all.

It is with a heavy heart that I, along with the entire First State and the country, offer our sincerest condolences to his wife Shannon and his three girls. Their dad is an American hero. I, along with our Governor, John Carney, and Delaware's congressional delegation, promise you that he won't soon be forgotten, and I know that his legacy lives on in you.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, the Transcontinental Railroad is a testament to the enduring American spirit of industry and national unity.