

FOUNDATION FORMED BY 5 EX-MARINES
OFFERS HELP, AND HOPE, AMID PAIN

(By Pat Milton)

NEW YORK.—Two years ago, the sky crashed down on Marine fighter pilot Peter Harmon.

His wife, Shay, was driving with their 5-month-old son when another driver, allegedly drunk and speeding in Pompano Beach, Fla., hit them head on. The car burst into a fireball.

Shay managed to push the child out a window before she died. The infant, George, burned over 33 percent of his body, was given only a 5 percent chance to live. But he pulled through, a scarred survivor.

Peter Harmon, who had been on a Marine Reserves training mission at the time of the accident, almost immediately received a \$10,000 check from a group he'd never heard of: the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation.

"They are awesome," says Harmon, who believes the money gave his son "a big head start."

The foundation was formed in February 1995 by five former marines who decided over lunch one day to help pay for the education and special needs of children of Marines and federal law enforcement employees.

So far, the group has given away nearly \$1.5 million to more than 150 children.

"Just because you take your uniform off, doesn't mean you end service to your country," said one of the five founders, Richard Torykian, a Vietnam veteran and senior vice president at the international investment firm Lazard Freres in New York.

He said the foundation depends entirely on private and corporate donations.

It provides at least \$10,000 for schooling children up to 19 years old who have a parent killed in the line of duty. The parent must have worked for the FBI; Drug Enforcement Administration; Secret Service; Customs; Marshals Service; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; or Immigration and Naturalization Service.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED

The group also gives scholarships to Marine Corps children who lose a parent or are in financial need. And it helps cover medical needs.

This week, a \$10,000 check was sent to the widow of Marine Capt. Robert Straw a day after she gave birth to their second child, Seth Robert. Straw was killed two months ago in a helicopter crash outside Dallas.

"My husband and I had high expectations for our children's education," Mindi Straw said by telephone from her home in Jacksonville, N.C. "This money is going to make our wishes come true."

The foundation also sent her \$10,000 shortly after the crash for the couple's other child, Molli, 3.

It recently paid for a hearing aid for the son of an active duty Marine whose insurance did not cover it, and provided an \$800 wheelchair to a ninth grader injured playing football.

"How are you going to get to college when you can't even get down the hallway of your high school?" said Peter Haas, a retired stockbroker who is president of the foundation, based in Mountain Lakes, N.J.

The other three founders are James K. Kallstrom, head of the New York FBI; attorney Patrick McGahn, Jr.; and Steve Wallace, who owns an investment firm in Los Angeles.

The foundation has more than 900 members, who help identify worthy cases and sometimes hold fund-raisers.

The largest donation, \$250,000, was given to children whose parents were federal employees killed or injured in the 1995 Oklahoma

City bombing. A big chunk of that contribution, \$72,000, was donated by schoolchildren from the Blue Springs District in Kansas City, Mo., who held dozens of fund-raisers. Haas, surprised by the size of the donation, carried the mostly \$1 and \$5 bills back to New York in laundry bags and shopping bags.

He was stopped at the Kansas City airport by security guards who he thought must be suspicious of his swelling bags of cash. In fact, they wanted to give him \$500 they had collected.

Harmon, now a Federal Express pilot, lives in New Hampshire and is attending the trial in Florida this month of the man charged with manslaughter in his wife's death.

He said little George, who he calls "G-man," has a painful life of operations and skin graftings ahead, but still liberally dispenses hugs and kisses.

"To someone who sees him the first time, he may not look so good on the outside, but he is smiling on the inside," Harmon said. "He's tough, he's a fighter, just like a Marine."●

TRIBUTE TO THE NATION'S
LONGSHORE WORKERS

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the recent dispute between the Federal Maritime Commission and Japanese cargo vessel owners over the operation of Japan's docks has given Congress and the country a new lesson in the important role of United States longshore workers. Day in and day out, away from the limelight, they work long hours under back-breaking conditions. In so many ways, these hard-working men and women symbolize the American work ethic. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal compared the productivity of American longshore workers favorably with that of their Japanese counterparts. The article noted that "American dockworkers will unload 24 hours a day, taking 30% less time for about half the price." The recent trade dispute has helped these workers obtain the recognition they deserve for their invaluable work in keeping commerce moving at our nation's ports.

According to recent figures, 1.7 tons of cargo a year are handled by longshore workers in the United States, with a value of nearly \$900 billion.

As the Senate debates important questions of international trade and fair competition, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to these skillful, tireless, and courageous workers who do so much to support the Nation's economy and our trade with other countries. U.S. longshore workers across the Nation deserve America's gratitude—they have certainly earned it.●

REFINANCING BOND FINANCED
SECTION 8 HOUSING PROPERTIES

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise to address a matter regarding the refinancing of section 8 assisted properties whose bonds are financed with a financial adjustment factor [FAF]. In order to save section 8 housing assistance

payment funds, the Congress through the enactment of the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act encouraged owners of FAF properties to refund their bonds with lower interest rates. The recaptured section 8 savings were equally shared between the bond issuing housing agency and HUD and the housing agencies were required to use their share of the savings for affordable housing purposes. In the recently enacted VA, HUD appropriations legislation, a provision was included to encourage owners to refinance their properties by providing the owners a 15-percent share of the savings.

It has come to my attention that there may be some question as to whether the fiscal year 1998 VA, HUD appropriations act would allow an owner or an issuer to refinance a FAF property which was previously refinanced. We reviewed this matter while developing the amendments to this version of S. 562. However, upon review of the appropriations language, it appears unnecessary to include statutory language to clarify this matter. I would like to ask Senator BOND, the chairman of the VA, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, if he could confirm my interpretation of this issue.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Senator for raising this issue. It is the intent of the appropriations legislation to allow a second refinancing to save section 8 funds. I am hopeful that owners working in cooperation with the bond issuers will voluntarily refinance their FAF properties, where existing laws and bond documents permit. Owners and bond issuers will hopefully take advantage of the historically low interest rates and refinance their properties.

Mr. MACK. I thank my colleague for his assistance in this matter.●

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF JULIAN AND
LILLIAN WALLACE

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to two Nevadans whose lives serve as an inspiration not only to all Nevadans but to this Nation and to this distinguished body. Fifteen years ago, Julian and Lillian Wallace founded an advocacy group in Las Vegas called Seniors United. Their mission was to tap into the unmined and undiscovered potential of Nevada's small but growing senior population and ensure that Nevada retirees were informed and had a voice in the political process on all levels of government. Each month for the past 15 years they have put together a informative newsletter and a monthly briefing for Nevada seniors. They stood as some of my strongest allies in the fight to stop the unfair source tax which allowed States to go after the pension incomes of former residents. As Nevada has grown and changed and the number of seniors and retirees has increased, Seniors United has become one of the most formidable groups in the State. Lillian

and Julian's success with Seniors United comes from a simple idea—empowerment. They believe that an informed democracy is a powerful democracy. They never hesitate to hold their elected officials feet to the fire and demonstrate on a daily basis that an active and involved citizenry is definitely not a function of age. Perhaps their greatest assets are those attributes which have helped them stay married for 50 years: compassion, patience, love, and loyalty. On January 17, 1998, Lillian and Julian Wallace will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join with me today to recognize these two Nevadans for their dedication and devotion not only to their marriage but also to making this country better for all citizens.●

SUPPORT OF FAST-TRACK REAUTHORIZATION

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to voice my support for the pending fast-track reauthorization legislation. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I would like to begin by stressing the importance of fast track to U.S. agriculture. In 1996, agricultural exports reached a record \$60 billion, but import barriers, export subsidies, and state trading enterprises continue to distort world commodity markets. These distortions put America's farmers and agribusiness operators at a disadvantage. We must reduce these trade barriers and allow our industry to freely supply the world's markets.

I ask that a letter in support of fast track from all living Secretaries of Agriculture, dating from President Kennedy's administration, be printed in the RECORD.

Last year, my State of Indiana exported goods totaling \$12.1 billion and these exports directly supported 66,000 Hoosier jobs. Current estimates indicate Indiana will achieve a record \$13 billion in exports this year. Indiana's exports grew by an extraordinary 75 percent between 1992 and 1996. Since 1993, exports by Indianapolis firms increased 53 percent, South Bend's exports are up by 175 percent and Muncie's export growth leapt 114 percent. Terre Haute firms saw their exports rise 277 percent, the second highest rate of increase in the Nation. Indiana was the eighth largest agricultural exporter in 1996 with over \$2 billion in exports. Because export related jobs pay on average more than nonexport related jobs, it is easy to conclude that exporting is a vital component to Indiana's robust economy.

The United States must continue to be the leader in knocking down tariff and nontariff trade barriers. This bill is critical to advancing trade liberalization and opening markets for all sectors. Approving fast track is the first step in achieving these goals.

Mr. President, I ask that a letter from President Clinton regarding a

proposed congressional oversight group be inserted in the RECORD. I agree with the President that more can be done regarding strengthening the current congressional advisory group. Specifically, for each new trade negotiation the administration would consult with and update a specific congressional oversight group for that particular round of negotiations. The group would provide advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and be charged with general oversight. Second, the U.S. Trade Representative would work with congressional leaders, within 60 days of enactment, to develop guidelines for interaction between Congress and the administration on trade negotiations. The guidelines would address such issues as the timing of written and oral briefings regarding U.S. objectives, the status of the negotiations, the role of the group during actual negotiations, and access to information obtained during negotiations. The United States must be well prepared for the next round of World Trade Organization talks on agriculture in 1999 and the establishment of a congressional oversight group would be a positive beginning for this process.

Since 1974, Congress has granted every President fast-track negotiating authority. America's economic future increasingly lies with our ability to sell our goods and services around the globe. Without fast track, the United States will be sidelined in future trade negotiations. Since the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] in 1947, the United States has been the leader in knocking down trade barriers and opening up markets. As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the GATT, the United States can either be engaged and play an active role in further trade liberalization or allow our competitors to stake claim to a larger portion of world markets.

The letters follow:

NOVEMBER 3, 1997.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC*

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
*Ranking member, Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC*

Hon. BOB SMITH,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, U.S.
House of Representatives, Washington, DC*

Hon. CHARLES STENHOLM,
*Ranking member, Committee on Agriculture,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington,
DC*

DEAR GENTLEMEN: The U.S. food and agricultural system is one of the nation's greatest success stories. American agriculture competitively produces, handles, processes, services, trades and transports food and fiber that the world wants to buy. Agricultural trade has contributed significantly to U.S. farm income, created jobs and strengthened American economic and political interests. For those reasons, agricultural trade has been a top priority for every administration in recent memory.

Having served as the Secretaries of Agriculture to Presidents of both political par-

ties, we have witnessed how U.S. agriculture has benefited from trade liberalization made possible by previous fast-track authorities. With the implementation of NAFTA and GATT, U.S. agricultural exports surged another \$20 billion in value, hitting an all-time high of \$60.3 billion in 1996. U.S. agriculture also has enjoyed a consistent trade surplus, which last year climbed to \$27 billion.

Our food and agricultural system now is poised to make additional export gains from upcoming trade negotiations. Many developing countries are experiencing economic growth which means rising incomes for their citizens. Food demand is expanding as people upgrade their diets. These consumers will need to rely to a greater degree than ever on world markets, but there is no guarantee that agricultural products grown in the United States may reach them. To assure that, we need to make additional progress lowering trade barriers, eliminating unfair trading practices and constraining domestic subsidies that distort trade.

Fast track is the key to unlocking those opportunities. It is the avenue for our negotiators to level the playing field for U.S. farmers and processors to compete. The authorities it conveys can and should be used to help resolve outstanding trade disputes and strengthen the rules of international commerce. Moreover, it should be used as it was in the past—to exercise U.S. leadership in trade.

American agriculture needs to be at the table for the 1999 agriculture talks in the World Trade Organization to continue the progress made in the Uruguay Round. In addition, we need to be active in upcoming bilateral negotiations with countries like Chile and for the regional Free Trade Agreement of the Americas and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation talks.

Very simply, fast track is critical to American agriculture being able to compete and prosper in the years ahead. That is why more than 60 agricultural organizations have committed themselves to work for fast track, and why we as former Secretaries of Agriculture support them in their effort.

We urge you to do what you can to assure prompt passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations; Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture, Nixon and Ford Administrations; John R. Block, Secretary of Agriculture, Reagan Administration; Clayton Yeutter, Secretary of Agriculture, Bush Administration; Clifford Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture, Nixon Administration; Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture, Carter Administration; Richard E. Lyng, Secretary of Agriculture, Reagan Administration; Mike Espy, Clinton Administration.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, November 5, 1997

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas with me about advancing fast track legislation. Your perspectives were, as always, welcome and useful.

As you know, I am committed to ensuring close Congressional involvement both in the formulation and implementation of our trade agreements. Appropriately, the Senate and House fast track bills both provide for extensive Congressional participation.

I was intrigued by the idea of establishing an oversight mechanism for trade negotiations similar to the NATO Observers Group.