

Petty Officer 3rd Class Doyle Wayne Bollinger grew up in the community of Poteau, OK. A member of the Poteau Valley Baptist Church, he was remembered by those who knew him best as one with a generous heart—never thinking of himself, but devoting his time to the service of others.

Upon graduating from Poteau High School, Petty Officer Bollinger heard the call to serve his country. He joined the United States Navy, becoming a member of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, based in Gulfport, MS. In January of 2003, he and his fellow patriots were sent to Iraq, and possibly into harm's way.

On Friday, June 6, 2003 Petty Officer Bollinger was with his battalion, repairing a bridge across the Tigris River in Iraq. He was tragically killed when unexploded ordnance accidentally detonated nearby. At the age of 21 this man lost his life so that we might stand here today, without fear, and in freedom.

I cannot fully describe to you the pain in the hearts of his loved ones as they sat at his funeral on the grounds of Poteau High School, where they had watched him graduate only a few years earlier. Our thoughts and prayers are with them now. And though we are all grieved at the loss of this man, we shall never cease to be proud of him—Oklahoma's son—Petty Officer 3rd Class Doyle Wayne Bollinger.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JEROD R. DENNIS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of a man who, at such a young age, displayed the courage and valor of a true American hero. Private First Class Jerod R. Dennis was a proud son of the great State of Oklahoma, growing up in the community of Antlers. Remembered as being energetic, outgoing, and humorous, he graduated in 2002 from Antlers High School, where he was a standout tennis player, twice making it to the State championships.

Even before the attacks on America on 9/11, PVT Dennis knew that he wanted to dedicate himself to service in the United States Army. He enlisted prior to his graduation from high school, and arrived in boot camp merely 3 weeks after receiving his diploma. His parents, Jerry and Jane Dennis of Antlers, realized that their son was proud to be answering the call to serve his country. Despite their worry for his safety, they sent with him their support and love as he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment based out of Fort Bragg, NC.

As a part of the U.S. effort to stamp out the threat of terrorism, PVT Dennis, now an Army sharpshooter, along with the rest of his regiment, was sent to fight in Afghanistan. On April 25, 2003, PVT Dennis was on patrol in eastern Afghanistan with other soldiers when they drove into an ambush. A firefight with rebel fighters quickly followed. When his sergeant was shot, PVT Dennis made his way to a foxhole

and provided cover fire as his comrades took the sergeant to safety. Tragically, PVT Dennis was mortally injured in the process.

At just 19 years of age, PVT Dennis lay dying from his wounds, worrying more about the physical condition of his fellow soldiers than his own health and well being. PVT Dennis passed on to the next life that day, but no one could deny the bravery displayed by this young man from a small town in far southeastern Oklahoma.

Hundreds gathered at the funeral for PVT Dennis, held at the First Baptist Church in Antlers. They will never forget this incredible young man who displayed such great love for his country. As Army Brigadier General Abe Turner stated so eloquently at the funeral ceremony, "We will remember you. We will honor you, and you will always be a hero." He is Oklahoma's hero—Private First Class Jerod R. Dennis.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN COUNTY AND MESCALERO APACHE INDIAN HEROES

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today as we move toward the American Independence Day holiday to honor a group of dedicated people in Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Tribe of New Mexico who have launched a major project to ensure that their war dead are never forgotten.

These citizens, led by Walter Patrick Limacher of Hondo, are compiling and publishing the "Lincoln County and Mescalero Apache Tribe Honor List." This list includes the names of all those from this mountainous southern New Mexico region who gave their lives defending the United States in World War I, World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam.

As families and communities rally on July 4th to celebrate the 227th birthday of our Nation, the honor list organizers understand that our celebrations are made possible by the servicemen who came from their very own small communities and ranches to take up arms in the name of liberty and freedom.

The honor list serves to unify this region of New Mexico, equally paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The list reads like the history of New Mexico itself, including warriors of American Indian, Hispanic, Anglo and other descents.

The collection has been a joint effort of a great many, from tribal and county citizens and officials, to the Department of Defense. My distinguished colleague from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, Secretary of State Colin Powell, General Norman Schwarzkopf, and former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson have all issued citations to the list. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Limacher for his dedication and tireless work.

I, too, take pride in honoring these servicemen. They are all specially honored in this record.

The Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Indian Tribe Honor List will be presented to surviving family members of those who served, and placed in libraries located throughout south central New Mexico so all can remember these great men. The stories of these brave servicemen from Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation are forever unfinished because of the circumstance of their deeds, but their sacrifices do not go unnoticed. The honor list will create a unique bond between future generations and the past fallen heroes.

They are all heroes who fought for their country and gave their lives for our freedom, liberty, and independence. Because of their courage we are what we are. To them and their families, and to all our men and women of our armed services past and present, I salute you this Independence holiday.●

##### AL BRAIMAN: DEPAUL UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2003

• Depaul University's Class of 2003. Al was the oldest graduate of Depaul's Class of 2003 when he graduated on June 14. Al completed a degree in liberal arts at Depaul's College of New Learning with a grade point average of 3.92 out of a possible 4.0.

Born in Kiev, Russia, in 1920, Al immigrated to the United States at the age of one. His family took up residency in Chicago, where he lived most of his life. After high school, Al turned down an academic scholarship for college to support his family. Al joined the Army and served with distinction in WWII, spending most of his time on Guadalcanal.

After leaving the Army, Al owned and operated Lakeview Grocerland until the mid 1960s when he became an insurance salesman with Equitable Life Insurance Company. He became a certified life underwriter and chartered financial consultant. Al won many awards in the industry, including induction to the Equitable Hall of Fame.

After retiring in 1985, Al decided to earn a college degree, something he promised his mother earlier in his life. Al's interest in politics led him to take many political science and history courses at Depaul University. Some of his favorites included a class on American Presidents and a course on race relations. He also enjoyed learning many new things such as use of the Internet, photography, and art. Al has proven that it is never too late to learn and we could all learn a great deal from his perseverance.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating Al Braiman, Depaul Class of 2003. His story contains all the elements of a great American life and I am honored to share it with my colleagues in the Senate.●