

and the others from across our country must be awarded the same respect and admiration as any American, in any war, at any time in our history.

SGT Atanasio Haro Marin Jr., 27, known as "Nacho" to his family, was born in Momax, Mexico, and lived there with his mother while his father worked in California to support seven children. The family was reunited in Los Angeles when he was 2 years old, moving to suburban Baldwin Park. He competed on the Sierra Vista High School track team and also ran in a Los Angeles marathon. Upon graduation, he joined the National Guard. When his tour of duty ended, he transferred to the Army.

Sergeant Marin was assigned to Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, and died on June 3, when his checkpoint south of Balad, Iraq, was attacked with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades. He was 27 years old.

He last saw his family during a January leave, 2 months before he left for the Middle East. He called home twice in April and sent a Mother's Day card that read: "Don't worry, be happy."

A native of Eureka, CA, CPT Andrew David La Mont was the youngest of nine children and came from a family with strong ties to the military. His father and grandfather were career military men.

"He was a tremendous son and a fantastic marine," said his mother, Vivian La Mont. He was single and had served with the Marines since graduating from San Diego State University in 1994. La Mont had previously served in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Twenty-one-year-old LCPL Jason Moore was described as a rather wild young man with a boundless spirit, whose enthusiasm led him to the Marine Corps.

Moore died on May 19 in Iraq when the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter he helped crew crashed into a canal. Four other Camp Pendleton marines were killed in the same incident.

His parents, Bill and Gale Moore, buried their only son at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

He graduated from San Marcos High School in 2000. His neighbor Deane Terry said Moore was clearly bound for Marine aviation from a young age, after his interest in the Civil Air Patrol and radio-controlled planes.

"He was going to continue to aim high one way or another," said Terry, whose son was Moore's playmate. Terry described the day Moore returned from Marine boot camp and stood straight and proud in his uniform in the Terry living room.

"He was so excited to be a Marine," said Terry, who added that Moore joined the high school swim team just to prepare himself physically for the service. "He went at the Corps at full speed, not hesitating, not looking back."

PVT Jose Gonzalez spoke very little English when he arrived as a freshman

at John Glenn High School in Norwalk, CA. By the time he graduated in 2001, he had earned high honors in college preparatory classes.

The Mexican native also played varsity baseball, becoming a player who coach Bill Seals could count on at nearly any position: pitching or playing in the outfield or infield. He always wore his team hat to school, every day, year-round. The coach said it was about pride.

With his diploma in hand, Gonzalez embraced another part of American life: the military. He entered the Marine Corps 2 months after graduation and became a supply clerk.

Gonzalez deployed to Iraq with Camp Pendleton's 1st Force Service Support Group and survived the war. On May 12, he was killed when ordnance he was handling detonated. He was just 19 years old.

In Norwalk, Gonzalez is survived by parents and two teenage sisters. Gonzalez was not forgotten at his old high school. John Glenn students have created a memorial on the auditorium stage—they leave flowers, candles, and signs offering tribute to the soft-spoken man who died for his adopted country.

The last time Paul Tokuzo Nakamura, of Santa Fe Springs, called home from Iraq was on Father's Day, when he told his family that all was well.

"The first thing he told me was that he had showered and had steak for dinner," his father, Paul Nakamura, said Wednesday. "We know he was lying. He didn't want us to worry."

The 21-year-old Nakamura joined the Army Reserves out of patriotism despite his father's protests.

"One day he said, 'Mom, Dad, I'm so proud I was born in the United States,'" his mother, Yoko, 55, told those gathered at a memorial service.

Nakamura was stationed with the 437th Medical Company, based in Colorado Springs, CO. He was sent to the Middle East in February and was killed on June 19, when the ambulance he was in was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Al Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad.

"He was a rascal—you would tell him not to do something, and he would do it anyway," said his sister, Pearl. He was a lifeguard who taught swimming at the Santa Fe Springs Aquatic Center since he was 17 and was on his high school's water polo team.

Twenty-five-year-old Army Ranger Andrew Chris followed in the footsteps of his relatives when he joined the military in 2001. Both of his grandfathers served in World War II, his father served in the Army, his uncle in Special Forces and his brother Derek in the Navy. It was a way to connect with the generations of his family.

Chris was killed in combat operations on June 25, just a few days after arriving in Iraq. Ordnance exploded near the vehicle Chris was riding in, and the Army Ranger died immediately.

Before Chris joined the Army, he lived for 5 years in California, most of them in San Diego. After he graduated from high school in Florence, AL, he moved to Lemoore, south of Fresno, to live with his brother.

He spent many weekends exploring and camping in the mountains of California and Arizona. He was also well read, with a special interest in World War II and planned to teach high school history when he completed his military career.

Andrew Chris was quiet and reserved, and extremely loyal to family and friends. He had visited his brother Derek's family just before he was sent to Iraq.

Josh Chris said knowing that his brother died doing what he loved has made it easier to accept. "He was spiritually and emotionally ready."

From the outset of the conflict in Iraq, I have learned a great deal about those who have died from the local newspapers. Yet there have been a few individuals whose stories remain largely untold to the public.

One of those is Marine CPL Douglas Jose Marencoreyes, a 28-year-old from Chino, who was assigned to the Light Armored Vehicle-Air Defense Battery, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. He was killed when the transport truck he was riding in rolled over.

I also learned relatively little about 19-year-old Ryan Cox, from Derby, KS, who was stationed at 29 Palms, CA, and died due to a noncombat weapons discharge on June 15.

Still, we know that he loved to surf and skydive and that, according to his mother, Robin Hamilton, he was doing what he wanted to do. "He was serving his country. I couldn't have asked for a better son."

Nor, for that matter, could the United States. We must never forget to remind those left behind—mothers and fathers, wives and children—of how proud we are of America's brave sons and daughters.

We must never lose sight of their achievement or their sacrifice, not to mention the enormous sacrifices made by their families, the ones left behind.

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to commend the American Political Science Association on the 50th anniversary of its Congressional Fellowship Program.

Since 1953, the association's fellowships have brought talented journalists, scientists, scholars, sociologists, and domestic and foreign policy specialists to spend a few months as staff members in our offices in Congress.

I have consistently been impressed with the skill of these fellows in my Senate office over the years, and their expertise has been an important asset.

Their detailed knowledge of their professions is outstanding, and contributes significantly to our work on the issues before us.

The association's Congressional Fellowship Program has been a valuable addition to the Senate over the past five decades, and their work is more important now than ever. The American Political Science Association deserves great credit for sponsoring these fellowships.

BUILDING ON WELFARE REFORM ACT

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, it has become clear that welfare programs created in the 1960s to be safety nets became spider webs by the 1990s. The old welfare system provided monetary assistance but did not do enough to provide job training, education, and other paths towards self-sufficiency. The welfare reforms of 1996 changed the old system and gave States more freedom to attempt new and innovative approaches to move people from welfare to work.

This legislation expired last year, and Congress must look to enhance the successes of the 1996 law. I am pleased today to join Senator CARPER in co-sponsoring the Building on Welfare Reform Act—a bill that will continue to help people move from welfare to work.

During my time as Governor, Nebraska began programs like Employment First and Families First that provided much-needed assistance to low-income families and helped them find a way to leave the cycle of welfare dependency. The average time a family spent on assistance fell nearly two-thirds and Nebraska taxpayers saved \$14 million.

The best path to self-sufficiency is work. This bill increases the percentage of welfare recipients who must work from 50 to 70 over the next 5 years. The bill also requires a 32-hour workweek from able welfare recipients. States will receive credit for moving people from welfare to work, not just off welfare. This will encourage States to solve problems that present an obstacle to meaningful work and lasting independence from public assistance programs.

Since 1996, welfare reform has been successful, not just because it requires work but also because it provides the resources to families to meet the work requirements. Our welfare reform proposal provides funding for childcare, transitional jobs, and public-private educational partnerships that will allow welfare recipients to gain the skills they need to advance in the workplace and become independent.

Because a strong family is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty, our welfare reform proposal encourages families to stay together and provides assistance to families who do. Another provision provides additional funds to prevent teen pregnancy with a bonus to States that meet this goal.

Given flexibility and resources, States have worked their own magic since the welfare program was revamped, and I will continue to support this approach as we embark on the next generation of welfare reform.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I extend my appreciation to my summer 2003 class of interns: Anne Wilzbacher, Joanna Busch, Angela Wilson, Cliff Sullivan, Nick Herbold, Alex Nelson, Omar Ul Haq, Theresa Reilly, Derek Wulf, Kalsoom Lakhani, Dave Townsend, Haley Wallace, Josh Craft, Ermira Babamusta, Becca North, Abby Smith, Michael Kuehner, Charles Monterio and Carolyn Timberlake. Each of them has been a tremendous assistance to me and to the people of Iowa over the past several months, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Since I was first elected into the Senate in 1984, my office has offered internships to young Iowans and other interested students. Through their work in the Senate, our interns have not only seen the legislative process, but also personally contributed to our Nation's democracy.

It is with much appreciation that I recognize Anne, Joanna, Angela, Cliff, Nick, Alex, Omar, Theresa, Derek, Kalsoom, Dave, Haley, Josh, Ermira, Becca, Abby, Michael, Charles and Carolyn for their hard work this summer. It has been a delight to watch them take on their assignments with enthusiasm and hard work. I am very proud to have worked with each of them. I hope they take from their summer a sense of pride in what they've been able to accomplish and an increased interest in public service and our democratic system and process.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING ANGELA CONNOLLY

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the government leadership exemplified by Angela Connolly, the Chairwoman of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, in Des Moines, IA, who has been selected the National County Leader of the Year. American City and County, a national magazine about local government, honored Angela at the 2003 Annual Conference of the National Association of Counties that took place earlier this month. I have known Angela many years, and can testify to her commitment to the use of government in making people's lives better.

Angela has exercised her leadership on a number of issues that have greatly impacted Iowa's capital city in a positive way. Her advocacy and tireless work on the Iowa Events Center will bring a premiere entertainment and athletics venue to central Iowa, and she was key in securing Vision Iowa funding for the Capital City Vision Projects, which include a new science center, a higher education learning

center, a riverwalk, and a home for the World Food Prize. Angela also led the board of supervisors through a reorganization that significantly reduced a budget deficit and brought about efficiencies in the delivery of county services.

Angela Connolly was elected to the Polk County Board of Supervisors in 1998, and is currently serving her second term and is the 2003 chairperson. Prior to her election, Angela served more than 20 years as a Polk County employee. Angela is active in many civic and community activities, serving on a dozen boards and commissions and nearly 20 additional committees and community organizations. A champion of health and human services, she serves on boards advocating for services for children, persons with disabilities, and mental health treatment. Among the boards she serves are: the Metro Mayors Group, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Metropolitan Advisory Council, Polk County Health Services, Polk County Correctional Services, and the Des Moines Arts Festival.

Angela Connolly is an exemplary leader in county government, who serves her constituents with honor and integrity. I look forward to continuing to work with her to make Iowa a great place to call home.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the Clark County Fire Department and its personnel for their progress in improving fire protection for the citizens of Clark County. Their recent accomplishments have not gone unnoticed.

Through hard work and increased investment in manpower, equipment, training, and facilities, the firefighters of Clark County have made great strides to serve their fellow Kentuckians. They finished construction of the Rogers-Parrish Fire Station No. 3 in Trapp which compliments the fire protection provided by the main station on Barnes Drive and Station No. 2 on Fulton Road. Cooperation by the City of Winchester was instrumental to increasing fire protection by investing in better fire hydrants, better water distribution systems, and more advanced fire training facilities.

While funding is a significant component to improving fire protection, no dollar sign can be placed on the bravery, courage, and commitment inherent in those who put themselves into harm's way to protect those in danger. The firefighters of the Clark County Fire Department are heroes to so many and deserve our gratitude. At a moment's notice, they can be relied upon to respond to any emergency regardless of the circumstances to assure the safety of those in need.

As our Nation takes measures to strengthen our homeland security, it