

fideli ty, diligence, and integrity. Chief of staff is not an easy job, but his gifts and graces were a perfect fit. Whether he was encouraging young staffers, dealing with Governors, generals, administration officials, or the many constituents who call on us for help, he performed superbly.

His military service, including Active Duty and the Army Reserve, was a very valuable asset in his service to me. In fact, the 1184th, after I got out of it, was activated, and he spent almost a year in Kuwait as part of Desert Storm. He retired after 28 years of service with the military at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The key to Armand's success and his value to our office, I believe, was his deep commitment to an America where the right thing is done and where there is an efficient and lawful process for doing the people's work. He never forgot that the money we spend here has been extracted from some decent American who would otherwise find good use for it. Armand believes we must be good stewards of that money, and that programs and spending are only worthwhile if they produce a valuable return. He feels passionately about this, and our shared values in this regard made us a good team, I think.

He has been a superb public servant, and by thousands of individual acts of accountability, frugality, and integrity—mostly unnoticed by the press or anyone else particularly—he has saved the dutiful taxpayers of America tens of millions of dollars. When he came to Washington, I told him that because of my poor abilities, I needed to have the best staff we could put together. As a result of his leadership, I believe we created and have maintained a magnificent team, without whose help I could not have been successful.

In addition to his wife Beverly, whom I admire so much and with whom he attended Murphy High School in Mobile, where my daughter attended, and Auburn University, he has two fine sons: Phillip, a graduate of Georgia Tech and now a consulting engineer, and David, who commenced as a student at Boston College. He is and has every right to be extremely proud of them.

He and Beverly have opened their lives and home to my staff throughout the years. Serving as a "home away from home" for many Alabamians in the area and staff people, Armand's house has been the site of holiday and office gatherings on numerous occasions.

Over the years, his ability to make the staff feel more like a family has earned him the friendship and affection of many. Many of our staff, as well as their parents, appreciate that.

I and all our team truly appreciate the open-door policy he has had with staff and recognize all the work he has done to keep things running smoothly in the office.

He has served extraordinarily well and faithfully, and it is now appro-

priate and just that Armand undertake new opportunities.

While I am sad to see him leave, I know he is about to embark on a great new career as executive director of the Government Relations Group at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, one of America's finest law firms. I am confident he will meet the challenge of the new job with the same professionalism and dedication he has shown for the past 8 years as my chief of staff. His years of public service may be over for now, but his commitment to the Nation and the principles on which it was founded will never waiver.

I wish him all the best. I close with one final remark close to Armand's Auburn heart: War eagle.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL AARON HOLLAND

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Aaron Holland of Columbus, NE, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Holland was killed in a car accident on December 17, 2004 near Richfield, UT, while returning home to Columbus from his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was 21 years old.

Lance Corporal Holland graduated from Columbus High School and is survived by his mother Becky and stepfather Paul Knopick; two stepbrothers, Silas and Paul Knopick; grandparents, Lois and Edmund Mueller; and uncle, Mark Mueller; all of Columbus. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Aaron Holland's service and mourns his loss.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. fostered Holland's interest in a military career and after graduating in 2002, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After completing his training, he served with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA. Holland served two tours in Iraq, from February to July 2003 and from February to August 2004. Lance Corporal Holland will be remembered as a loyal marine who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lance Corporal Holland are currently serving in Iraq.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring LCpl Aaron Holland.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA A. RAMSEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who lived in Marion, IN as a child. PFC Joshua Ramsey, 19 years old, died on December 12 when he was shot while carrying out his duties in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Joshua risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After attending Oak Hill Junior High School for the eighth grade, Joshua moved to Defiance, OH where his father and stepmother live. Joshua, a 2003 graduate of the Four County Career Center, left a strong impression not only on his classmates but his teachers as well. One of his high school teachers, Tonya Fisher, shared some memories of her former student with the Marion Chronicle Tribune saying, "He was a good student and a good classmate. He worked really hard in class and was really dedicated. He knew he wanted to go to the military...He's very family-oriented. He struggled with leaving his family, but he really believed in what he was fighting for." Joshua's mother, Joy, recalled her son's bravery during a conversation she had with him not long ago. He told her, "Mom, I have one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

Joshua was the 42nd Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion, Mannheim, Germany. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Joy; his father, Bruce; and his stepmother, LeAnn.

Today, I join Joshua's family, his friends and the entire Hoosier community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Joshua, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Joshua was known for his dedication to others and his love of family and country. When looking back on Joshua's life, his grandmother, Margaret, told the Marion Chronicle Tribune that he had loved golf, was on the wrestling team and ran track. Today and always, Joshua will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Joshua's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Joshua's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Joshua Ramsey in the official record of the United States Senate for his

service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Joshua's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Joshua.

LOSS OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISOLM AND CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MATSUI

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, this week, our Nation suffered the loss of two of the finest Americans to grace the public stage in my life time.

Congressman MATSUI and I served here together, and as a result of our passionate efforts to preserve and protect Social Security, and from leading our respective caucus's campaign efforts last year, BOB and I became friends.

BOB was a man of strong beliefs and principles and a tireless advocate for children, women, minorities, seniors and virtually every segment of society that too often has been left behind. I am saddened by his passing and my heart goes out to his family, friends and constituents.

Those of us who knew BOB are richer for the experience, and the institution of Congress is poorer now that he is gone.

Shirley Chisholm too was a woman of strong belief and character. I am deeply saddened by her death and my thoughts and prayers are with her family.

When Shirley Chisholm was elected the first African-American woman to Congress in 1968 America was in the midst of dramatic change. Congresswoman Chisholm's refusal to be labeled or marginalized by what she called "a small group of old men" in Washington challenged the status quo and changed America for the better. Her barrier-breaking run for the 1972 Democratic Presidential nomination represented the best qualities of our democracy. Her unique friendships, bi-partisan style and staunch advocacy for the people she represented are a lesson to us all. She will be missed.

ROTARY CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as we begin a new year and a new Congress, more than 1.2 million Rotarians in 166 countries are beginning the centennial celebration of Rotary International.

On February 23, 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wanted to recapture the friendly spirit of small-town America in a big-city professional club. The new group took its name from the practice of rotating club meetings among members' offices.

Rotary quickly grew, with clubs forming across the country and around the world. At the same time, the organization's interests expanded from social and professional interests to community service.

Along with public service, Rotary has given the world a high standard of ethics known as the 4-Way Test. This test asks the following four questions of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

During and after World War II, Rotary International became deeply involved in efforts to promote global peace and understanding. Rotary members actively supported the founding of the United Nations and helped to establish UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

In recent years, Rotary International has helped communities around the world to address some of the critical needs of our day, including disease, hunger, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and children at risk. Rotary has been the lead organization in PolioPlus, a global effort to immunize all the world's children against polio.

On the occasion of the Rotary Centennial, I send my sincere appreciation and best wishes to Rotary International and Rotarians everywhere.

MAD COW DISEASE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, in today's Federal Register, the United States Department of Agriculture has published a final rule that could have significant adverse impacts on our domestic cattle industry. The regulation I am referring to designates Canada as a "minimal risk region" for BSE, known as mad cow disease, and allows Canada to export more beef and beef products to the United States.

I understand the desire of the administration to work with Canada, and I know how frustrated Canadian cattlemen are with the current situation. It is the same frustration my Montana cattlemen feel, as they watch Australia and New Zealand expand market share in the Pacific Rim, while those markets remain closed off to the U.S. But this rule has some significant problems, and to the extent that those flaws could harm domestic consumer confidence and the reopening of international markets, I'm not going to support the administration's decision to open the U.S.-Canadian border to increased Canadian exports.

As I am sure everyone recalls, in May 2003, Canada discovered a case of BSE in Alberta. To protect the safety of America's food supply, USDA banned all imports of Canadian beef. In December of that same year, a Canadian-born dairy cow in Washington State with BSE was discovered and so we have the

cow that stole Christmas. Important export markets around the world closed their doors to U.S. beef, the highest quality beef in the world. USDA then instituted a rapid screening pilot program to test random cattle samples for BSE. To date, the United States thankfully has never had a case of BSE in a U.S.-born cow.

Since BSE jumped to the forefront of the cattle industry in 2003, USDA has been working with other nations, such as Japan and Korea, to reopen markets to U.S. beef. In October 2004, Japan agreed in principle to begin accepting U.S. beef and beef products from cattle under 20 months of age. While that agreement represents an important step forward, exports have not yet started because of scientific and technical obstacles. I remain optimistic that exports will begin this spring, and would be very concerned about any decisions that could jeopardize our relationship with Japan.

In addition to negotiating the resumption of U.S. exports, USDA has also been working with Canada to resume imports of Canadian beef. USDA began accepting Canadian boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age in August 2003. In October 2003, USDA first proposed designating Canada as a minimal risk region, but after the December 2003 discovery of BSE, the rule was delayed. With the exception of a few incidents, that trade has generally been uneventful, and has had little impact on U.S. cattle prices. Most importantly, consumer confidence in the food supply remains strong.

But today I fear USDA has gone too far.

The rule published in today's Federal Register, which takes effect on March 7, will allow Canada to export to the United States live cattle under 30 months of age for feeding or immediate slaughter; sheep and goats under 12 months of age for feeding or immediate slaughter; meat from cattle, sheep, goats and cervids—deer, elk, caribou, moose and reindeer; and certain other products and byproducts, including bovine livers and tongues, gelatin, and tallow. Feeder cattle must be branded to indicate country of origin, must have an eartag so we can trace back to the premises of origin, and must be slaughtered before reaching 30 months of age. The identification requirements must be preserved only to the point of slaughter, not carried through to the retail level. Cattle designed for immediate slaughter must move as a group in a sealed container to the facility and must be slaughtered as a group.

As I said, this regulation has some significant problems, most notably, Canada's enforcement of its feed ban and the decision to allow beef and beef products from cattle slaughtered at any age. USDA needs to withdraw this rule now and fix these problems.

USDA asserts that Canada has high levels of compliance with its feed ban, but fails to provide the hard data that supports that finding. In fact, USDA's