

wrong with this picture. If they are supposed to be so efficient, why do they make it a Federal subsidy? The sponsor of the bill couldn't explain it. The private plans are 7 to 9 percent more expensive than Medicare fees for service and less efficient. And we are going to subsidize it so they can compete with whatever Medicare has to offer?

PacificCare CEO Howard Phanstiel told Bloomberg News over the weekend: "We are encouraged that CMS continues to demonstrate its commitment to be a good business partner with the private sector." But isn't it Government agencies' first obligation to seniors and the citizens of this country rather than to the businesses that will profit from this new arrangement?

Let us take a look at Mr. Phanstiel and his colleagues in the HMO industry. He made more than \$3 million in the year 2003, the year we passed the Medicare bill. As a result of this bill, many companies and many others like it will probably make even more because Mr. Phanstiel's company will have access to some 700,000 Medicare beneficiaries in addition to the ones he currently serves.

When you look at compensation, the CEO of Aetna, \$8.9 million; Larry Glasscock's compensation, \$6.8 million. Here is one CEO who earned \$21.6 million. Look at what these HMO CEOs are making. And now we are not going to cut into their profits but increase them.

When Mr. Phanstiel sent this nice thank-you note to CMS, a Federal agency, and said they are continuing to demonstrate their commitment to be a good business partner, it means even more money and profits for the HMOs at the expense of senior citizens.

When it comes to pharmaceutical companies, this chart tells you what happened to the Fortune 500 companies in America. This is the analysis of the 2002 profits. Look, if you will, at the return on revenues. The No. 1 industry, pharmaceuticals; return on assets, No. 1 industry, pharmaceuticals.

When you turn on the television and you can't escape another ad for the "little purple pill," let me tell you that company is spending more money on advertising than it is on research to find new drugs. They are trying to create an appetite and desire among American consumers to buy drugs they don't need; too expensive drugs, I might add. In this situation, you are going to find pharmaceutical companies doing even much better because the Medicare prescription drug plan says they don't have to compete.

Is the idea of asking drug companies to reduce their costs to help people under Federal programs a radical, Socialist, Communist, collectivistic idea? I don't think so. Go to the Veterans' Administration. That is exactly what they do. They call in the drug companies and say: We have a lot of veterans in America who are going to VA hospitals to pick up their drugs through a program we are offering. If you want to

sell drugs to them, you have to give us your best price. And the American drug companies line up and reduce their costs for VA. They don't scream and they don't holler and squirm away. They like to deal. And the VA serves the veterans. Why is it we can't do the same thing for Medicare? It is just that simple.

The fact that we didn't is the reason the administration last Friday had to put 1,500 pages of regulations together on an already complicated bill to try to explain the Medicare prescription drug benefit that is, frankly, not what it should be. We started off understanding the need. We passed a bill that didn't meet that need. Now, in the name of the ownership society, we are saying to people: You own the right to be virtually defenseless in bargaining with pharmaceutical companies and HMOs.

Is that what we are here for—to make certain their profitability goes through the roof at the expense of seniors who can't afford lifesaving drugs? I don't think so.

The time will come—and I hope soon—when we will have reforms of this Medicare prescription drug program. When we do, let us keep our first obligation to our seniors.

I yield the floor.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT THOMAS EUGENE HOUSER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise in remembrance of a brave Iowan who has left his countrymen to join the ranks of those who have paid the highest price in the defense of freedom. Sergeant Thomas Eugene Houser was a native of Council Bluffs, IA and was killed on January 3, 2005, in action against enemy forces in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. He was twenty-two years old.

An active young man, SGT Houser participated in football, wrestling, and track while attending St. Albert's Catholic High School and is remembered by his family and friends as a compassionate soul who, as his mother says, could "talk to anyone." As a boy, he dreamed of following in the tradition of military service set by his father and grandfather, a dream which he fulfilled courageously as a member of the 1st Marine Division.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Iowans in remembering SGT Houser. My prayers go out to his family and friends who feel his loss so deeply. Such men as Thomas Houser inspire us to hold in ever higher esteem the ideals of freedom and service. His valor shall certainly not be forgotten.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GUNNAR BECKER

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to PFC Gunnar Becker, a member of the United States Army, who died on January 13, 2005, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PFC Becker was a member of the 63rd Armored Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

Answering America's call to the military, PFC Becker joined the U.S. Army shortly after graduating from Artesian-Letcher High School in 2003. His friends remember him as a good-natured, outgoing person with boundless enthusiasm and confidence to match. Kelvin Peterson, a good friend remembers him as always being able to put a smile on people's faces. Kelvin said, "He knew how to make a person laugh and have a good time, because that's what he was all about, having a good time."

PFC Becker served our country and, as a hero, died as a proud member of our Armed Forces. He served as a model of the loyalty and dedication that comes with preservation of freedom. The thoughts and prayers of my family, as well as our Nation's, are with his family during this time of mourning. As well, our thoughts continue to be with all those families who have children, spouses, parents, and other loved ones serving overseas.

PFC Becker lived life to the fullest and was committed to his family, his Nation, and his community. It was his incredible dedication to helping others that will serve as his greatest legacy. Our Nation is a far better place because of PFC Becker's contributions, and, while his family, friends, and Nation will miss him very much, the best way to honor his life is to remember his commitment to service and his family.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the friends and the family of PFC Becker. I know that he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

SPECIALISTS JIMMY BUIE, JOSHUA MARCUM AND JEREMY MCHALFFEY

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the lives of three brave Arkansans and to pay tribute to the sacrifice they made on behalf of our freedom. Jimmy Buie, Joshua Marcum, and Jeremy McHalfey were all beloved by their families, admired by their friends, and respected within their communities. Today, they are remembered as heroes by the grateful Nation for whom they gave their lives.

SPCs Buie, Marcum, and McHalfey were proud members of the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade. Together, they served with the 2nd platoon of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion of the 39th, a close-knit group who quickly earned a reputation for dependability and whose soldiers were known to do absolutely anything for each other. This was especially true for SPC Marcum, SPC McHalfey, and SPC Buie, who were all roommates at their company's base at Camp Gunslinger, just north of Baghdad.

It was obvious to those who served with them that in addition to being outstanding soldiers, these three men were so much more. While the easy-going SPC Buie and SPC Marcum could always be counted on to brighten a mood with their humor and infectious smiles, the hard-charging SPC

McHalfey often motivated his colleagues with his determination and focus. While the three had differing approaches to their service, they were united in the belief that they were doing what was right; helping rebuild the lives of a people they had never met and bringing stability to a nation they had never known.

SPC Buie joined the military upon his graduation from high school in 1980. Later, while working for a dental products manufacturer, he met a woman named Lisa who would become the love of his life. The two were inseparable, and the natural chemistry between them soon led to marriage. SPC Buie quickly took to Lisa's two sons and found great pleasure in spending time with them, whether they were building a go-cart or playing catch.

In his hometown of Batesville, SPC Buie worked as a mechanic at Mark Martin Ford Mercury, where he rightfully earned the reputation of a quiet, hard-working guy who always got the job done. He joined the National Guard in August of 2004 and was deployed to Iraq after spending a month of training at Fort Hood, Texas. While serving in Iraq, he spoke with Lisa every Sunday evening. During these conversations, he always remained upbeat and spoke of the joy he found in improving the lives of Iraqis, particularly the local farmers, whom he pitied for their poor living conditions. These words and actions spoke volumes of SPC Buie, a humble man who found comfort in knowing folks were praying for him back in Arkansas, and who used that inspiration to improve the lives of those around him.

SPC Marcum was from the small northern Arkansas town of Evening Shade, where he lived with his wife, Lisa, and their five children. Friends and family describe him as one of the nicest people you could ever meet, a unique individual who disliked cursing, avoided arguments, and had a special calming effect on those around him. He was also the type of person who found pleasure in bringing joy to others; a gift of his that was attributable to his sense of humor and his loving heart.

While serving in Iraq, SPC Marcum, who had always wanted to be a soldier, was remembered by his comrades as a quiet guy who naturally went out of his way to lend a helping hand to those in need. He kept in frequent contact with his wife throughout his deployment and sought to comfort her by keeping her up to date on his welfare and relaying his positive experiences along the way. With his time in Iraq nearing its end, he was looking forward to returning to his friends and family back in Arkansas and often spoke of taking a float trip down the Spring River soon after.

SPC McHalfey was born in the small northeastern Arkansas town of Paragould but later moved to Springfield, MO, where he graduated from high school in 1995. Throughout his life, he had a love for the outdoors and

if you ever needed to find him during hunting season, he was most likely in the woods with his father, looking for turkey or deer. At the age of 18, he joined the United States Marine Corps, and would proudly serve for 4 years. Upon his return to Springfield, he worked for the Greene County Sheriff's Office and later for Showcase Building Supply. In 2002, he met a dispatcher named Lacy Tindele at a firefighters' training camp. The couple quickly fell in love and their engagement soon followed.

SPC McHalfey's deep love for his country is what originally motivated him to enlist in the Marine Corps and it is also what later motivated him to serve in Iraq. As his brother Mike reflected, "He was the type of guy to volunteer. If something needed to be done, Jeremy would jump in." SPC McHalfey initially wanted to re-enlist in the Marines but was told the process could take months. As a result, he and Lacy chose to move to Little Rock, to continue his career in law enforcement and to join the Arkansas National Guard, because he was told it had a significantly shorter waiting time. The couple chose the nearby community of Mabelvale, where SPC McHalfey commuted to his new job as a detention deputy at the Pulaski County Jail until his deployment. Lacy spent much of her time planning the couple's small wedding, which was to take place upon her fiancée's return from Iraq in a few months.

The lives of these three Arkansas soldiers was forever intertwined when, tragically, they were killed on January 4 when their humvee was struck by a roadside bomb. Their vehicle, which was traveling as part of a convoy, was leaving an Iraqi National Guard bunker in the al-Shaab district of Baghdad. The loss of these heroes will be felt by not only their comrades in Iraq, but by the many friends and loved ones they have left behind.

At the memorial service of SPC Marcum, Linda Beckham reflected on her brother; "He wanted to honor his country. It was his dream and he fulfilled it." These words ring true not only for SPC Marcum, but also for SPC McHalfey and SPC Buie. The courageous and selfless way in which they served in uniform brings honor to our Nation. The impassioned and generous way in which they led their lives, brings honor to us all.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, my thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Jimmy Buie, Joshua Marcum, and Jeremy McHalfey. Although they may no longer be with us, we must find some solace knowing that they died for a cause in which they believed. Their legacy and their spirit will forever live on in our hearts.

ARMY PRIVATE CORY R. DEPEW

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 from Beech Grove.

Army PVT Cory R. Depew, 21 years old, died on January 4 when the Stryker military vehicle he was riding in was struck by rocket-propelled grenades just west of Mosul, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Cory risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After graduating from high school, Cory went on to pursue a dream he had been working toward since he was in the eighth grade. In September of 2003, Cory made his dream a reality by enlisting in the United States Army. Cory's mother, Sheryl Ann, recalled her son's determined spirit when speaking to the Indianapolis Star saying, "He was going to the military, he wanted to serve his country. . . . He was a hero. He gave his life for this country."

Cory was the 44th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, based in Fort Lewis, Washington. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Sheryl Ann May; his son, Brendan Favre; his brothers, Wyatt and Elliot; and his grandfather, Austin Hall.

Today, I join Cory's family, his friends and the entire Beech Grove 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 Cory, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Cory was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. When reflecting on Cory's life, his mother told the Indianapolis Star that her son's best attributes had been on display while he was home on a two-week leave only a few months ago, "his 'wise guy' sense of humor, his love of children, his hard work." During his short break, Cory spent time playing with his son, Branden and volunteered to help build a new garden at his church, a place where his mother and many others now go to find solace. Today and always, Cory 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 Cory'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 Cory's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Cory R. Depew 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 Cory'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 Cory.

LANCE CORPORAL ERIC HILLENBURG

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 from Hendricks County. LCpl Eric Hillenburg, twenty-one years old, died on December 23 during a patrol when he was struck by small-arms fire in Fallujah. With his entire life before him, Eric risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After graduating from Chapel Hill Christian School with honors, Eric went on to become a Marine, a dream he first set his sight on at the young age of 14. According to family and friends, Eric followed a long-standing tradition of service as his family has proudly served our country in every conflict since the Civil War. When reflecting upon the loss of his son to members of his congregation at Hope Baptist Church, Rev. Hillenburg expressed his deep sense of pride and patriotism saying, "When I see that flag flying from now on, it will mean more to me than ever before. . . . When I see a young man in uniform, he will be my son." According to the Indianapolis Star, the congregation stood and applauded these heartfelt remarks. I stand here today to express the same sentiments of gratitude for Eric's sacrifices and for those made by the entire Hillenburg family on behalf of our country.

Eric was the 43rd Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Pamela; his father, Jerry; his sister, Erin; and his brother, Evin.

Today, I join Eric's family, his friends and the entire Indianapolis 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 Eric, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Eric was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. Today and always, Eric 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.

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

CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the latest developments regarding the Canadian softwood lumber dispute. With yet another curious and ultimately inconsequential lumber unfair trade determination due today at the behest of a NAFTA dispute panel, it is important to place this matter in proper perspective.

Would the distinguished Senator from Montana and my colleague from Idaho engage in a colloquy with me concerning the Canadian softwood lumber dispute?

Mr. BAUCUS. I would be pleased to engage in such a colloquy.

Mr. CRAPO. I would also like to join my colleagues in a colloquy on this matter.

Mr. CRAIG. The Commerce Department has found repeatedly that Canadian lumber is subsidized and dumped. World Trade Organization and NAFTA dispute settlement panels have definitively rejected Canada's long-time arguments that its underpricing of timber cannot be deemed a subsidy. The panels have also upheld findings that Canadian lumber is unfairly dumped in

the U.S. market. The International Trade Commission has found repeatedly that the unfair imports threaten our industry with harm.

President Bush was well prepared to answer the Canadian Prime Minister when they last met. The President told the Prime Minister that the problem of subsidies and dumping is caused by Canada, and the solution lies with Canada, unless Canada wants the solution to be permanent duties to offset the subsidies and the dumping. In over two decades, Canadian officials have not gotten the message, at least not in a way that takes, that this problem will not be resolved by Canada's investing hundreds of millions of dollars in legal fees on more than 30 Washington law firms to circumvent U.S. laws in countless appeals to the WTO, to NAFTA panels and to the U.S. courts—several more were filed just this month. And it will not be solved by the cottage industry that has grown up in Canada to mount PR campaigns in the United States.

The U.S. timber industry vigorously supports the administration's view that the unfair Canadian lumber problem could most appropriately and productively be resolved through negotiations—although perhaps there just ought to be permanent duties in place. But the U.S. timber industry is taking the statesmanlike high road, and I support it. Some vested interests in Canada do not see this, and prefer endless litigation, probably based on misguided advice that this will be productive from those who have made a living defending Canadian subsidies.

Mr. CRAPO. Specifically, the problem remains that the market is grossly distorted by Canadian unfair trade practices. Absent termination of or an offset to the unfair practices, the U.S. timber industry will be severely impacted by subsidized and dumped Canadian imports. We in the Congress have been assured that those responsible in the administration will not allow this further injury to our industry occur.

A solution can be either border measures imposed by the United States or Canadian border measures agreed to with the United States pending adequate Canadian timber policy reforms.

The Bush administration has concluded that the November 2004 determination of the International Trade Commission that Canadian imports threaten the U.S. industry with injury—the "Section 129" determination—represents an independent basis authorizing and necessitating retention of the countervailing and anti-dumping duty orders. The United States has faith in winning the NAFTA Extraordinary Challenge Committee proceeding on the injury issue, but even a negative outcome before the committee would not be the end of the matter.

The Bush administration has concluded that duty deposits, amounting to approximately \$3 billion and growing daily, cannot and will not be returned absent a negotiated settlement