

Congress, and every year we go through the same struggle to get VA health care the money it needs to adequately serve its veteran patients. We must change the way funds are allocated so that all of our veterans are guaranteed the care they so clearly deserve.

I want the 115,000 veterans who choose to make Hawaii their home to be assured that they will receive the services they have earned. The nearly 18,000 veterans who avail themselves of VA health care on Oahu, the Big Island, Kauai, and Maui should not have to worry if resources for doctors and nurses will materialize next year. The reservists and guardsmen who are deployed for the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan also must receive the care they need upon their return. And the fact that a whole population of veterans is denied care because VA does not have adequate funding is shameful.

Memorial Day is a day of both sorrow and joy. We mourn those we have lost in battle, and we celebrate the freedoms we currently enjoy thanks to those brave individuals. As we gather together over the long weekend to celebrate this important holiday, let us make sure to take a moment to remember and thank those who lost their lives in order to secure our futures. Then, for the rest of our tenure in Congress, let us not waiver from the commitments made to these brave men and women in terms of programs, services and benefits.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, Memorial Day is a day of mixed emotions: sorrow for the families whose sons and daughters have given their lives for our country, coupled with universal pride in the great Americans who for generations and particularly today teach us the full meaning of service and sacrifice. The courage and bravery of our young men and women fighting overseas continues to inspire all of us, and indeed inspire the free world and those yearning for freedom.

America's fallen soldiers shouldered a responsibility greater than any of us will ever know. Their families, their units, and their nation depended on them, and they answered the call of duty with selflessness and devotion. Our soldiers did not shirk from this responsibility, and all the uncertainty, danger and honor that came with it. Their families remember them as special sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, and cherished friends. Their Nation remembers them as special citizens. Grown men will touch their names etched on granite walls and will today weep for fallen comrades who gave their lives so that others can live.

In this time of war, and in memory of our fallen heroes, we must be mindful to do everything in our power to keep our troops safe as they keep us safe. We must do better to take care of their families, who sacrifice in ways too many to count.

While we can never repay our Nation's debt to families who have made the ultimate sacrifice, we must always remember the legacy of their fallen sons and daughters: a safer and freer world. On this Memorial Day, I believe it appropriate to take a small step in that direction by recognizing in the record those exceptional individuals from Massachusetts who this year gave their lives, and earned the eternal gratitude of the American people:

Arredondo, Alexander S., Lance Corporal, USMC, 25-Aug-2004—Randolph, MA; Connolly, David, S., Major, USA, 6-Apr-2005—Boston, MA; Cunningham, Darren J., Staff Sergeant, USA, 30-Sep-2004—Groton, MA; Depew, Cory R., Private, USA, 04-Jan-2005—Haverhill, MA; Desiato, Travis R., Lance Corporal, USMC, 15-Nov-2004—Bedford, MA; Farrar Jr., Andrew K., Sergeant, USMC, 28-Jan-2005—Weymouth, MA; Fontecchio, Elia P., Gunnery Sergeant, USMC, 04-Aug-2004—Milford, MA; Fuller, Travis J., 1st Lieutenant, USMC, 26-Jan-2005—Granville, MA; Gavriel, Dimitrios, Lance Corporal, USMC, 18-Nov-2004—Haverhill, MA; Johnson, Markus J., Private, USA, 1st Class, 01-Jun-2004—Springfield, MA; Lusk, Joe F. II, Captain, USA, 21-Jan-2005—Framingham, MA; Moore, James M., Colonel, USA, 29-November-2004—Peabody, MA; Oliveira, Brian, Corporal, USMC, 25-Oct-2004—Raynham, MA; Ouellette, Brian J., Petty Officer, 1st Class, USN, 29-May-2004—Needham, MA; Palacios, Gabriel T., Specialist, USA, 21-Jan-2004—Lynn, MA; Schamberg, Kurt D., Sergeant, USA, 20-May-2005—Melrose, MA; Sullivan, Christopher J., Captain, USA, 18-Jan-2005—Princeton, MA; Vangyzen IV, John J., Lance Corporal, USMC, 05-Jul-2004—Bristol, MA; and Zabierek, Andrew J., Lance Corporal, USMC, 21-May-2004—Chelmsford, MA.

THE PASSING OF A GREAT AMERICAN SOLDIER—ARMY COLONEL DAVID H. HACKWORTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I was very sad to learn that Colonel Hackworth had died on May 4, 2005, in Tijuana, Mexico.

Tijuana is the place where Colonel Hackworth chose to make his last stand. He went there to fight one last battle. He had a particularly deadly form of cancer that spread. He went to Mexico, hoping for a miracle with an experimental drug treatment program.

Just before leaving his home in Connecticut for the last time in January 2005, he sent me one final message:

Give Senator Grassley my best. Have run out of conventional options re my cancer. Got until March to find a solution. Off to Mexico to see if we can't out Gee this monster. I am not sweating my final orders from Headquarters. It has been a fun ride. Plan on being planted in Arlington.

"Out-Geeing the G" was one of Colonel Hackworth's favorite expressions.

He invented the term while leading troops in combat during the Vietnam war. He told his troops that they could beat the Viet Cong by using the guerillas' own mobile, hit-and-run tactics.

"We are going to do what they do but just do it better," he said. "We out-gee the G."

"Out-geeing the G" was the heart and soul of Colonel Hackworth's brand of soldiering.

Sadly, Colonel Hackworth was not able to "out-Gee" the enemy this time.

Colonel Hackworth began his military career just up the coast from Tijuana—in Santa Monica, CA.

At the age of 10, after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, he worked as a shoeshine boy at a military post there where a group of soldiers adopted him as a mascot. They had a special uniform made for him to wear. Both his parents died before his first birthday.

At this point in his life, Colonel Hackworth said: "I knew my destiny. Nothing would be better than to be a soldier."

You can't utter the name David Hackworth without also saying the word soldier in the same breath. He was a "soldier's" soldier.

He was a soldier from the day he put on that special uniform in Santa Monica to the moment he died. He may have taken off his uniform after publicly denouncing the Vietnam war on national TV in 1971, but he continued to soldier until the very end of his life.

I know that Colonel Hackworth was a highly respected combat veteran. I know he distinguished himself as a leader of troops in the field in Korea and Vietnam. I know he was awarded a large number of combat decorations for valor.

Colonel Hackworth was a true American hero.

But I do not want to leave my colleagues with a false impression.

I did not know Colonel Hackworth when he was fighting wars and winning medals for valor. I have only read about that part of his life. I did not meet him until much later—after he had started a new career.

I came to know Colonel Hackworth after he became a reporter and began covering the Pentagon.

He was still a soldier all right—but a different kind of soldier.

Colonel Hackworth had become what I would call a brave-hearted soldier for the truth.

When I met him, he had taken off his uniform. He was fighting a different kind of war. He was a soldier in civilian clothes. But he still had a mission. He wanted to bring truth, justice, and accountability to military headquarters—the Pentagon. He wanted to shed some light on what he perceived as gross incompetence and corruption on the part of some senior officers.

He was a contributing editor and reporter for Newsweek Magazine and syndicated columnist.

Colonel Hackworth and I shared a small piece of common ground—watchdogging the Pentagon.

From the moment when I was first elected to the Senate, I have worked