

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMY PFC MEGAN ADELMAN-TENNY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, next week, on Saturday, July 23, people of all ages will gather for a special 5K race in Alliance, OH. This race will benefit the Megan Adelman-Tenny Foundation, which was set up in memory of Army PFC Megan Adelman-Tenny, who was killed in an airborne training accident on January 25, 2005, when her parachute failed to open. She was 19 years old.

This foundation will award an annual scholarship to a high school student who has participated in cross-country, has lettered in the sport, and who possesses the same attributes that made Megan such a special person. I rise today to pay tribute to Megan and to celebrate those attributes—her zest for life, her zeal for organization, and her unmatched competitiveness.

According to her mother Melissa, Megan grew up as a “tomboyish” girl. She was always outside, riding her bike or rollerblading. She never backed down from her older siblings and twin-brother, Matt. She was always speaking her mind and asserting her will. Her sister, Tina, describes her as “energetic and full of life. She was a kick-butt girl. She took no prisoners. She didn’t let anything hold her back.”

Indeed, Megan was someone who lived her life to the fullest. At Alliance High School, Megan played the violin, sang in the choir, and ran on the cross-country team. Starting her sophomore year, Megan also worked part-time at McDonald’s. Her involvement in all these activities left her just enough time to spend with her junior high and high school sweetheart—the love of her life—Joshua Tenny.

As a testament to Megan’s penchant for living in the moment, she and Joshua eloped on December 22, 2004. Her older brother, Marcus, remembers the surprising elopement:

I picked Megan and Joshua up, and we were driving to the Best Buy store in Canton, and Megan told me they needed to make a stop first because they wanted to get married. So, we went to the municipal building in Canton. They filled out all the paperwork for their marriage license and were getting excited. . . . It was spur-of-the-moment, but they wanted to get married and be together.

While Megan lived her life as it came to her, she was also the type of person who made plans, set goals, and did her best to fulfill them.

As a member of the cross-country team, Megan took responsibility for packing the medical bag, organizing meets, and taking care of her twin-brother. According to their mom, Megan acted as another mother to

Matt. She cooked for him, cleaned his room, and packed his cross-country bag before meets.

In addition to being exceptionally organized, Megan was also a fierce competitor. In junior high school, she faced the choice between two sports: basketball and cross-country. Megan decided to join the cross-country team, an individual sport in which the athletes must compete with other runners, as well as their own bodies.

Megan excelled. She was a fantastic runner, qualifying for the State meet three times. She was a leader on her team and inspired others to do their best. Her track coach, Al Eibel, remembers Megan as a hard worker who never complained. During the 2002 season, Megan was clipped by a car mirror while on a practice road-run. Though she didn’t break it, her arm was badly bruised and swollen. Even though she could barely move her arm, Megan competed a few days later. Coach Eibel recalls Megan’s perseverance:

I know she was in pain, but she didn’t say a word. She ran, and by districts, she was fine. Everyone knew we’d always be able to count on Megan.

Upon graduating from high school, Megan knew that it wasn’t the right time for her to go to college. She didn’t feel particularly drawn to it and, with two siblings already attending Ohio University, Megan knew it would be a financial hardship for her family. Instead of college, Megan made a plan to serve 4 years in the Army, with her husband Joshua, and then start a family. She reserved a place for college at a later time, if she felt inclined to go.

Her mother remembers Megan’s decision to join the Army:

She thought about it and came to the conclusion she was going to do it. And, she went in and did it with gusto.

Megan completed advanced individual specialty training in human resources and was part of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, NC. Megan’s organizational skills and attention to detail allowed her to breeze through basic training. At one point, she even mentioned to her mother that she might want to become a drill sergeant. Her mother said:

Well, you’re bossy and you’re organized—I don’t see what would keep you from doing it.

It didn’t surprise anyone when Megan was the strongest woman and fastest person in her basic training unit. She earned the nickname “Speedy Gonzales” from others in her unit because of her running ability. Megan was not someone who held back when it came to competition and she never backed down from anyone or anything.

Her brother, Marcus remembers Megan crying during boot-camp, not because it was difficult, but because she felt others were not taking it as seriously as she was. That’s just the type of person Megan was. She was passionate about the things and the people she cared about.

Marcus talked to his sister after she had completed her first training jump

with the 82nd Airborne. Megan, who was always something of a daredevil, had “loved the jump.” She told her brothers and sister that they would have to try sky diving with her. Megan was also extremely excited about her next jump and her career in the Army. Frankly, Megan was just excited about life.

Any person who devotes a large part of their time and effort to competitive running has probably seen the movie “Chariots of Fire.” In the film, one of the characters asks the question: “[W]here does the power come from to see the race to its end?” The answer to this question is, “From within.”

Megan Adelman-Tenny had that power, that passion, that drive from within, which allowed her to accomplish anything she set her mind to. She was someone who, like any good runner, took things step by step, while also keeping the finish line in sight.

On July 23, many people will run and walk 5 kilometers in memory of Megan. And, with each step taken, they honor her life.

As I think about Megan’s short, but full life, I am reminded of a very familiar passage from the Bible, a passage from St. Paul’s second letter to Timothy, in which St. Paul said:

[T]he time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.

There is no question, Megan Adelman-Tenny fought the good fight. She finished the course. She kept the faith. Megan was truly a wonderful young woman, whom we will never forget.

My wife, Fran, and I continue to keep Megan’s husband, Joshua, her parents, Mark and Melissa, her sister Tina, and brothers Marcus and Matt in our thoughts and in our prayers.

MARINE CORPORAL RICHARD GILBERT, JR.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Cpl Richard Gilbert, Jr., from Dayton, OH, who gave his life in the defense of freedom on January 26, 2005. Richard lost his life in a helicopter accident near the town of Rutba, Iraq. Thirty-one service members lost their lives in this tragic accident.

Having just completed major operations in Fallujah, Richard and his unit were on their way to help secure Iraq for the upcoming elections. They sacrificed their lives standing up for freedom and standing against terror and tyranny. Like his comrades who perished with him, Richard Gilbert gave his body, will, and soul to his country and for his country. For that I wish to honor him this evening.

Richard Gilbert was born on May 12, 1978. He was a caring boy, who loved animals and being outdoors. He hated when people cried. His mother, Helen, recalls that if Richard saw anyone around him crying, he would go over to them, throw one of his small arms