

When our Nation's leaders called thousands of men and women in uniform to liberate Iraq from its most brutal dictator, Technical Sergeant Dana was among those brave citizens for whom the duty to her country comes before all other luxuries. Technical Sergeant Dana joined the Air Force in 1998 and volunteered to serve in Iraq. Her assignment included supporting Army personnel by clearing vehicles at checkpoints and searching buildings for booby traps and explosives. Jamie was never alone while performing her duties in Iraq. She was accompanied by a working military dog, Rex, a 5-year-old German shepherd. The duo had trained together in the military for 3 years and deployed as a team first to Pakistan and then Iraq.

Last June, after completing another mission, Technical Sergeant Dana and Rex were traveling in an armored humvee when a roadside bomb exploded under her seat. She suffered severe wounds resulting in massive internal bleeding that required 19 blood transfusions. "The helicopter ride was the scariest 45 minutes of my life," remembers Major Paul Morton, a member of the medical trauma team who helped save Jamie's life.

Even when facing death, Technical Sergeant Dana never stopped thinking about her friend and comrade Rex. While recuperating from the injuries she suffered in Iraq, Rex has always been in Jamie's prayers. Although her future in the Armed Forces remains uncertain to this day, Dana never questions her decision to go to war. As she stated in a recent interview, "I had begged for it. I wanted to deploy. You want to feel like you're a part of it."

After her military duty is over, Technical Sergeant Dana plans to become a different kind of vet—a veterinarian, a profession that I admire. Dana asked the Air Force for permission to adopt her beloved friend, and I commend the leadership of the Air Force and Senator WARNER for their efforts to find a legislative solution to Jamie's request. I fully support the inclusion of this solution in the Defense authorization conference report. The work of our Nation's military and political leaders demonstrates their willingness to express our humble gratitude to those who proudly wear our Nation's uniform and endanger their lives to protect the freedom that we often take for granted. Jamie's story traveled thousands of miles and warmed the hearts of her fellow Americans, as well as political and military leaders.

A simple act of Congress will allow Technical Sergeant Dana be reunited with Rex. Both Jamie and Rex gave their best in the fight to protect the ideals of liberty and courageously participated in the spread of democracy across the globe. The least this country can do to honor their service is to allow this friendship to continue.

STOLEN VALOR ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I join my colleagues, Senators CONRAD, VITTER, SALAZAR, NELSON, JOHNSON, CHAMBLISS, THUNE, HAGEL, ISAKSON, LAUTENBERG, DOLE, and STEVENS, in cosponsoring S. 1998, the Stolen Valor Act of 2005.

During this Christmas season, our forces are deployed around the world, and many serve in hostile locations. Our service men and women continue to make great sacrifices abroad to ensure our safety here at home. It is our duty to recognize and honor that sacrifice and heroism. Unfortunately, some civilians have created elaborate lies to claim some of this honor as their own.

I am disturbed by stories of these despicable frauds who have tried to falsify heroic military records. These people wear medals that they did not earn, and claim honors which they do not deserve. This type of lie strikes at the very heart of the honor of our military and our Nation.

We must act now to protect the reputation of our military heroes with the full force of law. Those who seek to steal recognition that they have not earned must be held accountable and brought to justice. The Stolen Valor Act of 2005 does just that by enhancing penalties for making false claims in regard to personal medals awarded for combat action and valor, such as the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, or Congressional Medal of Honor. This law will allow law enforcement officials to prosecute individuals who falsely claim to be recipients of these awards, and perpetrators may receive a sentence of up to 1 year as a result.

As a veteran, I will always seek to protect the honored place of our military heroes. I cherish the sacrifices of all veterans, and I will continue to do everything in my power to support and protect their interests. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

REPUBLICAN JEWISH COALITION AD SUPPORTING WAR ON TERROR

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, Freedom is Worth Fighting For. That is the headline of a full page advertisement today in The New York Times. I was proud to add my name to this strong statement in support of our troops and our President in fighting the war on terror. The ad is sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition, a grassroots organization based in Washington, DC, with five full-time offices, 41 chapters, and over 20,000 members across our Nation.

The ad takes strong exception to a resolution approved last month by about 2,000 members of the Union for Reform Judaism—URJ—at a convention in Houston. The URJ resolution

said, "American Jews, and all Americans, are profoundly critical of this war and they want this administration to tell us how and when it will bring our troops home," and called the Iraq war "unjust." The resolution reversed a 2002 URJ endorsement of the war and, according to news accounts, was adopted with very limited debate and only one person speaking against it.

As the Republican Jewish Coalition ad states, the URJ statement that American Jews oppose President Bush on Iraq is misleading and wrong. The URJ does not speak for me. Nor does it speak for all reform Jews or for the American Jewish community.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ad carries the signatures of 180 leaders and prominent figures in the Jewish community. In addition to my name, among those signing the newspaper ad are my colleague in the other body Representative ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, and two former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, James Tisch and Kenneth Bialkin. Other signers include rabbis and cantors; as well as State and local elected officials.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ad contains several other important messages. It notes that we support the President and the war on terror. We stand behind our troops and their mission of creating a safe, democratic Iraq. This mission is vital, says the ad, not only for the continuing fight against terrorism and the stability of the Middle East, but also for making the world a safer place for our children. I believe this message of support is particularly important as the Iraqi people prepare to vote for a permanent government later this week.

We can never surrender to terrorism. Those who attacked us on September 11, 2001, will not hesitate to do so again if given the opportunity. We dare not encourage them by weakness and vacillation in our unrelenting war on terror.

I commend the Republican Jewish Coalition for its leadership on this vital issue. I am proud to stand with them in defense of freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER DAVID MARIN ROMERO: IN MEMORIAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Today I rise to honor and share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, Officer David Marin Romero of the California Highway Patrol. Officer David Marin Romero spent 23 years with the California Highway Patrol, providing the citizens of California with safety and service. On September 23, 2005, while on motor patrol in the city of Industry, Officer Romero was struck and killed by a driver suspected to be under the influence of a controlled substance.