

Reyna to become President for a second time in 2004.

President Reyna spoke to us about the border problems that the Dominican Republic was having with illegal Haitian immigrants entering the Dominican Republic. President Reyna explained that, while the Dominican Republic's unemployment rate was 17.4 percent, Haiti's was approximately 50 percent. As a result of this, the Dominican Republic must constantly contend with Haitian citizens coming across the border looking for work. President Reyna stated that it was imperative for the Dominican Republic to encourage the expansion of democratic institutions in Haiti, in the hope that this would lead to political stability.

We returned to Washington on April 16 to use the second week of the recess to work on the immigration bill.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT KEVIN P. JESSEN

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to SSG Kevin P. Jessen of Paragould, AR. To those who knew him best, he was a loving husband and proud father whose life was filled with love and laughter. To his fellow soldiers serving on the battlefields of Iraq, he was a hero who, in the course of saving countless American and Iraqi lives, sacrificed his own.

His lifelong interest in military history and explosives led him to a career as an explosive ordnance disposal technician. It came as no surprise to friends and family that the young Arkansan, who spent countless hours as a child playing with G.I. Joe toys and bottle rockets, would become a soldier. He joined the ROTC while in high school and upon graduation enlisted in the National Guard before ultimately joining the U.S. Army.

Staff Sergeant Jessen's first of three tours in Iraq occurred shortly after Operation Desert Storm when he helped dispose of explosives left over from the war. In 2004, he returned through service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, only to return for a third tour 6 months after his second was completed. While serving in a foreign land seemingly worlds away from home, his heart and thoughts were undoubtedly never far from his wife Carrie and his 2-year-old son, Cameron. Between tours of duty, this battle-hardened soldier was often found changing diapers or handling bottle feedings in the middle of the night. It was the proud duty of a man who loved his family so very much, and it was symbolic of his devotion to them.

Throughout his time in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Jessen's role as an explosives ordnance disposal technician ensured that he was often called upon to disarm roadside bombs. Although it continually placed him in the line of danger, he selflessly saw it as his duty to help protect the lives of his fellow soldiers as well as the lives of Iraqi civilians. Tragically, while serving on a postblast

investigation on March 4, 2006, he was killed by a secondary explosion in Rawah, Iraq.

At Staff Sergeant Jessen's memorial service, he was laid to rest with full military honors. Hundreds of family, friends, and those wishing to pay their respects joined together to remember this young Arkansan and to honor the life he led. Along his funeral procession, members of a grateful community endured the cold weather to honor this fallen hero, many with hands held over the hearts and waving American flags. At the cemetery, the American flag that had draped Staff Sergeant Jessen's casket was folded and presented to Carrie and Cameron as a token of remembrance of the man they loved and the sacrifice he made on behalf of us all.

Although the 28 years that Kevin Jessen spent with us were far too short, I am hopeful that his friends, family, and loved ones find some solace knowing that he touched the lives so many. He set examples of devotion to family and country that we should all follow, and he led an honorable life of love and selflessness that will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

My thoughts and prayers are with Carrie, Cameron, and all those who knew and loved this fallen hero.

STAFF SGT. BROCK A. BEERY

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 Warsaw, IN. SSG Brock Beery, 30 years old, died on March 23 when his armored vehicle struck a land mine 80 miles west of Baghdad. With his entire life before him, Brock risked everything to fight for the values we Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Brock decided to pursue a career in the Army in 1994, immediately following his graduation from Tippecanoe Valley High School. Remembered as a good student and a good husband, Brock took great pride in his work. He remained close to his family throughout his time in Iraq and planned to attend his younger sister's high school graduation in June. His father recounted to a local newspaper, "[Brock] liked his job. He liked challenges; he put his best foot forward every time. He gave his best to his family, too."

Brock was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armored Division, based in Bowling Green, KY. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother and father, Pamela and Roger Beery; his wife and 7-year-old daughter, Sara and Elissa; his sister, Hope; and his brothers, Joel and Tobey. He was serving his third overseas tour of duty.

Today, I join Brock's family and friends 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 Brock, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Brock was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Brock 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 Brock'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 Brock's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brock A. Beery in the official record of the U.S. 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 Brock'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 Brock.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

In March 2006, Gregory Pisarcik was sentenced to life in prison in Santa Ana, CA for the murder of Narciso Leggs, a gay man. During the attack, Pisarcik repeatedly hit Leggs over the head with a champagne bottle. When police later found his body one ear had been cut off and anti-gay slurs were written all over his body. According to sources, police feel that sexual orientation was a motivation for the attack.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend