

youth mission work in Honduras. In Mosul, he especially enjoyed working with Iraqi children, calling them the "future of Iraq." Pabla was remembered by his senior-year English teacher, who told a local news outlet, "I think (enlisting) was something he felt really strongly about. Without question, he knew what he was getting into. He was really a young man with a sense of purpose." Paul was deployed to Iraq in January of 2006 on his first tour of duty there and had attained the rank of staff sergeant.

Paul was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 139th Field Artillery Regiment, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, Kempton, IN. This brave soldier leaves behind his mother, Lisa Carroll; his father, Sarvjit Pabla; stepmother, Leticia Pabla; a brother, Neil Pabla; half brother, Nicholas Pabla; as well as numerous other relatives.

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

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Paul S. Pabla 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 Paul'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 Paul.

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LEBANON

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I appreciate being able to come to the floor to speak about something of great urgency for people in Michigan and all across our country who have family and friends who are trapped in Lebanon—and certainly people in Israel as well—as a result of what is happening with the violence in the Middle East. We understand those Americans in Israel are able to leave and come home, but we have literally up to 25,000 Americans who are in Lebanon and trapped and unable to leave. They are frightened, and family members here are worried about their families in desperate situations, and they are asking for us to act much more quickly than has been occurring.

It is deeply disconcerting to me as I watched other countries, such as Italy, Spain, Great Britain, and France, on Saturday beginning to evacuate their citizens from Lebanon, taking them to Cyprus or taking them to other places to safety, and yet I understand that even though we have had some helicopters that have gone in—and I am grateful to the Department of State for that because we have families from Michigan who have been evacuated because of medical emergencies—the vast majority of people are waiting for ships.

One ship was supposed to come today. I understand that was delayed, and now they are waiting until tomorrow. And there will be, I understand, two ships—one that will allow 1,400 people to leave, and one that will allow 1,800 people to leave. But we are talking about in Michigan alone over 5,000 people, mostly women and children who have gone to see grandparents, have gone home for weddings, funerals, birthday parties, gone to see grandpa and grandma or elderly, people going home who are frightened and who are in harm's way.

I am deeply concerned that we have not moved more quickly. I have images of people sitting on rooftops in New Orleans waiting to be evacuated, waiting to be rescued, and now we have a similar situation going on with people waiting now 5 days, 6 days to leave a country that is in a war zone.

On top of that, we are now hearing that people who find themselves in a war zone, not of their making, who thought they were going to visit family during their vacation time while the children were off school or for some special event, are going to have to pay. Our Federal Government is requiring them to sign a promissory note to pay to leave to take their families to safety. That makes absolutely no sense.

So I plan to introduce a bill that will give the Secretary of State the authority to waive the reimbursement requirement for U.S. citizens who wish to evacuate Lebanon. The bill would waive the requirement in two cases: if it would create an undue financial hardship for a family or for an individual who is evacuated or if those citi-

zens would be unable to recoup the cost of or reuse or get credit for a previously purchased airline ticket. That is the least we can do given the current situation that is underway.

This would give those who cannot afford thousands in unexpected travel costs an option for help. We cannot abandon American citizens who are currently in a war zone.

I have been in touch with hundreds of people from Michigan. I am proud to have thousands of members of Michigan who are an important part of our community, who have family members and friends trapped in the conflict in the Middle East. Frankly, our Government should be focused on the fastest, the safest way to bring people home, not how much we are going to bill them once they get here.

Let me share a couple of the hundreds of calls we have taken.

Iman Hatoum called her two young children, girls 14 and 7, who were in Lebanon visiting their grandmother when the conflict broke out. She was terrified, of course, for their safety, as anyone would be, and was working to get them out, but she was worried because this promissory note our Government is requiring them to sign would not be able to be signed by a minor. So we were able to help her work through that situation and to move forward. But she was terrified of what was going to happen to her children.

Samar Saad: Her family members—her cousins—were in Lebanon attending a wedding. They were all registered as requested by the Department of State on the Web site. But now one of her cousins was critically injured in the bombings and is in the hospital. We now find the family having to worry about medical bills because they were caught in a bombing and someone is now in a hospital, and they are having to pay for, of course, the physical injuries suffered by their family. We should not be charging them to come home, to come back to America where they will be safe.

Hoda Amine sent this very desperate e-mail to my office:

Here we are stuck in Beirut, Lebanon, with over 25 family members. We need you and others to contact our gov. locally and nationally to get us out of here. We are all U.S. citizens and tax payers. Let our money be put to good work by saving "real U.S. citizens who are in desperate need to be saved. We have infants (my granddaughter) and elders (in-laws and friends) who need help desperately.

It goes on to indicate that they have registered with the embassy three times and have been informed to stay put, paying \$150 each night at a hotel, and they say they are in a real, real emergency. Help us.

We need to do that. We need to be doing two things. We need to be getting ships there as quickly as possible. They should already have been there. If ships from other countries could be there Saturday or Sunday or Monday—now we are talking about not having something happen until Wednesday—there is no excuse for this.

The U.S. State Department estimates there are approximately 25,000 American citizens currently in Lebanon; 15,000 have registered with the State Department's Lebanon task force to receive evacuation information. We are keeping in constant contact with the task force.

Unfortunately, while we are working through all of this, current law requires that U.S. citizens and others who qualify to be evacuated by the Federal Government sign a promissory note pledging to reimburse the Government for their travel. They are later going to be billed by the State Department for the cost of any air, land, or sea transportation.

I am sure we all can imagine the situation or have family and friends—I have many friends, I have many people with whom I have talked, a friend over the weekend whose wife and young child went to visit family and have tried various roads and avenues to leave and have not been able to do that. People are frightened, people who are American citizens, who are asking us to help quickly and to please not put them in a situation of more financial hardship because they thought they were visiting their family in the summertime or they thought they were going to a beautiful wedding celebration or they were sharing the sorrow of a funeral or visiting grandpa or grandma or schoolchildren going on buses.

A colleague from the other side of the aisle has 300 members of a church community who are in Lebanon right now and have not been able to leave. Surely we can come together on a bipartisan basis. I know there is bipartisan interest in this issue. I am hopeful that we can come together and agree that we ought not to be charging for these people to leave in order to be able to survive with their families. They did not know this was going to happen. They had no idea they were going to be facing this situation. But now they find themselves needing help from their Government to bring them home and to keep them safe. We have a responsibility to make sure innocent people are not losing their lives or concerned about the safety of their children or their family members because of this situation. That is our responsibility, I believe, very strongly.

This situation is frightening enough without people being placed in financial hardship to pay for a ship to Cyprus and then find themselves where their airline ticket doesn't work from Cyprus so they have to buy a whole new ticket, or whatever it takes—thousands of dollars. People are being told that it is anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to be able to protect their families and leave. That is just not right.

I really am hopeful—I know colleagues are concerned about this—I am hopeful that this legislation will be strongly embraced and that we can quickly give the Secretary of State the authority. We have been told by legislative counsel they do not now have

the authority to waive these costs. So I am hopeful we will give them that authority very quickly and the Secretary of State will then be able, in a humanitarian way, to address a very critical and frightening situation for many Americans right now in Lebanon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNA MAY HAWEKOTTE SMITH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable and compassionate woman. Anna May Hawekotte Smith fought tirelessly for underdogs of every sort throughout a professional career hat lasted more than 50 years. She passed away on July 5 at the rich age of 90.

In 1950, at the age of 35, while pregnant with her fourth child, Anna May suffered a crippling stroke. She was left paralyzed, forced to relearn such basic functions as walking and talking. Through perseverance, Anna May recovered. While a limp and leg brace remained the only physical suggestions of her former impairment, the experience left a lasting impression on Anna May. For the next 55 years, she used her extraordinary empathy, skills, and determination to help others and to advance many worthy causes.

Over the course of her lifetime, Anna May Hawekotte Smith served many roles—educator, administrator, advocate of social justice, champion of women's rights, wife, and mother. She attended Barat College in Lake Forest, IL. After graduating in 1938, Anna May obtained a master's degree in speech education from Columbia University in New York. She continued her graduate work in speech at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and interned with doctors at the University of Illinois Neuropsychiatric Clinic. Anna May Hawekotte Smith began her professional career as a professor at Barat College. She was soon promoted to chairman of the college's speech and drama department. During her tenure at Barat, she broadcast the first live women's radio talk show to spotlight issues related social justice and the advancement of women.

In 1966, she helped develop a program at Barat to help high school girls from low-income families in Chicago and Lake County to prepare for college. The Upward Bound Program, as it was called, ran for 8 years and assisted hundreds of young women.

It was also during her time at Barat that Anna May met her future husband, Charles Carroll Smith. Charles was executive director of the Catholic Youth Organization of Chicago and the administrative assistant to the late Archbishop Bernard J. Sheil. The pair wed in 1941 and raised three children together.

Anna May Hawekotte Smith was a woman of active faith. That was evident in her work on behalf of the Catholic Church, as well as in her calm acceptance of the hand of God in her

own life. Anna May Hawekotte Smith did not fear change; she embraced it as an adventure and God's will for her. Her daughter, Sheila Smith, said her mother was never afraid of seeing one door close because she trusted God would open a new door. Sheila remembers a couple of years ago, when Anna May learned that Barat College would be closing its doors. She didn't express anger or frustration. Instead, she told her daughter that it was time to focus on a new venture: the Barat Education Foundation. The foundation, created in 2000, would carry on the legacy of the school where she had spent so many years.

In 1969, Anna May's husband Charles passed away. Sheila remembers an evening shortly after her father died. She was sitting in the kitchen with her mother when Frank Sinatra's classic song, "My Way" came on the radio. Anna May told her daughter that, though she had been comfortable in her life, she had often done what was expected of her and what other people wanted. Widowed now, at the age of 54, she was free to make her own decisions, to live her life her way.

Anna May accepted a teaching position at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois Springfield, in 1973 and remained a member of the university faculty until her retirement in 1985. Today, a scholarship in her name recognizes Anna May's commitment to the advancement of women.

Following her retirement, Anna May moved back to Chicago, where she became assistant director for job development programs at the Northern Illinois National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Throughout her life, she also supported social justice causes ranging from civil rights to women's rights.

Mr. President, this Friday, July 21, on what would have been Anna May's 91st birthday, her friends and family will gather at a memorial service at Barat College Chapel to remember and honor this remarkable woman. In the words of her family, Anna May Hawekotte Smith was more than a lifelong learner, she was a lifelong doer. All of us who knew her recall her not only with fondness but with great admiration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those whom she loved and who loved her, especially her children, Charles Smith, Sheila Smith, and Catherine Smith Wilson; her two brothers; and her six grandchildren.

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