

those nearest us and put them on our uniforms. The question had flooded us. We couldn't speak. The word had spread quickly. 'We are free!'"

His bravery and courage will never be forgotten. He was awarded three Bronze Battle Stars by the U.S. and the Croix de Guerre by the French government, given to individuals who distinguish themselves heroically in acts of bravery against the enemy.

Seymour's experience as a World War II veteran helped shape his deep sense of responsibility. He said "This experience reestablished my identity. I am a Jew who knows that I must forever be vigilant about the human rights not only of my people but of all people . . ."

After returning to Chicago a war hero, he married Anita on January 14, 1946. They soon visited California, where Anita's parents lived. As Anita recounts their trip, there was ice on the ground in Chicago when they took off and it was 80 degrees in California when they landed; she refused to go back. Seymour and Anita thus ended up in my beautiful home state, where they lived the California dream with their three wonderful children: David, Lorraine and Billy.

Their children were deeply influenced by their father. Seymour taught his three children that they have a responsibility as Jews and Americans to give back to society and do the right thing.

Once in California, Seymour easily found a job first as a steelworker and then a typographer. As a typographer, he worked his way up to foreman and ended up buying the business, Ad Compositors, which was one of the largest of its kind in Southern California. He was a lifelong member of the International Typographical Union. Seymour had previously been an organizer for the Congress of Industrial Organizations, CIO, before it became the AFL-CIO.

While living in West Los Angeles with his family, Seymour was a co-founder and leader of Neighbors United, an organization that worked to promote racial harmony and maintain diversity in neighborhoods at a time of racial strife in L.A. He was also active in the Public Affairs Committee of the Westside Jewish Community Center and the Urban Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Board of Education, working to desegregate the Los Angeles public schools.

Seymour helped elect Mayor Tom Bradley, Los Angeles's first African-American mayor. Seymour was also involved with the L.A. City Human Relations Commission and the Mayor's Advisory Committee.

Seymour was President of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Pan Pacific Park, helping to coordinate funding for this park. Mayor Richard Riordan officially named him the "Father of Pan Pacific Park" for his instrumental role in creating this public park on the Westside of Los Angeles.

Never one to rest on his laurels, in his later years he was active as the Los

Angeles County Political Coordinator for the AARP.

Seymour Robinson is survived by his beloved wife Anita; his children David, Lorraine and Billy Robinson; and his granddaughters Rachel and Mara Woods-Robinson.

I am proud to have called Seymour my friend. Seymour was never afraid to speak his mind when he saw injustice. He had a deep sense of right and wrong and was very persuasive in convincing others to get involved in the fight for social justice. He was an inspiration to all who knew him and a hero to this nation. He will be greatly missed.●

#### HONORING JONATHON SOLOMON

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the life and legacy of a great Native American leader, mentor, and friend. This summer, Alaska and the Nation lost Jonathon Solomon, a Gwich'in Athabascan elder and lifelong environmental advocate, at the age of 74 in Anchorage. Jonathon's life was dedicated to the defense of Native rights, and he was best known throughout the country for his indefatigable advocacy of Gwich'in lands, most especially the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Born in Fort Yukon, Solomon began his advocacy for the Refuge in the 1970s through his fight for subsistence rights and the protection of the Porcupine caribou herd. This work brought him all over the country, including numerous trips to Washington DC. I had the special opportunity to meet Jonathon during one of these trips, and I quickly learned that he was an eloquent speaker, strong debater, and a masterful advocate. He spoke strongly about the importance of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, the birthplace of caribou upon which the Gwich'in have relied for their existence for generations.

Jonathon's work will live on through the Gwich'in Steering Committee, a nonprofit group which he helped to found during the first united meeting of the Gwich'in people in 1988. I am proud to have a part in carrying on Jonathon's legacy through my continued and unwavering support for the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Please join me and many others across this Nation in honoring a fallen environmental hero.●

#### REMEMBERING DETECTIVE MICHAEL THOMAS

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, please allow me to take a moment to commemorate the loss of a Colorado police officer last week. He was killed in an act of senseless violence, a victim of a random shooting while he was on duty. Detective Michael Thomas proudly served a 24-year career with the Aurora Police Department, and had been promoted to detective last April, where he worked on narcotics cases.

Mike Thomas graduated from Hinkley High School in Aurora in 1972,

and joined the U.S. Air Force. There, he became a mechanic for F-16 fighter planes, and eventually wound up working with the Air Force's precision flight unit, the Thunderbirds. But after 10 years in the Air Force, Mike retired, leaving behind his Air Force uniform of service for another: that of the Aurora Police Department.

During his career in the patrol and canine units and as a detective, Detective Thomas was decorated for service more than 12 times. Among the awards Detective Thomas received was the Medal of Honor, the Aurora Police Department's highest award, in 1992. Detective Thomas received the award for disarming a suspect armed with a knife in October 1991.

Aurora Police Chief Daniel Oates said last week, "There was no one who didn't like Mike Thomas." Stories abound of Detective Thomas's generosity of spirit, his thoughtful nature, and attention to detail that made him such an outstanding policeman. One fellow officer recalled the impression that Thomas made upon him about following through: after every call, Mike Thomas would make sure to ask those he was helping if they were satisfied with the service he had provided them.

Detective Thomas will be interred today at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. He will be surrounded by his family of the Aurora Police Department, and in the thoughts and prayers of police officers and their families around our Nation.

To Detective Thomas's daughter, Nicole, I can only offer the profound thanks of our community and Nation during this time of grief. Your father's sacrifice for the greater good fills each of us with deep respect and humbles all of us.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT CHRIS HART

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Navy Lieutenant Chris Hart of Rapid City, SD. Lieutenant Hart was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his courageous service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lieutenant Hart served as Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team Officer-in-Charge with Multinational Forces Iraq, Multinational Division West from July to September 2005. He took part in 52 combat operations, and showed outstanding leadership in the face of enemy fire. Thanks to Lieutenant Hart's efforts, insurgents were denied explosive materials and thwarted in their attempts to cause harm. Lieutenant Hart's service is a shining example of the dedication and bravery that makes America's soldiers the greatest in the world.

It gives me great pleasure to rise in congratulating Lieutenant Hart for his heroic service in defense of our Nation and our freedoms.●