

and helped them take refuge in closets, backrooms, and hidden cubby holes. Frantic 9-1-1 calls were placed by many and within minutes courageous police officers had contained the suspect.

As the story unfolded, one hero stood out in the chaotic terror. Off-duty Ogden police officer Kenneth Hammond was at Trolley Square having a pre-Valentines Day dinner with his pregnant wife, Sarita. As they were finishing their meal, the Hammonds heard popping noises and looked over the mall balcony to see bodies laying below.

Officer Hammond sent his wife back to call the police and lockdown the restaurant. Shouting his name to let customers know he was an off-duty police officer, and not a second gunman, he made his way to the bottom level. He engaged the shooter in a gun battle hoping to distract him from killing any other innocent people. Running out of ammunition, he was soon joined by a Salt Lake City officer and members of the SWAT team. Within about 9 minutes, the battle was over—the suspect lay dead along with five beloved members of our community.

We can only imagine the terror that the brave Hammonds felt. Mrs. Hammond, fearing for her husband's safety, bravely went to protect other shoppers and alert authorities. Officer Hammond, fearing he would not be recognized as a law enforcement official since he was off duty and in another jurisdiction, still selflessly reacted to save lives.

Without a moment's hesitation, Officer Hammond put the needs of our community first before any thought for his own safety or well-being.

There is no question his heroic acts saved countless other lives that could have been lost on that tragic evening.

Words cannot express the vital role his selfless service and courageous action played in ending the massacre.

Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank described Officer Hammond's quick action and courage this way: "Going in and engaging a subject who was well armed and prepared to engage him, without having the benefits of a uniform, extra equipment or magazines for his firearms, is truly heroic."

In addition to Officer Hammond, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many, many other police officers from various law enforcement agencies who responded to the calls for help. Precisely and courageously these officers went about their duties evacuating the premises, getting immediate help for hurt victims, comforting the grief-stricken shoppers, and containing the crime scene. I want to commend the rapid response of law enforcement agencies who worked together on a crime scene of this magnitude. I am proud of all of the officers who rendered such important service.

It is hard to understand why something this horrific happens in life. But in this time of our deepest sorrow, it has been comforting to witness so

many wonderful Utahns who have stepped up to lighten the burdens of those involved.

Neighbors in the vicinity of Trolley Square opened their homes to shell-shocked shoppers that night as a refuge to wait for further instructions. Total strangers hugged and comforted those leaving the mall who desperately needed a strong shoulder to lean on, and grief counseling services are being made available to those impacted by this tragedy. As neighbors and fellow Utahns, we are united in our grief and desire to comfort those suffering.

My home State has suffered a tragedy of incomprehensible magnitude. The actions of one determined to kill will have an impact on many of our wonderful citizens for years to come. As difficult as this has been and will continue to be, the examples of selfless service and heroic acts will never be forgotten.

I have been deeply touched by so many who truly made a difference in the aftermath of this tragedy. Elaine and I pray that our Heavenly Father's peace will comfort the family members and friends of the victims, as well as all who have been forever touched by this tragedy.

REMEMBERING JUDGE THOMAS E. FAIRCHILD

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of one of the great jurists in the history of my State and someone I was honored to call a friend and mentor: Judge Thomas Fairchild.

Judge Fairchild earned the respect of all who knew him for his keen mind, his kind manner, and his humility. His long and distinguished career in public service included serving as Wisconsin's attorney general, as a State supreme court justice, and as Federal appeals court judge on the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where he rose to become chief judge. He held that position from 1975 to 1981 when he became a senior judge on the appeals court.

Judge Fairchild stood for justice and equality in his work on the bench, and his work in politics as he made a courageous run for Senate against Joe McCarthy in 1952. Through that and other efforts, he played a critical role in efforts to revitalize the State's Democratic Party.

Judge Fairchild was a brilliant legal mind and a man of exceptional character. He was also an extremely special person in my family and a great friend of my father's. As is the case with anyone who has known me for more than 40 years, he called me Rusty.

Whenever my father, Leon Feingold, or my mother, Sylvia Feingold, referred to Judge Fairchild, it was always with reverence. Some of the biggest decisions of his career were made, at least in part, in our living room. I have always been deeply proud of that fact.

The Thomas E. Fairchild lecture at University of Wisconsin Law School,

established in 1988 as a tribute to Judge Fairchild, is just one reflection of his tremendous stature in Wisconsin. When I delivered the Fairchild lecture in 2005, with Judge Fairchild listening in the audience, it was a great honor for me, and a wonderful experience.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Judge Fairchild, for the loss this means for his family, and for all those who knew him. He was one of our State's great legal minds, and one of our most dedicated public servants. I feel so fortunate to have known him, and so grateful for the many things he taught me and the many kindnesses he showed me over the years. The work he did, and the life he lived, will continue to enrich Wisconsin and the Nation for many years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SPAY DAY 2007

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, as a veterinarian, I often have animal issues called to my attention by people who—rightly—assume that my background gives me a deeper appreciation of the matter. One such animal issue that goes largely unnoticed is the problem of homeless cats in urban areas. There are an estimated 125,000 such cats in the Denver metro area that never make it to a shelter. These cats, unowned and unsocialized, continue to breed and suffer in feral colonies.

I am pleased to recognize today Spay Day USA, an event designed to manage feral cat colonies through spaying and neutering. On February 26, the Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance is cohosting Spay a Stray Day with the Cat Care Society and the Dumb Friends League. A host of veterinarians and other volunteers hope to spay and neuter 120 cats that day, thus preventing the births of hundreds of unwanted kittens.

The Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance was founded in 1991. They work with volunteers, veterinarians, and citizens to prevent feral and stray kittens from being born on the street and to improve the lives of those already born and abandoned. They are the only local organization that specializes in nonlethal population control and hands on assistance with feral and stray cats. Last year, the alliance spayed or neutered over 2,000 feral and stray cats, preventing an estimated 50,000 homeless kittens from being born. They treat injuries and illnesses wherever possible and find homes for abandoned cats and kittens. Unmanaged feral cat colonies experience the worst forms of suffering, yet they are the most underserved segment of companion animal overpopulation.

I am grateful for the alliance's contribution to our society and the good they will do on the 26th with their partners. I wish them continued success.●