

and one who is very inventive. For us to treat security matters such as airport security as a routine kind of task that can be dealt with in routine kinds of training and, therefore, is eligible for routine kinds of labor relations between management—in this case, our leading security agencies—and labor—in this case, those who are on the frontline of security for our Nation—would be foolish.

For that reason, again, Mr. President, I would oppose this bill if this provision does not come out.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OBAMA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I yield myself 8 minutes of the Democratic time.

FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, every year, 450,000 Americans die from smoking-related illnesses. That means tobacco companies have to find 450,000 new customers every year. Here is how they do it.

There is a new ad campaign from Camel that targets young girls. This is part of a mailer that Camel sent to young women around the country, especially aimed at young women, calling Camel cigarettes “light and luscious.” You will notice the resemblance of this mailing to a popular perfume. This is Camel No. 9. Inside this box—this is inside the mailing—is something that looks like a cigarette box. These are not actually cigarettes. They are not allowed to do that under law. But if you open this, you will see Camel is offering two for one, two packs of cigarettes for the price of one.

In Ohio, 20 percent or 134,000 high school students smoke, and each year more than 18,000 children under the age of 18 become daily smokers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that almost 300,000 Ohio children under the age of 18 who start smoking now will die prematurely as a result. Almost 300,000 children who start smoking now will die prematurely as a result.

Our Nation’s youth, frankly, are almost certainly not aware of these staggering statistics when they try their first cigarette, but we are aware of it. If we are not, we should be. It is our responsibility to make sure our children are safe and don’t fall victim to these unhealthy addictions—addictions with deadly outcomes. It is our responsibility to make sure our children are safe and don’t fall victim to unhealthy addictions.

FDA regulation of tobacco products, legislation introduced by Senator KEN-

NEDY, is not only necessary to protect our kids, it will improve the overall health of our Nation and save countless lives. FDA regulation is necessary because most cigarette manufacturers have proved time and again they have no desire to take the course of responsible action. Instead, in an act of morally reprehensible profiteering that contravenes a multistate tobacco agreement struck in 1998, cigarette manufacturers are once again using advertising campaigns to lure teenagers into a deadly habit.

These unscrupulous business practices especially prey on girls in particular. As a father of three daughters, I take personal offense to this kind of advertising that glamorizes cigarettes. Their latest gimmick, again, as I said, is a mailing of a takeoff on a popular perfume. They are sending these out, I presume, to hundreds of thousands of young women.

It strains the imagination that this ad campaign and these kinds of two-for-one coupons—it strains the imagination to think that this is aimed at anyone other than 15- and 16- and 17-year-old girls. These images make their way into millions of homes across the country through these mailers, and they reveal, as I said, a prize of two-for-one coupons, even though cigarettes are legal only for 18-year-olds and older. Cigarette manufacturers are literally investing in the premature deaths of our daughters.

It is up to Congress to put a stop to it. Lung-related cancers are the fastest growing and now the leading cause of cancer death among women. As elected officials, we have an obligation to ensure the health and safety of those who sent us to the Senate. As parents, we have a moral imperative to ensure our children are afforded the best chance for a bright start. There is nothing “light” or “luscious” about dying from lung cancer.

Every year, smoking costs our Nation more than \$96 billion in health care costs. The real costs, of course, are the 450,000 lives lost every single year to smoking-related illnesses.

In my home State of Ohio, health care costs directly caused by smoking topped \$4.3 billion, \$1.5 billion of which is covered by our State Medicaid Program—the taxpayers. This is a drain on our health care system. It is a drain on our local communities. It is a drain on our Federal and State budgets. Congress must grant, under the Kennedy proposal, the FDA authority to regulate tobacco products.

We have a responsibility to our Nation to ensure that children are safer and they are not the victims of suggestive marketing by tobacco companies. Congress has debated the issue of FDA authority over tobacco for nearly a decade. It is time to finish the debate and take action to protect children, protect young women, girls, from this kind of advertising, from these kinds of campaigns because if we take the right kinds of action, it will save literally hundreds of thousands of lives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL DESHON E. OTEY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, like every one of my colleagues, I stand in awe of the brave men and women who have volunteered to take up arms and defend our country. Some are called to make the ultimate sacrifice. And so today I ask the Senate to pause in loving memory of LCpl DeShon E. Otey of Radcliff, KY. He was 24 years old.

Lance Corporal Otey, a marine, died on June 21, 2004, while serving with an elite sniper team sent on a crucial mission in Ramadi, Iraq. Otey and three other marines entered the town to target the dangerous terrorists who had turned it into one of the most hostile in the country.

To this day we can not be sure how tragedy struck Otey on this final mission. After headquarters could not make contact with his team, other marines were sent to find out what happened.

Lance Corporal Otey was found killed, shot in the torso. The other three soldiers had met the same fate, and their weapons had been taken by the enemy.

Just 3 months before his death, Lance Corporal Otey had survived a particularly brutal attack by the terrorists—again, in Ramadi, the site of many difficult battles. Then, Otey was the sole survivor out of all the men in his humvee.

For his actions as a marine, Lance Corporal Otey earned numerous medals and awards, including the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Mr. President, though we mourn the loss of this hero’s life, we would not mourn how he lived it. Lance Corporal Otey’s mother Robin Mays tells us he wanted to join the Marines for about as long as she could remember. “All he ever dreamed about was being a marine,” she says. “He was the consummate marine—reserved, soft-spoken, would only speak when spoken to. He lived for the Marines.”

As a student at North Hardin High School, in Hardin County, KY, DeShon was an amateur boxer who had several bouts in nearby Louisville, KY. He was also a lineman for the North Hardin High football team.

But even as a high-school student, DeShon was preparing for the rigorous life of a marine. He tested for both the Marine Corps and the Air Force, earning high scores. He worked with a Marine recruiter, and sometimes the two would go off to participate in war games.

DeShon proved to have great prowess with a weapon. He was eventually selected to be a sniper, a highly respected position that comes with a lot of responsibility and a lot of training. He went on to earn the Rifle Marksman Badge and the Pistol Marksman Badge.

Of course, DeShon had other interests as well. His mother remembers

that when he was little, he loved to watch television cooking shows. One night after coming home from work, Mrs. Mays told DeShon and his little brothers Ronald and Domenique that she would cook dinner for them.

But after seeing how easy it looked on TV, little DeShon told his mom that he would cook for the family instead. "Let DeShon cook!" cried Ronald and Domenique in agreement. "Sometimes he'd create his own little dinner," says Ronald, who says DeShon was a good cook.

DeShon joined the Marines shortly after high school graduation. He underwent boot camp in Guam, and during a 2-week-long wilderness survival course had to eat crabs, snakes and snails. He told his mother, "The snails were the nastiest."

DeShon's passion to excel as a marine was clear to others. "He was dedicated," says Ronald. "He loved what he did. He wouldn't change it." Eventually, DeShon would recruit three of his friends and Ronald to join the Marines.

"He's the reason we signed up," confirms Ronald. "He talked about it all the time. He would call a lot, let us know how it was."

Ronald looked up to his brother DeShon, who was four years older, and Ronald also played football at North Hardin High School. After enlisting, Ronald entered the school of infantry. DeShon would call his little brother often to encourage him and give him advice.

By that point, DeShon was calling from Ramadi, Iraq, site of some of the toughest fighting against the terrorists. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Kennedy, his battalion commander, has said that "within the blink of an eye, the situation [in Ramadi] went from relatively calm to a raging storm."

Lance Corporal Otey joined the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, made up of tough, battle-hardened warriors. Their motto is "Second to None," and the battalion patch they wear on their shoulders proudly declares them to be "The Magnificent Bastards."

Lance Corporal Otey was a star in this elite unit. And he became well known as a survivor of one of the most brutal battles the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment would ever see.

On the morning of April 6, 2004, terrorists walked through Ramadi's marketplace, telling shopkeepers to close their stores and warning them, "Today, we are going to kill Americans." That day they ambushed marines in four separate, but coordinated, attacks.

Lance Corporal Otey was part of a squadron sent in to support another group of marines that was under attack. He and seven other marines entered the combat zone in a green humvee.

Suddenly terrorist snipers on the rooftops opened fire. Bullets pierced the humvee, killing driver LCpl Kyle Crowley and sending the vehicle tumbling onto its side.

"I remember when we got to our objective I started to hear 'tink, tink, tink,'" Lance Corporal Otey later told the Marine Corps News. "I was like, 'Man, we're being shot at. Get out of the vehicle.'"

Lance Corporal Otey leapt out and took cover behind a wall, calling out to his fellow marines to do the same. Bullets whizzed by him—one even went through his pants leg—but none hit him. Amazingly, a hand grenade thrown at his feet did not go off.

Lance Corporal Otey returned fire and eventually more reinforcements came and successfully squelched the terrorists' attack. Otey was the only survivor of all the men who had been in his humvee.

In all, 16 marines were killed in the battle, and 25 wounded. But marines seized several hundred weapons systems from the enemy and killed over 250 anti-American fighters.

Lance Corporal Otey called his mother later to tell her about the epic battle and that he was ok. During their conversation, she could hear several people congratulating her son for a job well done.

One of the screenwriters of the Mel Gibson film "We Were Soldiers" even flew to Iraq to hear Lance Corporal Otey's story, telling him it might be used for a movie.

Still, this was little consolation for the loss of his Marine brothers. "I talk with some of the other guys in the platoon about what happened, but it still hurts," Lance Corporal Otey told a newspaper afterwards.

Using the Marine term for a sleeping bunk, he continued, "Every time I walk into our living space I see the empty racks. Those were guys I used to talk to about my problems. Now I don't hear their voices anymore."

Tragically, Lance Corporal Otey's rack would go empty less than 3 months later.

Lance Corporal Otey was buried with full military rites in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville. Robin Mays points out that DeShon lies next to a World War II veteran and a Korean War veteran, and 10 graves away from his grandmother, Mrs. Mays's mother.

Nothing can turn this sad story into a happy one for Lance Corporal Otey's family. But there is one more chapter to tell. Two years after Lance Corporal Otey's death, marines in Fallujah killed two terrorists, a sniper and a spotter, who were preparing to shoot at marines. The sniper was using an M-40A-1 rifle that had been taken from Lance Corporal Otey's team that fateful day in June 2004.

The marines returned the rifle to Lance Corporal Otey's battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy hopes to make it a memorial to Lance Corporal Otey and all the members of his battalion who were killed in Iraq. And he believes the chances are strong that the terrorists found with this weapon were among the ones who killed Lance Corporal Otey.

Our prayers go out to Mrs. Robin Mays for the loss of her son, and we thank her for sharing her memories of DeShon with us. DeShon's stepfather, Larry Mays; his brothers, Ronald and Domenique; his stepsisters, Mykeba Woods and Shauna Mays; his aunts, Terri Able and Cynthia Williams; his uncles, Ronald Jeffries and Dwayne Able; his grandmother, Betty Williams; and his step-grandmother Gracie Mays are in our thoughts today as well.

DeShon's brother Ronald is now a lance corporal in the Marines, currently stationed in North Carolina. He has a son who's just 19 months old, and born a year to the day after Lance Corporal Otey was buried on July 3, 2004, a day the city of Radcliff dedicated to him. Ronald named his son DeShon after the uncle he will never meet.

No one could ever repay Lance Corporal Otey's family for their loss. But we can honor them today by giving his sacrifice the reverence and respect it deserves. And we can promise that his country will never forget his service.

But I suspect that the greatest tribute to DeShon will be the little boy who will grow up bearing his name. Let's not let that child ever doubt that his uncle was a hero.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, first let me extend my condolences to the Republican leader and to the people of Kentucky for the loss of their courageous native son.

Mr. President, I rise this morning because in recent days we have learned, to our great dismay, that this administration has let one of our most sacred promises go unfulfilled.

In Rhode Island last week I visited veterans convalescing at our VA hospital in Providence. On Tuesday, members of Rhode Island's branch of the Disabled American Veterans came to talk with me in Washington. They came to appeal for those returning from the war in Iraq.

Of course, there are many brave veterans whom I have met with throughout my State over the past several years at American Legion posts, senior centers, Fourth of July and Memorial Day parades, and at our many community dinners in towns all over Rhode Island. They were men and women, young and old. They served in our Nation's wars from World War II to Vietnam to the conflict in Iraq. Like the DAV members I met yesterday, they wanted us to hear what they had to tell us: the infuriating truth that we are failing to support our troops as they return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

When we ask ordinary men and women to do the extraordinary and stand up and serve in harm's way, we know that we can never fully repay what they and their families have given us. The service of Lance Corporal