

Christopher Degiovine of Lone Tree, CO. Corporal Degiovine lost his life late last month in Fallujah, Iraq. He was just 25 years old.

Christopher Degiovine was a native of Essex Junction, VT, and had made Colorado his home for only a few months. He majored in criminal justice at Champlain College, where he graduated in 2005, and was looking to pursue a career in law enforcement.

After moving to Colorado, Christopher Degiovine answered his Nation's call and joined the Marine Corps in December 2005. He was excited about the opportunity, and proud to be serving his Nation. He was promoted to corporal a year later, and had only just been sent to Iraq when he was killed.

Christopher Degiovine's life was one of extraordinary promise cut far too short. His patriotism compelled him to a higher calling, and for that every American is humbled and grateful. His service to each of us and his sacrifice on behalf of all us is a debt we can never repay.

Matthew 5:9 reminds us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Corporal Degiovine was one of these very peacemakers, and his place will always be reserved in our hearts. He and his family will remain in my prayers, and those of the Nation, tonight and always.

#### CORPORAL WADE OGLESBY

Mr. President, I rise to reflect on the memory of Army Cpl Wade Oglesby, of Grand Junction, CO. Corporal Oglesby was killed late last month in Taji, Iraq. He was only 28 years old and was looking forward to returning home and joining the Mesa County Sheriff's Office.

Wade Oglesby's life was not an easy one. He was a young man who had to grow up far too soon. His father left his family when Wade was just 5, and his mother relocated the family from Denver to the city Grand Junction, on the other side of the Great Divide.

As a sophomore in high school, Wade Oglesby's mother Linda fell terribly ill, and Wade left high school to care for his dying mother. After she passed on, Wade stayed with his younger sister Samantha until she became an adult.

August 2004 was a turning point for Corporal Oglesby he found his "true calling in life," as his family said. He joined the Army and found a place that he belonged. Wade's brother Richard observed that Wade "was a soldier long before joining the Army."

In the Army, Corporal Oglesby found his mission. He was proud of his service to his Nation. It makes perfect sense that serving his country fit so naturally to Corporal Oglesby's character: he had spent his whole life in selfless service to those around him whom he loved. Helping and protecting others came naturally to him, and the Army carried him on his way.

One newspaper in my home State reported that Wade Oglesby's motto in life was "float on." Even as his life be-

came heavy as a young man, Corporal Oglesby found a way to "float on" and to continue moving forward.

To his sister Samantha and brother Richard: As you mourn the loss of your brother, know that our Nation mourns with you the loss of another exemplary soldier and American. He will live on our memories for his courage, service, and sacrifice.

#### SPECIALIST DAVID W. BEHRLE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I announce to the Senate today that SPC David W. Behrle has lost his life in Iraq. David Behrle died in the service of his country, and it is absolutely appropriate that we take this opportunity to salute his patriotism and his sacrifice.

Specialist Behrle died Saturday night, May 19, 2007, after his patrol vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad. My thoughts, prayers, and sincere condolences go out to his mother, Dixie Pelzer of Tipton, IA, and his father, John Behrle of Columbus, NE, as well as the Tipton community that is now dealing with the loss of their second native son in Iraq. While we try to prepare ourselves for the loss of life that comes with war, it is impossible to prepare for the very personal experience of losing a young life so close to home. David is best described by a former classmate as "not only our class president, he's now our class hero." He served his country with vigor and enthusiasm, and his presence will be missed in both Tipton and our Armed Forces.

#### TRIBUTE TO VERMONT FALLEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, words and numbers are often used on this floor to describe the ongoing war in Iraq. In recent weeks, we have found ourselves debating the policy decisions that created the current climate in Iraq, the current strategy in Baghdad, and the policy shifts that need to occur to bring our men and women home. We frequently cite the fast-rising numbers of military fatalities and injuries and the growing number of innocent civilian deaths.

A central element of this picture and of this discussion should always be the sacrifices and the suffering of the families at home. Vermont, small State that we are, bears the burden of the highest fatality rate in the country, with more deaths per capita in Iraq than any other State. These losses have left dozens of families searching for comfort as they mourn their loved ones.

But in the darkest and saddest of times, a new Vermont family has emerged, brought together by the efforts of students at Norwich University, the Nation's oldest military college, which calls Northfield, VT, its home. "Vermont Fallen," developed and produced by students at Norwich for a media course, profiles the jour-

neys of families from across our State as they grieve the loss of their sons, fathers, husbands, and friends. Many of these families, brought together by community screenings of the documentary, now are able to turn to each other for comfort.

With this remarkable project, these students from Norwich University—many of whom have friends, family, and colleagues serving on the front lines of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—have given a great gift to these families and to us all. They have honored in this special way those from Vermont who have fallen and they have offered a glimpse into the searing and highly personal grief and mourning that have touched thousands of American families and scores of American communities, across Vermont and across the country. They have produced a tribute that speaks directly to each human heart.

NBC's "Today" recently aired a segment about "Vermont Fallen." I ask unanimous consent that the transcript be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

#### NBC'S TODAY—MAY 9, 2007

Class project by students at Norwich University pays tribute to Vermont soldiers lost in Iraq and Afghanistan

ANCHORS: DAVID GREGORY  
REPORTERS: DAWN FRATANGELO  
DAVID GREGORY, co-host:

Vermont has lost more soldiers per capita in Iraq than any other state. Now students at Vermont's Norwich University, the nation's oldest military academy, are paying tribute in a unique way. Here's NBC's Dawn Fratangelo.

(Beginning of clip of "Vermont Fallen")

Unidentified Woman #1: I screamed and said, 'No, not Eric. My only boy.'

Unidentified Woman #2: Colonel Williams told me immediately that Mark didn't make it.

(End of clip)

DAWN FRATANGELO reporting:

Three of them were named Mark. There were also three Chrises. Half of them were under the age of 24. They are the Vermont fallen, 25 men from this small state killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, subjects of a powerful documentary told through the shattered families left behind.

Unidentified Man: (From "Vermont Fallen") You're upset with everybody when your son dies, and you don't think rationally. I don't know if I'll ever think rationally again.

FRATANGELO: There was something more here than just the raw pain and tears you see on screen. It's about those behind the camera, and the incredible bond that it formed.

So as young filmmakers, were you intimidated at all about approaching these families?

Ms. AMANDA BENSON: Yes. Absolutely.

FRATANGELO: Amanda Benson and Steve Robitaille, along with Craig McGrath, are the senior producers of the film. They're students—college students at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, the nation's oldest military school. The film was their media project. But Amanda knew from that first interview, this was more than just school work.

Ms. BENSON: So walking into it, I really didn't think too much of it. But after about