

courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Shawn, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Shawn was known for his daredevil streak, a tough exterior and a passion for the outdoors, especially kayaking. Those who knew him best will remember him for the devotion he had to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Shawn 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 Shawn'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 Shawn's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Shawn D. Hensel in the RECORD of the 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 Shawn'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 Shawn.

SERGEANT NICHOLAS J. PATTERSON

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave soldier from Rochester. Nick Patterson, 24 years old, was killed on September 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when his vehicle rolled over returning from a raid. With an optimistic future before him, Nick risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Nick graduated from Rochester High School in 2001 where he excelled in basketball and baseball. His senior year, Nick was the leading scorer on the basketball team. He was known for being a star athlete that brought huge energy into sports and a hard-working student. His teacher, Linda Brenna, said, "He had such a great sense of humor and could make a tense moment light." Those who knew Nick respected him for his strong work ethic and his humor.

Nick was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC. Nick is survived by his wife Jayme Saner Patterson, his 4-year-old son Reilley, and his parents James and Virginia Patterson. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, and friend.

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

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Nicholas J. Patterson in the RECORD of the 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 Nick'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 Nick.

#### THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I was absent for the vote on September 7 on final passage of the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 due to an official trip that I took to Iraq with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Had I been in Washington during the vote on final passage, I would have supported this important piece of legislation as I did when the Senate passed its version in July.

The rising costs of a college education have significantly increased the

financial burden on college students and their families in recent years. The largest increase in higher education aid since the G.I. bill, the College Cost Reduction Act will increase student aid to low-and middle-income students by \$17.4 billion over the next 5 years. It also increases the maximum Pell grant by \$500 to \$4,810 next year and incrementally increases it until it caps at \$5,400 in 2012. Further, the bill will help students manage their debt by capping student loan payments at 15 percent of their monthly income and reducing the student loan interest rate from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. In addition, the legislation will create a pilot program that reduces the amount of federal subsidies paid to student lending institutions and redirects the funds directly to students. The result will save students real dollars, save taxpayers money, and inject competition into the loan program.

Increasing the number of college graduates is one of the best investments that we as a nation can make, and I am proud that this Congress has worked to make college a reality for more Americans. The improvements contained in this legislation will expand the options students have to attend college and pay for higher education for years to come. Moreover, it will improve the quality of life for our citizens and our economy by preparing our workforce for the demands of an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, too many young people, from all walks of life, are either struggling to pay for college or flatout can't afford it. Those who aren't able to incur such steep costs are not only losing out on a degree, but setting themselves up to face a lifetime of lost opportunities, as study after study shows college graduates are the most attractive candidates for the fastest growing and best paying jobs of tomorrow. Greater college access and financial assistance is critical to making the American dream a reality for all. This bill strengthens educational resources for low-income students, giving every child the chance to succeed. It will mark the largest increase in student aid since the Montgomery GI bill and ensures that college is within the reach of children all over the country.

Today, families in New England with students in a community college spend 17 percent of their annual income to cover the cost of college for 1 year, while families nationally spend 13 percent. According to an analysis by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education released last year, more than two thirds of families in Massachusetts last year still required approximately \$6,300 beyond financial aid to afford a college education. Faced with such a hardship, many Massachusetts students drop out, saying the costs are too steep. Those who do complete their degrees are often saddled with thousands of dollars in student loans—which can take years, often decades, to pay off.

The conference report cuts roughly \$20 billion from lender subsidies and

uses the funds to increase aid to college students and reduce the interest rates they must pay on their loans. It halves interest rates on subsidized student loans, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent, over 4 years and increases the Pell grant by \$1,090 increase in the maximum Pell grant award over 5 years. It also allows for a flexible repayment option and loan forgiveness after 10 years for certain public-sector employees.

I am also proud that the conference report included language to fund key Massachusetts Upward Bound programs. Upward Bound provides fundamental support and college preparation for low-income students and has a strong record of increasing the rate at which low-income students graduate from institutions of higher learning. Once the President signs this legislation into law, 187 new and existing Upward Bound programs that scored above a 70 in the most recent grant competition will be funded from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2011. As a result, Upward Bound services will be provided for an additional 12,000 students. I want to congratulate all of the new and refunded Upward Bound programs in my State—Holyoke Community College, North Shore Community College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Suffolk University and Wheelock College. Thank you for providing these necessary services to Massachusetts students and I urge you to keep up the good work.

This legislation is absolutely vital to securing the opportunity of higher education for all and making our country more competitive. I thank Senator KENNEDY for his hard work and vision and I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

#### MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT

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 the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On the night of September 1, 2007, Josie Smith-Malave, her sister Julie Smith, and her friend Emily Durwood, were attacked outside a Long Island bar for being gay. The three women had been at the bar that night, and, as they left, they were followed outside by three women and about nine men. The group of about a dozen young adults began to crowd around the three women, shouting antigay slurs, throwing sticks and cups at them and spitting on them. The group then began to punch and kick the three women. One of the victims suffered a head injury, another suffered a knee injury, and all three were badly bruised as a result of

the attack. The attackers fled the scene before police arrived, but one man was arrested 4 days later for his alleged involvement in the assault, which included stealing a camera from and injuring one of the women. He is charged with a hate-biased crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONNA PAGANO MURRAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to one of the longest tenured members of my Senate staff, Mrs. Donna Pagano Murray. Donna retired from the Senate on September 5, 2007, after 28 years of exceptional service to the citizens of this country and to the residents of the State of Alaska.

Donna was born in New York City and studied at Monmouth University and the University of Maryland. She served as my executive assistant and was responsible for all legislative issues relating to domestic aviation and transportation security since I entered the Senate in 2002. She is an expert in Alaska aviation issues and a champion for the Age 60 pilot age extension bill. Donna served as my Chief of Staff for the past year, leading a great team working for Alaska.

Prior to working for me, she worked for Senator Frank Murkowski for 12 years. Among other duties in that office, including those I just mentioned, she was the principal liaison between his Washington, DC and five state offices.

She left the Senate in 1989 and worked at the Department of Commerce for five years during the Administration of former President George H.W. Bush. She handled issues such as clean water and air, fisheries management, weather services and appropriations issues for the Department.

I also want to mention that during her tenure in the Senate, she worked on the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Services and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. She has volunteered for several campaigns and Inaugural ceremonies as well.

Donna started her career as a high school teacher, and is looking forward to being a substitute teacher in her post-Senate life. This says a lot about her—that she is returning to the classroom to help children in this area. Rather than seeking a high-paying private sector job, which she certainly is qualified for given her abilities and experiences, she is going to be a substitute school teacher for a local district. She represents the real spirit of public service by giving back some of her knowledge, wisdom and experience gained from decades in government

service to the youngsters of this area. I know that the students will learn a lot from Donna.

While I am sorry to lose one of my staff leaders, I am delighted that Donna will be able to more fully enjoy time with her husband Danny. Danny had a heart transplant last year and I know that they are looking forward to spending more time with each other, traveling together and enjoying their grandchildren.

I will miss Donna's cheerfulness, wonderful smile, straightforward manner, vast knowledge, and her dedication to the Senate. She is a hard worker, indeed. It has been a pleasure to have her on my staff. I wish her and her husband Danny the very best and know that Alaskans will benefit for decades to come from her efforts to help the State. I also know that future generations will benefit from her return to the classroom.

Donna, thank you for your service to Alaska and this country.

#### THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT JAMES FAUST

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a revered Utahn who was taken from us a little more than a month ago during our summer recess: President James Esdras Faust, second counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On August 10, President Faust peacefully passed away, called home by the God whom he had served for 87 years. He left behind a legacy of faith and service, an example to which we should all strive for in our own lives.

President Faust was a wonderful leader for the LDS Church and a tremendous counselor to its President, Gordon B. Hinckley. He was a great friend and guide to Elaine and me, and our entire family, and to millions of others around the world. He was a person of great dimension, wide-ranging abilities, and deeply spiritual capacities. He was the consummate gentleman and treated both Elaine and me with kindness unfeigned. We pray that everyone in the Faust family will be comforted in the days and months ahead with peace through their memories of this great man.

Beyond his day-to-day duties as a church leader, President Faust led opposition to gambling initiatives in Utah, oversaw construction of the BYU Jerusalem Center, managed an improved public relations strategy for the church, and enhanced relationships with foreign officials. During his ministry, he saw the Latter-day Saint faith move from primarily one of the western United States to a truly worldwide religion.

His kindness was not limited to those of his own faith, nor was his service limited to that which he performed inside his church. Before President Hinckley extended him a call to serve 35 years ago as a senior, full-time