

I do not know what inspired Luke's strong sense of virtue or what led him to join the military. Perhaps it was the service of his grandfather Charles or his brother Keith that moved him to enlist after graduating from high school.

I imagine, though, that Luke's own experiences as a witness to one of the worst tragedies of our time, the shootings at Columbine High School, strengthened his resolve to bring healing, peace, and good to areas torn by violence. Luke Milam was a senior at Columbine when, on April 20, 1999, 2 shooters killed 12 people and wounded 24 others before turning their guns on themselves.

I was Colorado's attorney general when the shootings occurred. The time I spent with the Littleton community in the aftermath—sorting through the events, finding out what went wrong and then helping to rebuild—affirmed my unmatched admiration for the young people who endured one of the darkest moments of American history. So many of Columbine's survivors have gone on to do extraordinary things—it is as though they have committed themselves to overcoming the evil they witnessed by planting hope, decency, and goodness wherever they can. Luke Milam was among them.

Serving as a Navy corpsman with a unit of marines—a special operations unit no less—requires great skill and courage. The corpsman is tasked with providing medical care for marines on the field of battle. It is an incredibly dangerous job that entails carrying a loaded weapon along with the tools of your trade. Some of America's most renowned heroes on the battlefield were hospital corpsmen: people such as Wayne Caron, David R. Ray, and Francis Hammond—Medal of Honor recipients who gave their lives in combat to save others.

Hospital Corpsman Milam served in this tradition. He was highly decorated for his service, earning a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons. More importantly for the corpsman, though, Luke Milam earned the deepest respect and admiration of the marines with whom he served.

Luke was on his fourth tour, having served three tours in Iraq. He "felt it was his calling to help the guys around him," his brother Keith said. "If there were guys in harm's way, he needed to be there to take care of them."

Almost a century ago, Teddy Roosevelt told a Paris crowd that the model citizen is the man who is willing to take action in pursuit of that which he thinks is right. His speech draws on the same words that family and friends use to describe Luke Milam's virtues.

When evaluating mankind's progress, said Roosevelt, "it is not the critic who

counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Hospital Corpsman Luke Milam sacrificed his life for this Nation as a man who knew that his country needed him to be "in the arena," helping others. He accepted the risks of his job with extraordinary professionalism and served with honor in the best tradition of the corpsman. We cannot repay our debt nor replace his loss.

To Luke's parents, Rita and Michael, to his sister, Jaeme, and to his brothers, Keith and Andrew, I know that no words can describe or assuage the pain you feel. I pray that you can find comfort in the knowledge that Luke was doing something which he truly loved, that he was doing it well, and that he will never be forgotten. His country is eternally grateful. He will endure in our hearts and prayers.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SCOTT GUDES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Scott Gudes, who leaves his post at the helm of my Budget Committee staff this week. After 29 years of loyal service to the Federal Government, Scott has chosen to become vice president for government relations for the National Marine Manufacturers Association—a job well suited for a man who loves the sea as much as he does.

When I became chair of the Senate Budget Committee in 2005, I asked Scott if he would serve as my staff director. In under a year, under Scott's stewardship, we passed both a budget for the first time in 2 years, specifically the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution, and a reconciliation bill, the Deficit Reduction Act, DRA—marking the first time in 10 years Congress had passed a reconciliation bill to reduce spending.

The DRA was a notable achievement in that it saved \$39 billion, a feat which is practically unheard of around here, as the last time it was done was in 1997. These accomplishments could not have been done without Scott, who worked tirelessly to shepherd each authorizing committee through the often confusing reconciliation process. His unique combination of intellect, humor, and humbleness was a key component in navigating the complex waters of the com-

promise that was necessary to pass the first substantive deficit reduction legislation in 10 years.

Scott followed up his initial year of success by spearheading efforts to develop a more comprehensive approach to restraining spending. His efforts contributed to the introduction of the Stop Over-Spending Act, a budget process reform bill that helped focus the national debate on solutions to our long-term fiscal challenges. Just this year, Scott helped structure the Conrad/Gregg Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act of 2007, legislation that will encourage bipartisan action to put our fiscal house back in order. At heart, Scott is a true nonpartisan who recognizes that the best policy is made when both sides of the aisle work together, and his first instinct is to seek out common ground rather than partisan differences.

However, much like Thomas Jefferson chose to be remembered as author of the Declaration of Independence rather than various elected offices he held, including President, I expect that Scott would rather be remembered for spearheading efforts to write, edit, and publish the "Budget Committee History" rather than his impressive legislative credentials. Scott took it upon himself to initiate a historic accounting of the Senate Budget Committee. This labor of love reflects countless interviews and hours chronicling the birth, history, and importance the committee has held in shaping the Federal budget and fiscal policy. His devotion to this project is an example of Scott's love of history and respect for the institution of the Senate.

The handful of aforementioned achievements merely reflects Scott's latest accomplishments in an achievement-filled career. It would be nearly impossible to chronicle the numerous programs and projects he created, funded, and oversaw—programs that improved and enriched both individual lives and the environment.

In addition to his tour of duty at the Senate Budget Committee, Scott has held key positions on both sides of the Capitol, both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, and a point I like to forget, Scott has even worked on both sides of the aisle. Included in this impressive list are stints as the clerk of the Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Subcommittee, professional staff on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Acting NOAA Administrator, where he championed science, service, and environmental stewardship programs and greatly improved agency morale. In NOAA circles, Scott is a virtual god—king of satellites, staunch advocate of the NOAA Corps and its ships and planes, and an addict of the NOAA label, which I understand is plastered on literally everything under and around his home, car, and office.

But the true bearing of Scott's 29 years of Federal service is not the remarkable list of the jobs he has held, although the list is long and distinguished, but the manner in which Scott

has approached these positions and the people he has touched along the way. Those who know Scott best describe him as a loyal, encouraging, and creative boss, who supports and celebrates those who work with him. Everything Scott does is done in an "all hands on deck" manner that gives everyone an opportunity to pitch in and support the common goal.

One cannot talk about Scott without recognizing his acumen for all things trivia—Scott is a virtual trivia savant. He knows the answer to nearly every trivia question, regardless of topic, and can somehow relate every event back to an old movie or seventies rock song. He will search to the end of the Internet to find a historic or comic analogy to make a point about fiscal responsibility, or often the lack of it. He is equally conversant on the latest entertainment news and military strategies of ancient times. The influence of his crosscutting interest and knowledge has occasionally found its way to the Senate floor, where both the Geico Caveman and a Rube Goldberg cartoon have been used to drive home a point.

As a lifelong boater, fisherman, and lover of all things relating to the ocean, Scott reminds me of the remarks that President Kennedy made at the 1962 America's Cup sailing race. He said, "All of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea—whether it is to sail or to watch it—we are going back from whence we came."

Kathy joins me in wishing Scott well as he joins the National Marine Manufacturers Association, to "go back from whence he came" and advocate on behalf of issues he is most passionate about. As he sets off for new adventures with his wife Ann, and, of course, Buddy the Budget beagle dog by his side, Scott leaves in his wake a nation that is better off for his service, and colleagues that will miss him dearly.

#### CHILD HEALTH DAY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Child Health Day. Under a joint resolution of Congress, the President has proclaimed National Child Health Day each year since 1928. It is especially fitting that we celebrated Child Health Day yesterday, October 1, 2007, just 4 days after this body approved legislation to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, improving benefits and ensuring that 10 million American children receive health insurance coverage.

Child Health Day serves to focus attention on children's health issues. Past themes of this day have ranged from prenatal care, childhood injury prevention, the importance of immunizations and prenatal care. This year's theme is "Building a Bright Future

Through Preventive Health," and this is exactly what Congress seeks to do with the bipartisan reauthorization of CHIP sent to the President for his signature.

The role of preventive health care in ensuring the well-being of all people is well established, but such care is especially critical for children. The American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP, recommends that children receive routine preventive health services such as immunizations, vision and hearing checks, and screenings for signs of developmental or medical problems. These recommendations include 6 preventive care visits during a child's first year, 3 visits during the second year, and 17 preventive visits between ages 2 and 21.

Unfortunately, many of our Nation's children do not receive these important physician visits. A survey of literature by the Commonwealth Fund found that estimates of the number of children who receive all their recommended visits range from 37 percent to 81 percent. Critically, this review concluded that insurance coverage is the most powerful indicator of whether a child receives all recommended well-child care. One study determined that just 68 percent of uninsured children receive the recommended preventive care, compared with 76 percent of privately insured children and 85 percent of publicly insured children.

The Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act will increase the number of children who receive this important preventive care. Simply by providing nearly 4 million uninsured children with insurance coverage will increase the likelihood that they will be screened for developmental and medical problems, receive all their immunizations, and benefit from regular hearing and vision checks. In addition, the legislation ensures that children who receive their health coverage through Medicaid are entitled to all medically necessary early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment, EPSDT, services. These services are required in every State and are designed to improve the health of low-income children by addressing their physical, mental, and developmental health needs.

As we recognize Child Health Day, I wish to congratulate Congress on its bipartisan effort to improve child health through reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. I also urge President Bush, in the spirit of Child Health Day, to drop his veto threat and sign this legislation. This is the single most important action he can take to ensure more children get the health care they deserve.

#### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, over the next 10 days, a remarkable event will unfold in Shanghai, China. Every 2 years, thousands of Special Olympics athletes from around the world come

together to showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the spirit of Special Olympics. Starting today, more than 7,500 Special Olympians will begin competing in Shanghai in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Over the coming 10 days, tens of thousands of athletes, coaches, volunteers, family members, government and industry officials, plus experts in health and education from 165 countries have come together to celebrate the talents of those among us who have intellectual disabilities. This spectacular event is not about athletic skill as much as it is about determination, courage, and the desire to compete.

I can speak firsthand about what a rewarding experience it is for all of us who have been involved in Special Olympics. Last year, my State of Iowa hosted the first USA National Summer Games. Thousands of athletes, volunteers, coaches, and families attended our games, in addition to 30,000 fans and spectators. Ames, IA, was transformed into an Olympic Village, and it was thrilling to experience.

I am pleased that three extraordinary athletes from Iowa are now in China competing: Corey Leonhard in track, and Jenna Schrack and Jody Sheriff competing in bowling. Team USA includes 401 athletes, and 102 of them are at the World Games today.

Special Olympics is not just about sports. It is about spirit, and it is about drawing out the best in all of us. The Special Olympics organization is responsible for much more than the games. Its Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Program, developed over a decade ago, focuses on the health, fitness, and well-being of people with and without disabilities. Last year alone, it made possible more than 135,000 health care screenings. Volunteer health care professionals and students were trained to provide the screening and compile the data. In China, medical volunteers will provide health examinations free of charge, including dental, vision, and hearing exams.

The Special Olympics is both a world-class sporting event and a world-class humanitarian experience. Many countries have sent delegations to the games. In addition to our athletes and volunteers attending the Opening Ceremonies, the U.S. delegation will include Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, figure skating champion Michelle Kwan, former Assistant Secretary of Education John Hager, Ernie Banks of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Lynn Fuchs, Professor of Special Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, Anne Sweeney of Disney Media Networks and Disney-ABC Television Group, Jennifer Polk Wardlow, a Special Olympics North Carolina athlete, Dr. Tim Shriver, chairman of the board of Special Olympics, and the incomparable Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics.

Mr. President, I regret that, with the Senate in session, I couldn't attend today's opening ceremonies. But my