

had a debate in the Senate on Senator DEMINT's amendment to strike \$3.7 million in grants in the Appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services and Education with \$2.2 million going to the AFL-CIO Appalachian Council and \$1.5 million to the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute. This funding applied to job-training programs covering some 11 States and the District of Columbia.

During the course of the debate, Senator DEMINT made the following statement:

This amendment is part of an effort to clear up what a lot of us have called the culture of corruption over the last several years. A lot of this has come from Americans connecting the dots between the earmarks that we give to our favorite causes back home and many of the campaign contributions and political support that we get back here in Congress. While motivations are generally good, at best the appearance of what is going on here has alarmed the American people.

When I outlined my reasons for supporting these grants, Senator DEMINT replied:

I agree with all the purposes the Senator stated, all of the ideas of getting teenagers to work in Philadelphia. All of those things are good. I am not taking argument with any of them. If the AFL-CIO is the best source to deliver these services, there should not be any problem with this at all. All we are asking is to make this a competitive grant so that we can have criteria and accountability in a system so that what we want to accomplish will actually get accomplished.

Senator DEMINT's amendment was rejected on a 60-34 vote.

After the floor debate and vote were over, Senator DEMINT and I discussed the issues in the debate. Senator DEMINT stated that he was not suggesting any corrupt practice or inappropriate conduct by me, but only that it was preferable to use the funds for competitive bids. Senator DEMINT and I agreed that it would be useful to correct any misimpressions by having this colloquy for the RECORD.

Mr. DEMINT. Senator SPECTER has correctly stated the conversation which we had after the floor debate and we agreed it would be useful to have this discussion to clear up the record. As I told Senator SPECTER privately and now state publicly, I was in no way suggesting that his support for these programs resulted from campaign contributions or political support. My reference to the "culture of corruption" was not intended to suggest that there was any corruption involved in this matter. In my statement, I was specific in not suggesting inappropriate motivations when I said "motivations are generally good." I was also careful to focus on the "appearance" and not the reality by noting it "has alarmed the American people." As many know, my objection to earmarks has to do with the system itself, not the people who participate in it. While Senator SPECTER and I naturally have differences on issues of public policy, which is to be expected in an institution like the Senate, I have worked with him during my

tenure in the Senate of more than 3 years and do not question his integrity.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank Senator DEMINT for his candid and forceful statements which I think clear the record.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHAD A. BARRETT

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of SSG Chad Barrett. Sergeant Barrett was assigned to the 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, CO. He died last Saturday in Iraq at the age of 35.

A native of Jonesborough, TN, Chad grew up in a family with a proud history of service. By joining the Army, he followed in the footsteps of his older brothers, his cousins, and his grandfather, who earned the Purple Heart in World War II.

Chad was in his 12th year of service and his third deployment to Iraq when he died. He took on one of the most dangerous jobs of the war: that of a gunner tasked with defending supply convoys. Those convoys see it all: improvised explosive devices, rocket attacks, explosively formed penetrators, ambushes. Protecting the convoys is a job that takes courage, but it also takes a toll. In his second deployment, Sergeant Barrett's unit was attacked 42 times. He put himself in harm's way and no doubt saved countless lives, but each day, each mission, and each fight has a cost that we often forget. However steely one's nerves or how strong one's will, the daily sacrifices of our soldiers do cause wounds and injuries of their own. These wounds are sometimes less visible than those of a bullet or a blast, but they are no less painful and certainly no less deadly.

Mr. President, the daily heroics of Chad's service in Iraq will be remembered long after the words from this floor fade. This was a lesson of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, as he honored the tens of thousands who perished at Gettysburg. "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. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." As we honor the life of Sergeant Barrett, may we embrace this charge and rededicate ourselves to our unfinished work and to the dream for which every soldier serves—that of achieving stable and lasting peace.

To Sergeant Barrett's wife, Michelle, his sons, Guston and Zachary, his parents, Linda and Ronnie, and to all his family and friends, our thoughts and prayers are with you. I cannot imagine the pain and grief that you are feeling. In time, though, I hope your sorrow will be salved by the knowledge that

Chad served his country with honor and that we are all grateful for his courage, sacrifice, and daily heroism. May his legacy always endure.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING LANCE CORPORAL JOHNATHON GOFFRED

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude, I wish to honor the life of a brave soldier. LCpl Johnathon Goffred, 22 years old, died unexpectedly on January 26 in Camp Pendleton, CA. Johnathon was a dedicated soldier, loving son, grandson and brother, and a valued friend to many.

Johnathon grew up in Johnson County, IN, with his paternal grandparents, Walter and MaryAnn Sparrow. He graduated from Center Grove High School in Greenwood in 2003, where he was active in sports and assisted the Center Grove Little League. It was his dream to become an Indiana State Police trooper.

In 2005, Johnathon joined the Marines where he was a rifleman with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. Johnathon served a 7-month tour of duty in the Anbar province of Iraq, returning in 2007. For his excellent service, Johnathon was awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. His comrades remember him as a devoted friend who was generous with all he had. One of his fellow servicemen described him as the type of person who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it.

Johnathon is survived by his mother, Angie Martin Goffred; his paternal grandparents, Walter and MaryAnn Sparrow; his maternal grandfather, Bill Goffred; his seven brothers, Dale, Shawn, Nick, Tom, Wes and Kragen Sparrow and Michael Paul; and his eight sisters, Tina Seril, Mellisa, Keria, Keisa, Quinci, Brianna, Shannon and Masada Sparrow.

Today, I join Johnathon'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 kindness that people will remember when they think of Johnathon. Today and always, Johnathon will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow soldiers as a true American hero, and we honor his service to our country.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of LCpl Johnathon Goffred in the official 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 Johnathon's can find comfort in