

my best wishes for many future successes over the next 40 years.●

REMEMBERING MATT GARCIA

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that my friend Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and I ask our colleagues to join us today in honoring the memory of an extraordinary young man, Fairfield City councilmember Matt Garcia. Matt, a dedicated public servant, was shot in a senseless act of violence on the evening of Monday, September 1, 2008. Matt passed away on Friday, September 5, 2008. He was 22 years old.

In November 2007, Matt was elected to a 4-year term on the city council of Fairfield, CA. Just 21 years old when he was elected, Matt was the youngest councilman in Fairfield City history and one of the youngest elected officials in the State of California. With a deep sense of civic pride, Matt worked tirelessly to address Fairfield's crime rate and to develop effective gang prevention programs. In his short time on the council, Matt served with distinction and passion, earning the respect of both his colleagues on the council and the youth of his beloved city.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Long before being elected to the Fairfield City Council, Matt Garcia's ambition and dedication inspired his community to be better and to do better. Since the 6th grade, friends remember Matt telling them that one day he would become the mayor of his hometown of Fairfield. Matt attended Armijo High School, where he served as vice president of his senior class and was selected as both prom king and homecoming king.

Matt Garcia was a driven young leader who cared for his community deeply, and will be remembered by friends and colleagues as honest, passionate, and full of life. Matt served Fairfield with enthusiasm and a commitment to creating a better world. His dedication to his goals and dreams of improving his community will live on in those whose lives he touched.

Mrs. BOXER. Matt Garcia is survived by his grandmother, parents, siblings, and extended family members. Senator FEINSTEIN and I will always be grateful for Matt's example of passionate public service. Our hearts go out to Matt's family, friends, and colleagues who struggle with this incomprehensible loss.●

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ED W. FREEMAN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on August 20, America lost one of her bravest heroes, and I am honored to say he was an Idahoan. Ed "Too Tall" W. Freeman, U.S. Army, retired, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions undertaken during the battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam in November, 1965. Recounted in the book by Joseph Galloway, "We Were Soldiers Once . . . And Young," Ed's bravery became leg-

end. American forces were heavily engaged with North Vietnamese soldiers and the medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the battle zone to retrieve soldiers—it was deemed too dangerous. The infantry commander asked for volunteers, and young Captain Freeman, followed by LTC Bruce Crandall, stepped forward and offered to fly, unarmed, to the battlefield to bring supplies and carry out the wounded. Ed flew 14 separate missions and his actions, literally under fire, saved life and limb of 30 soldiers—all in a landing zone that was within 100 to 200 meters of the defense perimeter set up to engage the North Vietnamese Army at close range. Many of us have been to the Vietnam Wall—that tragic list is dozens of names shorter for Ed's extraordinary valor. Imagine the children and grandchildren that are here today because he saved the life of their father or grandfather. Incidentally, Ed himself had two young boys—preschool and elementary school-aged at the time.

When he retired from the Army in 1966, Ed continued flying helicopters, this time for the U.S. Department of the Interior, conducting animal censuses, herding horses and fighting fires. In 2001, Ed was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush for his actions during the Battle of Ia Drang.

Ed was laid to rest in the Idaho State Veteran's Cemetery, a beautiful place that overlooks a vista bounded to the south by the Snake River Valley and distant mountains, to the east and west by a vast expanse of open sky, and behind to the north, by foothills rising to meet their less-weathered relatives. The wind blows with reassuring regularity, and it seems that in this western meeting place of land and sky, at once comfortingly familiar and awe-inspiring, it is indeed an appropriate place for Ed.

In a tribute written upon Ed's death, author, former war correspondent and friend Joseph Galloway said:

Too Tall Ed was 80 years old when he died in a hospital in Boise, Idaho, after long being ill with Parkinson's disease. He turned down a full dress hero's funeral in Arlington National Cemetery in favor of a hometown service and burial . . . close to the rivers he loved to fish and the mountains he flew through in his second career flying for the U.S. Forest Service . . . Now Too Tall Ed Freeman, a much larger than life-size hero . . . and a much better friend than we deserved, is gone, and we are left with too large a hole in our hearts and in our dwindling ranks.

When Ed spoke to a reporter in Idaho back in 2000, he recounted those 14 harrowing hours. He said, "That Huey helicopter was my tool, and I was trained to use it. It was capable of flying into that hell hole, and I was capable of making it do that." When asked if he was afraid he said he ate "franks and beans" and chain-smoked. "God knows how many I smoked. Till I had a blister on my tongue." When asked about why he volunteered for this dan-

gerous duty, he said: "You don't think, 'I'm going to go out and win the Medal of Honor.' You're going to win a body bag if you're not real lucky."

And, in a testament to Ed's humble nature, his comment on his heroism was simply: "I did think I possibly did a little more than was required of me. But again, I had a job to do."

It is a tremendous honor for me to pay tribute to Ed W. Freeman, and my condolences go to his wife Barbara, his sons, and their families at this difficult time.●

REMEMBERING BILL GWATNEY

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with great sadness I rise to honor a great American, a great Arkansan and my friend. Bill Gwatney, a valiant public servant, was taken from us on August 13, 2008.

Bill was my friend for many years. This included his days as an elected official in Arkansas where he served as a State senator for 10 years. He was committed to improving the State of Arkansas by taking the lead on legislative redistricting, reforming ethics rules, and encouraging economic development throughout the State. While serving in the State senate he fought against insurance companies to pass the Any Willing Provider legislation. This allowed patients more flexibility in choosing their doctors. He inspired other great leaders to lift the State and the country into a prosperous future. He worked tirelessly every day to make Arkansas a better place for his children and for children from the Delta to the Ozarks.

He became chair of our State party in 2007 and was a leader in getting the party to where it is today. His work ethic and ability to bring people together were unmatched. His personality was contagious, likable, and he was an all around wonderful person. In the days following his death, he was praised on both sides of the aisle. Bill was taken from us too soon.

I echo a comment by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe who said: "Arkansas has lost a great son, and I have lost a great friend." These words ring true to any Arkansan who had the privilege of knowing him. He believed strongly in integrity and good leadership within the State of Arkansas. His death put in perspective what he believed, that public service is about people, and with his passing Arkansas has lost one of its finest.

Bill leaves behind a wife Rebecca and children, Christian and Chase, along with two step-children, Zachary and Emily.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to the life of a great family man, business leader, and public servant, Mr. Bill Gwatney.●

COMMENDING THE CANYON LAKE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate