Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the untimely deaths and celebrate the lives of two New Mexico heroes. One died just last week from injuries he sustained while serving his country in Afghanistan. The other was killed this past June in a helicopter crash after rescuing a stranded hiker lost on the Santa Fe Baldy Mountain.

Both men served their countries with distinction and honor. Both were raised in families with a strong tradition of public service. Both said ''Choose me'' when they were needed the most. Both paid the ultimate sacrifice. They are Army SFC Kenneth Westbrook and New Mexico State police sergeant Andrew Tingwall. I would like to tell you about them today.

Sergeant Westbrook's career in the military began more than 20 years ago after he graduated from Shiprock High School in northwest New Mexico. He married his childhood sweetheart, Charlene. Along the way, they had three children—Zachary, Joshua, and Joseph.

He served in the Persian Gulf war and did numerous other stints overseas in places such as Korea and Germany. He was a proud member of the Navajo Nation. He loved to hunt and fish, build model military vehicles, and was an expert chef and grill master.

His brother says Kenneth was looking forward to retiring from the military and spending more time with his family when he got the call for one more tour of duty—this time to Afghanistan. As much as he cherished the idea of spending more time with his family, Kenneth knew what he had to do: Of course, I will go, he said. Kenneth believed in the work being done in Afghanistan, his brother said. And if the Army needed him to complete that work, there was no question he would be there.

Kenneth was gravely wounded on September 8 when his unit was attacked by insurgents in Afghanistan. He was quickly flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for treatment. That is where I met his wife Charlene and other members of his family. That is where Sergeant Westbrook died from his injuries last week.

Military families are a special group of people. Every day they face sacrifices and challenges the average person can't imagine. They do it with grace and strength and an unwavering belief in the country they call home. That is what I saw the day I visited Charlene and Sergeant Westbrook's three boys. I saw a strength made even more striking when you realize this tragedy wasn't their first.

Four years earlier, almost to the day, another Sergeant Westbrook died. His older brother—SGT Marshall Alan Westbrook—was killed in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee in Baghdad.

The Westbrooks have given more than most families. Their tight-knit family has paid the ultimate sacrifice, and for the Westbrooks, it happened not once but twice. As Americans, we often take for granted our freedoms, but we should never forget those whose sacrifice makes those freedoms possible.

Sergeant Westbrook will be laid to rest on Friday in Farmington, but he will forever live in the memory of New Mexicans.

This story of New Mexican heroism doesn't end there. I would also like to talk about New Mexico State Police SGT Andrew Tingwall, who was killed last June in a helicopter accident after rescuing a stranded, lost hiker. Sergeant Tingwall is being honored on Friday with a posthumous induction into the New Mexican Military Institute Alumni Association Hall of Fame, which I helped nominate him for. His honor is for Eminence in a Chosen Field. Similar to Sergeant Westbrook, Andy Tingwall's chosen field was service—service to his community, service to his State, and service to his country.

Known as ''Ting'' to his friends, Sergeant Tingwall graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell in 1991 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after. During his military career, he became a jump-qualified reconnaissance marine and served with Delta Company's Fourth Reconnaissance Battalion. He continued his distinguished career as a New Mexico reservist from 1993 to 1995, when he joined the New Mexico State Police.

Eventually, he became lead instructor for the Training and Recruiting Division of the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy before joining the New Mexico State Police aircraft section, where he became a pilot. Sergeant Tingwall proved his merit there, serving as chief pilot of the unit—the youngest man to ever have that title.

Sergeant Tingwall was known by his colleagues, friends, and family for his heroism and love of the sky, saving many lives in his time with the State police. In 2008, he was celebrated as Officer of the Year by the New Mexico Sheriffs and Police Association and would have received a Medal of Valor in June, but for Sergeant Tingwall, that day would never come.

Sergeant Tingwall was in the middle of saving the life of a stranded hiker on June 9 when tragedy struck. He and his spotter, Officer Wesley Cox, had located the stranded hiker and Sergeant Tingwall was transporting her to safety when the helicopter struck a mountainside and crashed.

After the crash, as he had throughout his career, Sergeant Tingwall put the safety of others before his own. Despite being severely injured, he managed to pull the hiker from the wreckage before they both died from their injuries. Sergeant Tingwall was just 36 years old.

Duty, honor, country—three words you hear often when talking about those who commit themselves to a life of public service. Sergeants Westbrook and Tingwall personified those words, both in the way they lived their lives and in the way those lives ultimately ended.

New Mexico is proud to honor these true American heroes. To their families, we say thank you and ask them to accept the thanks of a grateful State and a grateful nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1789 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

THE FEDERAL DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we have had an ongoing debate on the floor about health care reform, its cost, whether it is going to add to the deficit. We had an exchange yesterday or the day before with Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader. We talked a little bit about the debt America faces and how this debt came about.

Senator KYL, my Republican counterpart, Republican whip from Arizona and a friend of mine, came to the floor and carried on this dialog and debate. When you consider the Senate Chamber is supposed to be about debate, it is all good that he would do that. But I do want to take exception to a couple of things my friend Senator KYL said.

Let me say at the outset, between 1998 and 2000, under President Clinton, our Nation ran a fiscal surplus. It is hard for many people now, when they look at a multi-trillion-dollar deficit, to imagine just a few years back we did have a surplus. We actually reduced the Federal debt in those 2 years by $236 billion, our economy was doing well, creating jobs and businesses. That is what President George W. Bush inherited when he came to office.

Between 2001 and 2009, when President George W. Bush was in office, the economy grew. Normally you would think this period of economic growth would lead to an improved fiscal picture since tax receipts for government usually grow with the economy. Instead, under President Bush our Nation