

I thank the Senator from Ohio.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST FREDERICK GREENE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Earlier today the assistant Democratic leader, who is now presiding, delivered some eloquent remarks about the murders at Fort Hood. I believe there were two soldiers from Illinois who were there. One was from Tennessee, from Mountain City, TN, which is a beautiful little part of our State, way up in the northeastern corner near Virginia. Some people have said it looks like Switzerland and that the people there talk in Elizabethan phrases and tones.

SPC Frederick Greene, according to an article in the Washington Post:

... was a Tennessee native so quiet and laid back that he earned the nickname "Silent Soldier" while stationed at Fort Hood preparing to go overseas.

He hoped to spend the months before his deployment to Afghanistan with his wife of less than 2 years. She had made arrangements to leave their home in Mountain City, TN, next week and move to Fort Hood until January, when Greene was to ship out.

Instead, [they] are planning his burial in the northeast corner of the state where he grew up.

This is what Specialist Greene's family had to say about him, and I think it speaks as eloquently about his life and service to our country as anything could. In their words:

Fred was a loved and loving son, husband and father, and often acted as the protector of his family.

Even before joining the Army, he exemplified the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Many of his fellow soldiers told us he was the quiet professional of the unit, never complaining about a job, and often volunteering when needed. Our family is grateful for the thoughts and prayers from people around the country. We would like to ask for privacy during this emotional time because Fred, too, was a very private person.

We will honor the request for privacy of the family, but we will also honor Fred Greene for his service to our country.

Speaking just for myself, but I am sure most Tennesseans, most Americans, feel the same way—for 8 years now, tens of thousands of men and women from Tennessee have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan to keep terrorism from spreading here.

It is tragic enough when any one of them is wounded or killed in that fight; it is beyond belief when one of them is wounded or killed at home in a terrorist act at Fort Hood. That is hard for us to accept. But in accepting it and asking questions that we inevitably must ask about how this could have happened, we certainly can honor each of those who were killed, each of those who were wounded.

We can respect their service, and I especially want to show my respect for the family of SPC Frederick Greene and for his service.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed following the remarks I just made a brief article from the Washington Post and an article from the Johnson City, TN, Press of Tuesday, November 10.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 8, 2009]

SPEC. FREDERICK GREENE, 29

Spec. Frederick Greene was a Tennessee native so quiet and laid-back that he earned the nickname "Silent Soldier" while stationed at Fort Hood preparing to go overseas.

He hoped to spend the months before his deployment to Afghanistan with his wife of less than two years. She had made arrangements to leave their home in Mountain City, Tenn., next week and move to Fort Hood until January, when Greene was to ship out.

Instead, Greene's wife and family are planning his burial in the northeast corner of the state where he grew up.

The 29-year-old enlisted in the Army six months after getting married because the military seemed like the best way forward, said Howard Nourse of Kentwood, Mich., who said he considered Greene a grandson. Rural Mountain City offered relatively few opportunities to advance, and he wanted to build a career, perhaps in engineering.

Greene's mother died when he was a boy, and he was raised by her twin sister Karen Nourse, and Karen's husband, Rob Nourse. Family members are leaning on their Christian faith as they grieve, said Howard Nourse, Rob's father. "God is still in control," he said. "Even though we don't understand why something happens, He's still in control."

[From the Johnson City (TN) Press, Nov. 10, 2009]

LOCAL SOLDIER REMEMBERED BY COMMUNITY
(By Brian Bishop)

One of the 13 killed during Thursday's Fort Hood attack was a local man—29-year-old Army Specialist Frederick Greene.

"Fred was a loved and loving son, husband and father and often acted as the protector of this family," Army Public Affairs Cathy Gramling said in a prepared family statement Sunday outside the Johnson City home of Greene's parents, Karen and Rob Nourse.

"Even before joining the Army, he exemplified the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Many of his fellow soldiers told us he was the quiet professional of the unit, never complaining about a job given, and often volunteering when needed. Our family is grateful for the thoughts and prayers from people around the country. We would like to ask for privacy during this emotional time as Fred, too, was a very private person."

Greene's family did not participate in the news conference, opting to let the military spokeswoman read the prepared statement.

"I don't have any information about what happened during the shooting," Gramling said. "The Army and other investigators are going through that now. I will say this, regardless of Fred's actions during the shooting, he signed up to serve our country. In my mind, and I believe in the minds of the family, he's already a hero, regardless of what happened that day."

Fred's parents attend River of Life Church just down the road from their home and pastor Donnie Humphrey is making sure the family gets the full support of the church during this emotional time while ministering to the church as well.

"We're doing as much or as little as they want," Humphrey said. "In this situation, what we've got to be really careful about is smothering somebody. We want to be there for them if they need us but not be in the way. In the grieving process, there's anger, hurt and confusion. That's kind of where our congregation is too, in shock this morning because we kept this quiet. They were shocked, hurt, confused and I'm sure some folks are angry as well."

Church members and others in the community speak well of Greene, who joined the military in May 2008, and say it is a loss that will be felt for a long time to come. Those that have known Greene all his life say he was a smart man on his way up in the world.

"I've known Fred and his family his whole life and he was a very fine boy, one of the finest you ever met," family friend Glen Arney said.

"I worked with him at the A.C. Lumber and Truss Company where he worked for a number of years. He went from building trusses to being offered the job of designer, but he turned it down. He was one of those who was smarter and more well-read than he let on. Everybody who met him, loved Fred Greene."

Exact details about the shooting rampage are not known as investigators from multiple agencies are working out what transpired when officials say suspect Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. ALEXANDER. We are in the middle of the health care debate. We have different points of view. I am sure people are confused by what they hear. I think that would be inevitable with a 2,000-page bill, which is the House-passed bill. That is all we have today while the Democratic majority leader writes his version of whatever we are expecting to act on, behind closed doors.

Earlier this week I talked to a woman in my home town. She expressed what I suppose many people believe. She said: I am very confused by what I hear, but I do not like what I hear. My husband lost his job. He was one of the lucky ones; he got a new job. But it only pays 60 percent of what he was earning doing the same work, and he does not have any benefits.

So, she said: I went back to work. I am a small business woman. We needed the benefits, so I went back to work.

But she said: These proposals I am hearing about do not seem to be working out the way they are supposed to. They are putting more costs on us when we buy our insurance and when, as a small business person, I have to buy insurance.

She said: I do not like what I hear.

I think she is expressing a real concern—it is a complicated bill. There is a lot of concern on both sides. We heard the other side talking about myths and reality. I see the Senator from South Dakota. It looks as though he has the 2,000-page bill with him. It is good that he is young and strong and can carry such things. His eyes are good, and he can read it. It will take a while to do that, which is why, when this bill gets to the Senate floor, we want to make sure we read the bill, we