

Sergeant Hamburger was born in Sioux City, IA, on Memorial Day, May 25, 1981. In 1985 his family moved to Lincoln, NE, where Patrick graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School in 1999. While still attending school, Patrick chose to use his talents and serve his fellow citizens as a member of the Nebraska National Guard.

Patrick met Candie Reagan and her daughter, Veronica, in 2005. In 2008 the three of them moved to Grand Island, NE, where Patrick served as a full-time helicopter flight engineer with the 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion. In January 2009, Candie gave birth to their daughter, Payton. There is no doubt that while Patrick loved being a soldier, he loved his family more.

Patrick was less than 2 weeks into his deployment when he selflessly climbed aboard a Chinook with 29 other U.S. service members and 8 Afghans, rushing to help a band of Army Rangers pinned down by enemy fire. The helicopter was shot down in what has become the single deadliest incident for the U.S. military in this 10-year operation.

Patrick knew the dangers he faced and the risks he took. He also knew the importance of the work he did in the Army on behalf of his fellow Americans. He risked—and ultimately sacrificed—his own life so that people a world away could have the chance to enjoy the freedoms he had found in America.

Patrick is survived by his girlfriend, Candie Reagan; her daughter, Veronica Reagan; their daughter, Payton; his mother and stepfather, Joyce and DeLayne Peck of Lincoln; father and stepmother, Douglas and Shaune Hamburger of Knoxville, TN; brothers, Michael of New York, NY, and Christopher of St. Louis, MO; grandparents, Willard and Jacque Hamburger of Omaha; stepsiblings Jessica, Jeremy, and Joshua Francis of Knoxville, TN; and numerous other family members and friends.

Sergeant Patrick Hamburger made the ultimate and most valiant sacrifice in service to his country, and my condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends. His heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

SERGEANT JOSHUA J. ROBINSON

Mr. President, I further rise today to honor a true American hero, SGT Joshua J. Robinson of Nebraska, who was tragically killed on August 7, 2011, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Joshua grew up on a 100-acre farm near Oak, NE, where he would spend his days hunting and tracking in the back pasture. Joshua took the skills he learned in his early years with him into the Marine Corps, where he quickly excelled and became an instructor, teaching younger marines how to track the enemy and survive in the mountains. Joshua even developed an enemy-tracking course which is believed to be the first of its kind.

Joshua deployed three times to Iraq before being sent to Afghanistan, leaving at home his wife, Rhonda, and two sons, Wyatt and Kodiak. Although he was a proud, smart, tough marine, he was first and foremost a loving father and husband.

I offer my most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Robinson. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for our Nation, and his sons will grow up knowing their father was truly a hero. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Sergeant Robinson's passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

INAUGURATION OF DR. LOBSANG SANGAY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on August 8, 2011, in the small town of Dharamsala in northern India, a modest ceremony was held to inaugurate the new Prime Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration. The new Prime Minister's name is Dr. Lobsang Sangay, and I had the opportunity, together with some of my distinguished colleagues, to meet him last month.

Dr. Sangay assumes office at an important moment in Tibetan history. Indeed, his election marks a significant milestone in the advancement of Tibetan democracy, as His Holiness the Dalai Lama earlier this year announced his decision to devolve fully his political authority to the elected leadership, now led by Dr. Sangay.

At a time when dictators in many parts of the world have proven themselves willing to slaughter their own people rather than cede an iota of power, the decision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to surrender his political authority in favor of democracy is both inspiring and significant. It was also a wise decision that will strengthen the legitimacy of the Tibetan cause among the international community and sustain it for decades to come.

The election that brought Dr. Sangay to power involved voting by tens of thousands of Tibetans living in exile in over 30 countries, from Belgium to Bhutan. In my home State of Connecticut, nearly 100 Tibetan Americans took part in this election.

Dr. Sangay, a 43-year-old academic who holds a doctorate from Harvard Law School, was elected Prime Minister with 55 percent of the vote. Now the executive authority of the Central Tibetan Authority rests solely on his shoulders.

I came away from my conversation with Dr. Sangay deeply impressed. He is a young man of considerable intellect and accomplishment, and I am certain that he will prove to be a leader of courage and conviction. The Tibetan people have chosen wisely in electing him as their Prime Minister.

During our meeting, Dr. Sangay affirmed his commitment to the Dalai

Lama's "Middle Way Approach," which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet, not independence, and I was encouraged by his determination to meet the challenge of finding a solution for the Tibet issue.

Unfortunately, the situation for the 6 million Tibetans living under Chinese rule today remains deeply troubling. This is a community that has never been permitted to participate in a free and fair election of the sort that just took place among Tibetans in exile. In fact, this is a community that is governed by authorities who have deemed that carrying a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or a simple photograph of his Holiness the Dalai Lama to be illegal and punishable acts. It is a community that has faced brutal repression and violence and that has, for decades, been denied their fundamental rights, including the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

I hope that the self-fulfillment of democratic governance exercised by Tibetan refugees can provide hope and inspiration to those in Tibet and China who yearn for the fundamental freedom to choose their own government and leaders.

While the U.S. government does not officially recognize the Central Tibetan Administration, we do work with them through a variety of programs to help Tibetan refugees. As the United States continues its outreach to civil society and nongovernmental groups, and its promotion of democracy around the world, I hope we should enhance our engagement with the Central Tibetan Administration and Dr. Sangay.

Moreover, when Lobsang Sangay returns to Washington this fall, I hope many doors will be open to him. What the Dalai Lama and his fellow Tibetan refugees have accomplished is worthy and deserving of our attention and respect.

FREEDOM IN CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following articles highlighting the resilience and strength of the Cuban people as they continue to struggle under an oppressive regime. These stories and videos which continue to surface out of Cuba have underlined the Cuban Government's inhumane actions against its people. Santa Maria Fonseca is one of these brave "Ladies in White" who continue to peacefully fight for liberty in Cuba. She explained, "Our objective is that one day the people will join us." Ms. Fonseca and the Cuban people deserve our unyielding support in their courageous efforts to reclaim freedom in Cuba.

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