

Loving Cup Award, which annually recognizes citizens who have worked unselfishly for the community without expectation of public acclaim or material reward; the National Conference of Christians and Jews Weiss Award, which is presented annually to four outstanding community leaders who have been influential in promoting the advancement of social understanding and care; and the National Council of Negro Women Outstanding Woman Award. In addition to earning numerous awards, Mrs. Chase serves on the boards of many non-profit organizations, including the Arts Council of New Orleans, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the Urban League.

Mrs. Chase has been and continues to be an inspiration to all who know her. It is with a heartfelt sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Mrs. Chase's family in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this extraordinary woman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PENNSYLVANIA'S FALLEN HEROES

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as we confront a whole range of difficult issues at the end of this year and at the end of this Congress, we should also be reminded we have fighting men and women serving for us all over the world.

We think especially tonight of those serving in Afghanistan and those who served prior to that time in Iraq. At various times we have come to the floor and recited the names of those who were killed in action, and tonight I am joined by my colleague Senator TOOMEY to read the names of Pennsylvanians who gave, as Lincoln said, the last full measure of devotion to their country—those who have been killed in action in Afghanistan over the course of parts of 2011 and 2012.

I yield the floor for my colleague, Senator TOOMEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, for organizing this brief tribute that is so much deserved by the men and women we are acknowledging today.

I wish to begin by extending my deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of these Pennsylvania heroes whom we are going to acknowledge this evening. In the lives our servicemembers led and the cause for which they died, these folks represent all that is great about America.

Many enlisted right after graduating from high school, and during those very tough and grueling days and weeks in basic training they had probably never heard of places such as Anbar Province in Iraq, the Tangi Valley of Afghanistan or the other areas in those nations where they fought and ended up dying for our country.

But these Pennsylvanians join a long line of soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and Coast Guard members who have given the supreme sacrifice to their country, a line that extends well back in the latter part of the 20th century and includes World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and of course the global war on terrorism.

It is no accident that Pennsylvania has suffered very heavily in this conflict, as it has in other conflicts throughout our Nation's history. I think it is because in towns across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, towns and cities such as Dallastown, Easton, Philadelphia, and Erie, there are certain values that are deeply rooted in these communities: importance of family, importance of faith, importance of community, and the importance of public service, including very much the service to this Nation.

The conviction that freedom is worth defending is one of those convictions and the belief that a cause worth fighting for is not just someone else's responsibility. These are the values that have shaped these men and women, their families, their churches and houses of worship, and their communities.

These values were exemplified in the lives of our fallen men and women in service, and they will forever be honored by Pennsylvanians as the native sons and daughters of our great Commonwealth for their service to the country.

I will read the names of the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for courage in this conflict, and Senator CASEY will complete the list: PFC David Anthony Jefferson, U.S. Army, Philadelphia; SGT Louis Robert Fastuca, U.S. Army, West Chester; SPC Jesse David Reed, U.S. Army, Orefield; LCpl Abram Larue Howard, U.S. Marine Corps, Williamsport; SPC Dale Justin Kridlo, U.S. Army, Hughestown; SPC Anthony Vargas, U.S. Army, Reading; SSG Sean Michael Flannery, U.S. Army, Wyomissing; GySgt Justin Edward Schmalstieg, U.S. Marine Corps, Pittsburgh; MSG Benjamin Franklin Bitner, U.S. Army, Greencastle; 1LT Demetrius Montaz Frison, U.S. Army, Lancaster; SSG Edward David Mills Jr., U.S. Army, Newcastle; Sgt Joseph Michael Garrison, U.S. Marine Corps, New Bethlehem; Ssgt Patrick Ryan Dolphin, U.S. Marine Corps, Moscow; Sgt Christopher Matthew Wrinkle, U.S. Marine Corps, Dallastown; PO1 Michael Joseph Strange, U.S. Navy, Philadelphia; TSgt Daniel Lee Zerbe, U.S. Air Force, York; SSG Eric Scott Holman, U.S. Army, Evans City; Lt. Col. Christopher Keith Raible, U.S. Marine Corps, North Huntingdon; CPO Nicolas David Checque, U.S. Navy, Monroeville; CDR Job W. Price, U.S. Navy, Pottstown; and finally, MAJ Wesley James Hinkley, U.S. Army, Cumberland City.

I yield the floor to the senior Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I thank the Senator for reading the first half of our names, and I will continue with 20 more names: Sgt Derek Lee Shanfield, U.S. Marine Corps, Hastings, PA; SFC Robert James Pike, U.S. Army, Conneautville; SFC Bryan Alan Hoover, U.S. Army, West Elizabeth; Sgt Joseph Davis Caskey, U.S. Marine Corps, Pittsburgh; LCpl Joshua Thomas Twigg, U.S. Marine Corps, Indiana; CPL Joshua Alexander Harton, U.S. Army, Bethlehem; LCpl Ralph John Fabbri, U.S. Marine Corps, Gallitzin; SSG David Jee Weigle, U.S. Army, Philadelphia; Cpl Eric Michael Torbet, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, Lancaster; CPL Jarrid Lee King, U.S. Army, Erie; SGT Robert Curtis Sisson, Jr., U.S. Army, Aliquippa; PFC John Francis Kihm, U.S. Army, Philadelphia; 1SG Kenneth Brian Elwell, U.S. Army, Erie; SGT Edward William Koehler III, U.S. Army, Lebanon; SSG Brian Keith Mowery, U.S. Army, Halifax; SSG Kenneth Rowland Vangiesen, U.S. Army, Erie; SrA Bryan Richard Bell, U.S. Air Force, Erie; CPT Michael Cean Braden, U.S. Army, Lock Haven; PFC Cameron James Stambaugh, U.S. Army, Spring Grove; and finally, SSG Brandon Robert Pepper, U.S. Army, York, PA.

As I conclude the list of Pennsylvanians who were killed in action over approximately a 2-year time period in Afghanistan—and one of the names that was read was killed in Iraq—we remember and think of them, and obviously we are paying tribute to them on a night like tonight. At the same time, we are also thinking of their families as we pay tribute to them.

I am reminded of the great recording artist Bruce Springsteen. One of his songs was entitled "You're Missing," and the refrain over and over again is "you're missing." He was able to sing, but I won't. The song goes something like this: You're missing when I shut out the lights; you're missing when I close my eyes; you're missing when I see the sunrise.

For all those families out there who lost someone in Afghanistan, Iraq, or in other conflicts, we are thinking of them tonight because they are missing someone in the midst of this end-of-the-year and holiday season. We are remembering them tonight and paying tribute to those they loved and lost and also remembering them in our prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is indeed unique that on New Year's Eve we are in session. We still have some very important business we need to take care of for our Nation. We should not have put our country in this position. We should have acted well before December 31. We all understand that, but it is important that we get this work done in the remaining hours of this term of Congress.