

Shannel Wise, attending Howard University, interning in the office of Representative John Conyers, Jr.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST DENNIS J. PRATT

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC Dennis J. Pratt, who died on July 20, 2009, serving our Nation in Maydan Shahr, Afghanistan. Specialist Pratt, SPC Anthony M. Lightfoot, SPC Andrew J. Roughton, and SGT Gregory Owens, Jr., died of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle followed by an attack from enemy forces using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Dennis was born January 7, 1975, in Waterbury, CT. After graduating high school in Southington, CT, he moved to Arizona, Oklahoma, and then Texas, where he joined the military. He married Michelle Bryant on May 9, 2008 in Lawton, OK.

After completing basic training at Fort Sill, OK, Dennis was assigned to 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery (Strike), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY. A third-generation soldier and a 34-year-old father of three, Dennis was called "the old man" among comrades in his unit.

On January 6, 2009, he was deployed to Afghanistan as a field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist and reenlisted while there. "Dennis wasn't supposed to be at that place at that time, but he always told us that the Army and serving his country was where he wanted to be. He had found his niche in life in the military," said his mother.

Funeral services were held July 31, 2009, at the Fort Sill chapel, and he was laid to rest in Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK.

Dennis is survived by his wife Michelle, three children, Collin Kessler, Gabrielle Pratt, and Caden Bryant, parents, Jim and Sinammon Pratt, mother and father-in-law, Fred and Margaret Bryant, two brothers, Jim Pratt and wife Staci and their children Miranda, D.J. and Morgan and Kyle Hansan and wife Nicole and their daughter CaLista, one stepsister, Leanna Pratt, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Today we remember Army SPC Dennis J. Pratt, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TONY M. RANDOLPH

Madam President, I would also like to remember the life and sacrifices of PO2 Tony M. Randolph, who died on July 6, 2009, of injuries sustained when insurgents utilized improvised explosive devices to attack his convoy in Zabul province, Afghanistan.

Tony was born on September 27, 1986, in Santa Rosa, CA. Growing up in Oklahoma, he was a 2005 graduate of Henryetta High School in Henryetta,

OK, where he was a star athlete earning all-district honors in football.

"Tony was a leader. I truly believe he was a natural born leader," said Henryetta football coach Kenny Speer. He was known for his toughness. In high school one day, Coach Speer made him run lap after lap. All Tony had to do was say "yes sir" for the punishment to end. "I said, Tony, you say the two magic words to make you stop running. So he looks at me and goes, 'Si Senor,'" said Coach Kenny Speer.

Tony joined the Navy on September 28, 2005, and graduated from boot camp at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL, in December 2005. Other military assignments include Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA; Naval Dive and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL; Naval Explosive Ordnance Device School at Eglin Air Force Base, FL; and Explosive Ordnance Device Training and Evaluation Unit 1 in San Diego, CA.

He reported to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eight, Sigonella, Sicily, in March 2008 and deployed to Afghanistan in March 2009.

"Petty Officer Randolph brought an incredible sense of youthful spirit, professionalism and dedication to this unit," said CDR Todd Siddall, commanding officer of EODMU 8. "He will forever be remembered by his fellow Sailors as an example of true service to country and selfless sacrifice."

Funeral services were held July 15, 2009, at First Baptist Church in Henryetta, OK, and he was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery, Weleetka, OK.

"He loved his friends. He loved his family. He loved his country. That was Tony," said his mother, Peggy Randolph.

Tony is survived by his parents, Fred and Peggy Sue Randolph, his brothers, Shawn and Richard, and his sisters, Susan and Kelly.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Tony's family and friends. He lived a life of love for his family and country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice for our protection and freedom.

LANCE CORPORAL JONATHAN F. STROUD

Madam President, I also wish to remember Marine LCpl Jonathan F. Stroud, who died on July 31, 2009, of injuries sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents with small arms fire while on foot patrol in Garmsir District, Afghanistan.

Jonathan was born on October 10, 1988, in North Richland Hills, TX. He attended Cashion High School in Cashion, OK, where teachers remember him as exceptionally intelligent. Fellow students remember him as the class clown—goofy, gangly, dorky, the most honest, and one of the nicest guys you could ever meet.

After graduating from high school in 2007 he joined the Marines on April 14,

2008. He was assigned to 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC, as a combat engineer.

Funeral services were held on August 8, 2009, and he was laid to rest in Cashion Cemetery, Cashion, OK.

While many tears were shed, there was a brief moment of laughter when Jonathan's final request was played, "Another One Bites the Dust" by Queen. The song is to let everybody know that he's still with us and he's still trying to make us happy even after he's gone," a friend of his said.

Jonathan is survived by his wife Lacie E. Stroud of Jacksonville, NC, mother Mavis Stroud and Thomas "Smokey" Longan of Cashion, OK, sister Marissa L. Stroud of Oklahoma City, OK, father Bill R. Stroud of Bedford, TX, grandparents Virginia Crawford Light and Jim Light of Weatherford, TX, grandparents Bo and Helen Stroud of Hobbs, NM, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Jonathan's family and friends. He lived a life of love for his family and country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice for our protection and freedom.

LEGAL SERVICE CORPORATION'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, Friday, July 25, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, LSC. In 1974, Congress—with bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon—established LSC to be a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country. LSC is a private, non-profit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

It is LSC-funded attorneys who help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities.

I know firsthand the important work of the Legal Services Corporation. Before I was elected to Congress, I worked as a legal aid attorney in Polk County, IA. I experienced the challenges—and also the rewards—of representing people who otherwise would not have the legal assistance they deserve. And I developed a deep appreciation for the role that legal aid attorneys play within our system of justice.

Investing in civil legal aid helps ensure that we have equal justice under the law. That is a fundamental American value, and it is reflected both in the first line of our Constitution and in the closing words of our Pledge of Allegiance. As former Justice Lewis Powell said: “Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building. It is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society . . . it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.”

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, it is disturbing to note that more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance continue to be turned away because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this Nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I wish to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, LSC, which falls on Friday, July 25.

Established with bipartisan support in 1974, LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation funded by Congress that aims to provide access to civil legal assistance to Americans who would otherwise be unable to afford it. LSC is a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country and distributes over 90 percent of its annual Federal appropriation to over 130 local legal aid programs and close to 800 offices across every congressional district and territory.

Millions of Americans rely upon LSC-funded programs each year for help with their most basic civil legal needs. Every day, LSC-funded programs help low-income individuals and families fight illegal evictions, safe-

guard their financial health, and secure their veterans benefits. In my home State of Washington, LSC-backed programs have been helping survivors of the Oso mudslide get back up on their feet and rebuild their lives.

LSC-funded services are especially important for women across the country. Over 70 percent of legal aid clients are women and one-third of LSC-eligible cases involve family law issues such as domestic abuse, child support, and child custody.

Today, the need for LSC-supported programs and attorneys has never been greater. According to the Census Bureau, nearly one in five Americans qualifies for LSC-funded services. Yet recent studies show that due to financial constraints legal aid offices are forced to turn away more than half of the eligible individuals coming to them for help. As we mark this anniversary, I applaud the efforts of LSC, the programs and services funded by the corporation, and ask that we commit ourselves to ensuring that Americans of all backgrounds have access to adequate legal services. LSC is essential to protecting the lives and liberty of the most vulnerable Americans. We are a better nation for its 40 years of service and advocacy on their behalf.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, July 25, 2014, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). With bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon, LSC was established in 1974 as a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs and has nearly 800 offices that serve each of the 435 congressional districts and the U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as helping women get protection from abuse, mothers to obtain child support, families from unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, defending seniors against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits. In my home State, more than 25 percent of the population is eligible for LSC-funded legal services. The three programs funded by LSC served nearly 40,000 Louisianians and closed nearly 16,000 cases last year.

On this 40th anniversary, I congratulate and commend the Legal Services Corporation for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. Every day

that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security, and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this Nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

Mr. KING. Madam President, Friday, July 25, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In 1974, Congress—with bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon—established LSC to be a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country. LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

It is LSC-funded attorneys who help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities. LSC-funded attorneys provide critical legal services that would otherwise be unavailable.

In fact, I began my career as one of these attorneys. Beginning in 1969, I worked in Skowhegan, ME for a legal services provider called Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Although my time predated LSC, today Pine Tree is funded by LSC and continues to provide high-quality legal services to those in most need. I learned firsthand during this period that the work of LSC attorneys is a critical element of making real the promise of our country to our disadvantaged and disenfranchised citizens.

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, we need to do better than turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation

and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security, and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this Nation closer to living up to its commitment—chiseled in stone above the entrance to the Supreme Court building here in Washington, DC—“Equal Justice Under Law.”

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to the outstanding military service of a group of incredible Coloradans. At critical times in our Nation's history, these veterans each played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as guardians of peace and democracy through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to Honor Flight, these combat veterans came to Washington, DC to visit the national memorials built to honor those who served and those who fell. They've also come to share their experiences with later generations and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. I am proud to welcome them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to thank the volunteers from Honor Flight of Northern Colorado who made this trip possible. These volunteers are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to bring our veterans to Washington, DC is truly commendable.

I wish to publicly recognize the veterans who visited our Nation's capital, many seeing for the first time the memorials built as a tribute to their selfless service. Today, I honor these Colorado veterans on their visit to Washington, DC, and I join them in paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty.

Veterans from World War II include: Norlin Akers, Joseph Arthur, Donald Carlstrom, William Culp, Robert Davidson, Victor Ebel, Reginold Edwards, Arthur Engler, John Eschbaugh, Daniel Flanagan, Anthony Gance, Robert Gittinger, Paul Glasgow, Gene Hansen, Dean Hecker, Henry Jesse, Benjamin Jones, Robert King, Virgil Kiser, Fred Knipschild, James McIver, Richard Minges, Jack Moss, Ronald Reidy, Robert Ryan, Herbert Shelton, J Spaulding, William Spearman, Charles Sutter, Howard Swartz, Arpad Szallar, Eugene Turnbull, William Worth, and George Zuniga.

Veterans from the Korean war include: Dean Amdahl, Alfred Apodaca, Jennings Barr, Earl Bartlow, Elmer Bartlow, James Beach, John Bergquist, Eugene Burmester, Larry Carpenter, Glenn Chapman, William Chrismer, Harl Clark, Leonard Cooper, Sr., LaVerne Dietz, Alfred Duchene, Emanuel Eckas, Thelma Eckas, Donald Eckert, Jessie Ellis, Edwin Ellstrom, Samuel

Evans, Jr., Herman Friesenhahn, Henry Geisert, Paul Gill, Lloyd Gould, George Hare, Eugene Hemmerle, William Hock, Milton Hunholz, Willis Janssen, William King, Dean Kingcade, Wallace Kirchoff, Lawrence Kopecky, Richard Kounovsky, John Kreman, Kenneth Lamp, Robert Larsen, Dennis Larson, Lawrence Lawler, James Lee, William Leppert, Murdo MacLennan, Philip Mahoney, Charles Markesbery, Gene Mitchell, Robert Nagel, Dale Nelson, George Niedermayr, Willard Nordick, Richard Ochsner, Gerald Pearson, Donald Piermattei, Reid Pope, Paul Shapard, Howard Smallwood, Richard Spaulding, Donald Sterling, Harold Sulzbach, Robert Swanstrom, Betty Taylor, John Waddell, Donald Webb, Louie Wells, Russel White, Norman Wikler, Egbert Womack, Jr., George Woodman, and James Yenter.

Veterans from the Vietnam war include: Jon Ackerman, Isidro Arroyo, Ronald Britton, Steven Drake, Vearlon Forbes, James Freeland, Jimmie Garcia, Kenneth Hedger, Kenneth Hollingshead, Kenneth Jacobsen, Mark Kauffman, Terry Keating, Robert Klausner, William Miller, William Ortega, Marvin Pruitt, Robert Taylor, and Gene Thim.

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals—to leave their families to fight in unknown lands and put their lives on the line. Each one of these Coloradans bravely answered the call. They served our country with courage, and in return, let us ensure they are shown the honor and appreciation they deserve. Please join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Northern Colorado for their tremendous service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. MINKLER

• Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to recognize Thomas J. Minkler of Keene, NH, as he nears the end of his term as the 109th chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big “I.” Tom was installed as chairman of the Big “I” in September 2013, and he has been a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents across the country.

Tom is president of the Clark-Mortenson Agency, which is headquartered in Keene. Previously, he served as chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of New Hampshire, as New Hampshire director on the Big “I” national board, and as president of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents.

As I recognize Tom, I would also like to acknowledge his wife Heather Minkler. She serves as chief executive officer of the Clark-Mortenson Agency in Keene. Together, Tom and Heather are a truly dynamic team. They always find time to give back to the commu-

nity, serving as members of numerous charitable organizations and civic boards when they aren't managing their agency, which has 52 employees in five office locations in New Hampshire and Vermont.

I am pleased to join Tom's colleagues from across New Hampshire and the Nation in congratulating him as he finishes his term as chairman.●

CONGRATULATING REBECCA ESPINOZA

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I wish to congratulate one of Nevada's brightest students—Rebecca Espinoza—for being chosen to participate in the United Health Foundation's Diverse Scholars Forum in Washington, DC.

The United Health Foundation named scholars from 28 States throughout the Nation this year, and I am proud that Rebecca Espinoza, who attends the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is among them. The Diverse Scholars Initiative serves to improve our Nation's health care system by increasing the number of health care professionals from multicultural backgrounds. Rebecca's academic achievements thus far and her continued commitment to serving her community have made her a qualified candidate for the forum.

In an effort to continue her dedication and service to her community, Rebecca is currently majoring in social work at UNLV and hopes to one day become a clinical social worker operating a non-profit to help disadvantaged youth in the community. I commend Rebecca for her mission and recognize that professional social workers provide valuable mental health therapy, caregiver and family counseling, health education, program coordination, and case management services. They also seek to ensure full participation of all members of society by working with millions of individuals, their families, and communities to combat a range of social problems so that we may improve our Nation's health and potential. Rebecca has been presented with the opportunity to pursue her career as a health care professional, and I am confident that great things will come from her in all of her future endeavors.

On behalf of the residents of the Silver State, I am proud to recognize Rebecca for her accomplishments and contributions to our State. She undoubtedly represents Nevada's best and brightest. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this exceptional young Nevadan.●

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS JAEGER

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and honor the public service of Mr. Dennis Jaeger as the deputy forest supervisor for the Black Hills National Forest. He has been asked to serve as the new forest supervisor with the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest