

These ranges are not just a place to shoot. I cannot stress this enough as we are seeing more and more clubs closing down: We need more places to teach, enjoy and relax with fellow shooters.

So in the spirit of those Coloradans, I urge my colleagues to support the Sportsmen's Act of 2012 and put these bipartisan, commonsense proposals to work for America's sportsmen as soon as possible.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Iowa has lost another native son fighting for our liberty on foreign soil. I am sad to announce that on Monday, November 5, just as our Nation was preparing to cast our ballots in the election, PFC Brandon Buttry of Shenandoah, IA, gave his life defending our freedom. He was only 19 years old but had felt a calling to join the military since he was a young child. I thank God for such patriots as Brandon Buttry. Without such brave and selfless Americans in each new generation, our liberty and way of life could not have been sustained.

My prayers go out to his parents, Don and Pam, his many brothers and sisters, and all those who knew and loved Brandon. He is described as having a mischievous smile and a twinkle in his eye as well as a slight contrarian streak. By all accounts, he was liked by all who knew him, and I know he will be missed very deeply in his community.

I understand he had an interest in American history, and his love of his country is evident from his deep desire to serve. He has now given the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his fellow countrymen, and his name will be immortalized alongside all those other American patriots who have laid down their lives in the name of freedom.

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise to commend the members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK, upon the completion of their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I had the chance to be there in person when part of the brigade arrived at Fort Richardson. It was great to see our soldiers reunited with their families after so long apart. I was glad to be there last year when the 4/25 deployed, and I am pleased to offer my best wishes now as we celebrate their return home.

The 4/25 accomplished incredible things during its time in Afghanistan. Each and every member of the brigade—all 3,500 Spartans—carried the fight to those who would do our Nation harm. In doing so, they have made the world a safer place for those who love freedom and democracy.

However, those victories were not without sacrifice. During this deployment, eight brave Spartans were killed in action—PFC Nathan T. Davis, PFC Vincent J. Ellis, SSG Thomas K. Fogarty, SSG Carl E. Hammar, CPL Ethan J. Martin, PFC Richard L. McNulty III, SGT Brian L. Walker, and SPC Jeffrey L. White. We will never forget them.

I would also like to recognize the families of the 4/25. As we all know, our soldiers simply could not do their jobs without the support of their loved ones. You are the ones who wrote letters and emails, sent care packages, and kept things running smoothly back home.

When a soldier raises their right hand and swears in, their family joins the Army, too. Thank you all for your service.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I commend the 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, for their dedication, commitment and sacrifice. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid.

To both the Spartans and their families, thank you again for everything you do. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.●

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John V. Klobofski, a veteran of World War II. It is my honor to share the story of John's military service because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

John was born in Cleveland, MT, in 1919. After graduating from Chinook High School, he enlisted in the National Guard, where he served for 3 years.

He then attended classes at Northern Montana College and worked for the Weather Bureau in Havre.

John reenlisted in 1940 and was assigned to the 41st Infantry Division, made up of guardsmen from across the West. As a member of the 163rd Infantry Regiment, John was a part of the campaign to capture New Guinea, which was then under Japanese control. Dubbed Operation Persecution, his unit landed ashore at Aitape on April 22, 1944. Within a number of days, the unit had captured and secured two

airfields, and supplies were being delivered to the island.

Because of how quickly they were able to seize these airfields, John's unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

But fighting continued in the region for several days and many men, including John, were killed. SSG John Klobofski died on April 30, 1944.

On October 16, 2012, in the presence of his family, it was my great honor to finally present to John's family his Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

It was also my honor to present an American Defense Service Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Two Bronze Stars, a World War II Victory Medal, and a Combat Infantryman Badge First Award.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.

Mr. President, today I also wish to honor Alan R. Shennum, a veteran of the Vietnam war. It is my honor to share the story of Alan's military service because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Alan was born in Helena, MT, in 1946. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army and trained at Fort Wolters in Texas before attending flight school at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Alan was sent to Vietnam in September of 1968, where he flew helicopters as part of the Fourth Army Division.

In October of 1968, Alan was wounded while flying a combat operation. Because his injuries were not severe, he returned to duty and flew over 30 missions in all. Warrant Officer Alan Shennum retired from service in 1971 but never received his medals.

On October 17, 2012, in the presence of his family, it was my great honor to finally present to Alan the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Aviator Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

It was also my honor to present an Air Medal with 32 Oak Leaf Clusters, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, and two Overseas Service Bars.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I also wish to commend the members of B Company, 1st Battalion, Airborne, 143rd Infantry Regiment of the Alaska Army National Guard upon the completion of their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I had the chance to be there in person when the company deployed, and I am pleased to offer my best wishes now as we celebrate their safe return home.