

in 2000, Ronald left home to begin full-time duty at Fort Carson in Colorado. He was assigned to the 502d Personnel Service Battalion, 43d Area Support Group.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Ronald Allen, Jr.'s sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Ronald's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Ronald Allen, Jr. in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Ronald's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I also wish today to honor the accomplishments of the Hoosier soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment, from the Indiana National Guard, who have become the first National Guard battalions in the Nation to receive the Combat Infantry award since the Korean war.

The Combat Infantry award is a highly coveted honor given by the Department of the Army to soldiers who have satisfactorily performed infantry duties as part of a unit that participated in ground combat. The Infantry badge honors soldiers who have operated under the worst conditions, yet still successfully performed his or her mission in a combat environment. In addition, medics who supported the soldiers will receive the Combat Medical Badge. I am immensely proud that these Indiana battalions have become the first units in more than 50 years to earn this distinction.

All members of the battalions will receive the Combat Infantry award as a symbol of our Nation's gratitude for the bravery they demonstrated and the sacrifices they and their families have made during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment, are the first Indiana National Guard units to go into combat since World War II. As this award recognizes, they have made an exemplary

return to battle, honoring themselves and their home State of Indiana through their efforts.

The battalions have been stationed in Iraq for more than 5 months. During their time in Iraq, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, have provided security for the Talil Air Force Base, a key airstrip in Southern Iraq. The unit took over responsibility for the base just days after the war's deadliest battle took place on April 1 to secure control of the airstrip. The members of the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment, have engaged in a wide range of missions, including guarding the Baghdad Airport, one of the most strategically important sites in Iraq.

I am proud to honor the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293d Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 152d Infantry Regiment. The thoughts and prayers of all Hoosiers are with them as they continue their role in rebuilding Iraq. May God watch over the soldiers as they complete their duty and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I further rise today to honor the heroic service of United States Army Cpl Damien Luten, 24, of Indianapolis, IN. Corporal Luten was a member of the U.S. Army's 507th Maintenance Company, which crossed into Iraq from Kuwait on March 21, 2003, as part of a convoy supporting a patriot missile battalion, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 23, 2003, the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed by Iraqi military forces and irregulars in the city of An Nasiriyah. According to the U.S. Army, Corporal Luten's convoy found itself in a desperate situation due to a navigational error caused by the combined effects of the operational pace, acute fatigue, isolation and the harsh environmental conditions. The tragic results of this error placed the soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company in a torrent of fire from Iraqi soldiers who attacked the isolated convoy.

Eleven of the company's 33 soldiers were killed in combat or later died from injuries. Seven soldiers were captured in the attack, including PFC Jessica Lynch who was later rescued by American Marines. This toll, though devastating, may have been much greater had it not been for the valorous acts of soldiers such as Corporal Luten, who sought to protect his unit by attempting to return fire with the unit's only .50-caliber machine gun. However, the machine gun failed and as Corporal Luten was reaching for his M-16, he was wounded in the right leg by enemy fire. Corporal Luten has been awarded the Purple Heart for the wound he received in combat.

As I reflect on Corporal Luten's service, I am reminded of a quote by Douglas MacArthur:

The soldier, above all other people prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

The United States will be eternally grateful for the courage and bravery Corporal Luten exhibited on the field of battle.

Corporal Luten is expected to return to his base in Fort Bliss, TX, where he will have at least one more surgery on his leg. This will be the ninth surgery Corporal Luten has undergone to repair his injured leg. If Corporal Luten has his way, his injury will not mark the end of his military service. He plans to re-enlist and enter the Army's Chaplain Corps when his current tour concludes in April 2004.

I know that all Hoosiers share my deep sense of pride in Corporal Luten and all of the men and women of our Armed Forces from Indiana who safeguard our freedom. My thoughts and prayers are with him as he continues his recovery and begins his new service in the Army.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, on rollcall vote No. 319, I was recorded as voting aye. I intended to vote "no" on the passage of H.R. 2738, the Chilean Free Trade Agreement. I ask unanimous consent to change my vote. This will not change the outcome of the vote.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and recognize Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2003. As well as celebrating Women's Equality Day, this day is also a celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment Campaign.

This year's celebration being hosted by the Advisory Boards on the Status of Women of Essex, Bergen, and Union Counties in New Jersey is the 155th observance of Women's Equality Day.

One of the most important people in the fight for women's equality was Alice Paul. Alice Paul was born in Mt. Laurel, NJ, and spent her entire life fighting for women's rights. She believed that men and women should be equal partners in society. She led the final, successful campaign for a woman's right to vote. She inspired thousands to join the struggle as she stood up to Congress and the President.

Understanding that securing the right to vote was only the first step, Alice Paul authored the Equal Rights Amendment and drafted and lobbied for gender equality language in the United Nations Charter and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Alice Paul is a great example that one person can make a difference and motivate others to take up a noble cause.

Today, because of Alice Paul and numerous other women who preceded and followed her, we're getting closer to true equality for women.

It is important that we recognize Women's Equality Day. Since the days

of women's suffrage, we have witnessed a wonderful growth in the influence and contributions of women to our politics, our economy, and our culture. Although women are not yet full partners in American society, we will continue the work of Alice Paul and remember her on Women's Equality Day.●

CELEBRATING THE "WOMEN OF L/A"

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to an awards dinner being held in the Lewiston/Auburn communities of Maine. This event, "Celebrating the Women of L/A," honors those women who have demonstrated, through their accomplishments and their caring, a significant impact on their community.

The women honored in the Twin Cities' celebration have accomplished a great deal. Women across the country have soared through space, raised children, developed life-saving medicines, cared for a loved one, established businesses, and quietly improved the lives of those in their families and their communities. This special Maine dinner not only recognizes the business or scientific accomplishments of women, but also, all that these honorees bring to their families and their communities.

Those submitting nominations were asked to describe briefly what it was about the nominee that made her such a special and important part of the community. Here are a few examples: "She has coordinated charity work of many organizations such as the collection of money, clothing, coal, wood, groceries, stoves, furniture, and toys for the Relief Society; organized the sponsorship for a maternity room and children's room at Central Maine Medical Center; and selected children to receive assistance from churches."

"Mom works hard. She helps me. She takes me swimming. She gets me toys. She takes me shopping. We have girl-time. We go to the movie theater. She makes me dinner. She helps me clean. We cuddle on the couch and watch movies."

"When you need her, she's there. When you're not sure you want anyone around, she's still there for you—especially with her children. She's had to cope with the tragic death of her mother and had many set backs, and still she has maintained the strength to be there for all of us."

"She is a lifeline. She has been there for me through several tough times in my life, lending her support or sometimes just a sympathetic ear. She has never judged me, as others have, for my less than brilliant choices in life. No matter what the cost, she is always there to defend my decisions to anyone who may have something to say. Though her schedule is busy, she always makes time for me and for that I value her friendship."

"She is a professional in her field. She takes her job very seriously and al-

ways gives it her all to help people. She is a very loyal, dedicated individual who works hard for what she has."

"Mothers influence their children's lives in profound ways. My mom's influence has been no exception to that statement. She lived through the nightmare of seeing two brothers seriously injured during World War II and married a man that served during the Korean War. Yet, as far back as I can remember, my Mom was always cheerful and optimistic."

"My mother has never had time for herself, and now has her own health needs that she must attend to. Nevertheless, she still tends to the needs of others before taking care of herself. Not only has she mourned her husband, father and mother in law, but she has also had to mourn her mother and her only sibling, a brother. My mother has made the most of the sorrow and hardships and she has been an inspiration to so many people, and a wonderful role model for all of her children."

There are so many more testimonials that were received on behalf of the honorees. They speak to the importance and influence that these women have had on their families, their friends, and their communities.

I am honored to pay tribute to the following Women of L/A: Judy Merced, Crystal Brissette, Sandy Barnies, Linda Saucier, Gail L. Richard, Lorraine Yvonne Poulin Sheehy, and Etta Y. Mitchell.

They each are so deserving of this recognition, and I congratulate them as they are recognized for their efforts in the home, the workplace, and in the community. These women represent so many others for whom no public praise has been made. I offer my thanks and best wishes to all the women of L/A for making our community such a strong and vibrant place to live, work, and raise a family.●

SALUTE TO ROBERT C. WOOD

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize and honor Robert C. Wood, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and president of the University of Massachusetts, as he celebrates his 80th birthday this month.

I first met Robert Wood when he was a member of President Kennedy's Cambridge "Brain Trust" in 1960, and I have had the pleasure of consulting with him on many issues since that time.

Robert C. Wood is a remarkable man who has made even more remarkable contributions to the people of this Nation through a combination of outstanding scholarship and public service. He has worked tirelessly to improve opportunities for all, be it in obtaining a high quality education, ensuring access to housing for low-income families, or developing policies and programs that guide urban development and local governments across the country.

Professor Wood was raised in north Florida during the Great Depression and, along with his two brothers, learned the values of education and hard work from his mother, who was a school teacher, and his father, a shoe salesman. A full scholarship enabled him to attend Princeton University, but his studies were interrupted by service as an infantry sergeant in World War II where he saw action in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, the G.I. Bill enabled him to earn a doctorate in Government and Political Economy at Harvard University, and he returned to Florida to apply his professional skills to that state's Legislative Reference Bureau.

He was soon recruited from Florida to the Federal Bureau of the Budget during the Truman Administration and, after that, took a teaching appointment at Harvard. This was a critical time in the development of new ideas about American cities, and Robert Wood was a major author of these new ideas. His first book, "Suburbia, its People and Their Politics," took the term "suburbia" and placed it firmly into the center of political thinking and analysis. His next book, "1400 Governments: The Political Economy of the New York Region" is regarded as a classic in analysis of the dynamics of local governments and the factors that inhibit their effectiveness. It was at this time that Professor Wood helped my brother John draft a speech on the American City that he used in a rally in Pittsburgh during his 1960 presidential campaign. It was the first speech on American cities ever delivered by a presidential candidate.

We in Washington took note, and Professor Wood was asked to chair the task force that recommended the establishment of a new Cabinet level Department, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He then went on to be the first Undersecretary of the new Department, serving under the first ever African American Cabinet Secretary, Secretary Robert C. Weaver, and succeeding him as Secretary in 1969. During these years, Robert Wood along with Secretary Weaver supported and implemented key legislative initiatives that dramatically improved and expanded federally assisted housing and urban development programs in the United States, including the Model Cities Act of 1966, the Housing Act of 1968 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. These critical programs in urban development continued long after the Johnson administration, as well as future administrations, Democratic and Republican alike.

Professor Wood returned to Boston and continued his work with a focus on education and the expansion of opportunity to all. He became President of the University of Massachusetts where he oversaw the development of a new medical school in Worcester and a new campus in Boston. He particularly fostered a college of Public and Community Service at the Boston Campus. In