

But Stars and Stripes raised questions about what those visiting dignitaries saw in Iraq. "Many soldiers, including several officers, allege that VIP visits from the Pentagon and Capitol Hill are only given hand-picked troops to meet with during their tours of Iraq," the newspaper said in its interview with Sanchez. "The phrase 'Dog and Pony Show' is usually used. Some troops even go so far as to say they've been ordered not to talk to VIPs because leaders are afraid of what they might say."

The newspaper also noted in that interview that its reporters were told that some soldiers who had complained of morale problems had faced disciplinary actions known as Article 15s, which can result in reprimand, extra duties and forfeiture of pay. Sanchez said he did not know of any such punishments, but he added that they would have been handled at a lower level.

The paper's project recorded significant differences in the morale of various units, but overall found that Army troops tended to sound more dissatisfied than Air Force personnel and Marines, and that reservists were the most troubled.

Uncertainty about when they are returning home was a major factor in dampening morale, according to the newspaper. The interviews were conducted at a time when some reserve and regular Army units were learning that their tours had been extended. The Pentagon has since sought to provide a clearer rotation plan and has begun granting troops two-week home leaves.

Although Pentagon officials say they have seen no sign yet of a rise in the number of troops deciding against reenlisting, the survey suggested that such a surge may be coming soon. A total of 49 percent of those questioned said it was "very unlikely" or "not likely" that they would remain in the military after they complete their current obligations. In the past, enlistment rates tended to drop after conflicts, but many defense experts and noncommissioned officers have warned of the potential for a historically high exodus, particularly of reservists.

HONORING ALBERTSON'S INCORPORATED OF BOISE, ID

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a quiet patriot from Idaho. Our National Guard and Reserve troops who have been called up to fight in Afghanistan and Iraq have left behind not only families, but in many cases, full-time jobs. Many employers go the extra mile to provide support to their deployed employees, their families, and communities. One such employer-patriot is Albertson's Incorporated, headquartered in Boise, ID.

Albertson's Incorporated recently received recognition from the Department of Defense for its extraordinary ongoing efforts in support of deployed employees, and those employees' families. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, has chosen Albertson's Incorporated as one of only four companies nationwide to receive the 2003 ESGR Home Front Award. The Department of Defense recognizes the efforts of these companies to take steps such as providing pay differential, the continuation of benefits when their employees are mobilized, and a willingness to advocate Guard and Reserve service among their industry peers.

With many employees currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, Albertson's has shown dedication to the values of freedom and democracy, and perseverance in light of limited personnel resources. Albertson's has translated patriotic words into action, and shown that corporations as well as individuals can lend a helping hand to the men and women of the Armed Forces, their families, and our Nation as a whole.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER JASON PRATT

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I honor one of Nebraska's finest who recently gave his life in the line of duty. His service and sacrifice are an inspiration to us all and a reminder of the appreciation we have for our law enforcement officers and first responders.

Officer Jason Pratt began his career with the Omaha Police Department in 1996 at the age of 23. He served honorably for 7 years and 2 days before being tragically killed in the line of duty on September 11, 2003. During his years on the force, his commitment and energy were recognized several times by his fellow officers, community members and superiors.

In February of 1997, Officer Pratt began work as a patrol officer. By April of that year—less than a year on the job—members of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association were already noticing Jason for the work he and his crew did in the area. Jason's dedication to service did not wane and in May of 2001, he was recognized by the Neighborhood Association again for his efforts.

Jason followed that service with a year in the vice squad, a division of the intelligence unit. During this time, he kept family areas, such as neighborhood parks, safer for our families. Finally, he also spent time in the emergency response unit, placing himself in extreme danger on numerous occasions by taking high-risk offenders off the street.

Officer Pratt will be well remembered for being an officer who always came as back up to help out other officers. In September of 2001, he assisted bike officers with a traffic stop that ultimately led to the suspect being booked on a number of felony charges. In another instance, in April of 2003, he was responding to a house fire where an adult and two children were trapped. Poor weather conditions delayed a second fire unit so Officer Pratt assisted firefighters in carrying gear up to the house. Because of his actions, there were no further injuries that day.

Officer Pratt lost his life while trying to make our city safer. His sacrifices, and those of his family, are another reminder of the risks taken by police officers across the Nation to keep our cities and towns safe. Americans honor their commitment and we stand shoulder to shoulder with them when one is struck down.

I am proud to have witnessed the outpouring of support for his family given by the people of Omaha. His two children, Madison and Jordyn, and his wife Stacy, have lost their father and husband and he can never be replaced. But the people of Omaha have shown again and again that they will do whatever necessary to help the Pratt family in the weeks, months and years to come. Officer Pratt will not be forgotten and all of Omaha will work to ensure his family is safe.

Jason Pratt died doing what he always wanted to do. He died protecting his and our community through public service alongside his friends and fellow officers. In his memory, those officers will continue to serve every day knowing that if he were still alive; he would be standing at their side. I join with my fellow Nebraskans in thanking Officer Pratt and his family for all they have given to us and pledging to remember his work and his life and the difference he made in our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MOTHER TERESA

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mother Teresa and to acknowledge her upcoming beatification of the Vatican. The process leading up to her beatification has been the shortest in modern history. In early 1999—less than 2 years after Mother Teresa's death—Pope John Paul II waived the normal 5-year waiting period and allowed the immediate opening of her canonization process. The rule has traditionally been used to allow for a more objective look at a person's life and achievements. However, the life and works of Mother Teresa were so astounding that Pope John Paul II was convinced that he did not need 5 years to objectively determine that she should be beatified.

Mother Teresa, the "Saint of the Gutters," was born in what is now Macedonia in 1910. She took her final vows as a nun in 1937, and in 1946, while riding a train to the mountain town of Darjeeling to recover from suspected tuberculosis, she received, as she says "a call within a call" from God to, "serve Him among the poorest of the poor." And it is in this capacity that the world came to know of Mother Teresa's endless charity and love for all human life. She confronted this monumental task one hovel at a time. She created a religious order to help the aged, the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the disabled to live and die with dignity. She received approval from the Pope to establish the Missionaries of Charity, which focused much of its attention on giving comfort to the dying. The year before she died, Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity were operating 517 missions in more than 100 countries. In addition, she opened schools, orphanages, and homes for the needy, as well as homes for AIDS victims, and hospices.

Mother Teresa was a woman who fought passionately for dignity for all