

final moments before he passed away on November 26.

At his memorial service in Camden, Sgt. Smith's coffin, surrounded by red, white, and blue flowers, was placed at the front of his high school gymnasium. Throughout the service and in the aftermath of his son's passing, Donald Ray Smith described the outpouring of love from the community as "remarkable." It was a testament to the gratitude of a community fully aware of the ultimate sacrifice paid by their fallen Arkansas soldier in the name of freedom.

In the 24 years Michael Smith was with us, the impressions he made and the lives he touched will never be forgotten. Although he will be deeply missed by us all, it is his selflessness, his courage, and his heart that we will remember when we think of him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Donald Ray, Deborah, Lai, and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones.

SERGEANT JEREMY R. WRIGHT

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I speak today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude in honor of the life of a brave young man from Shelbyville, IN. SGT Jeremy R. Wright, 31 years old, died on January 3 during a patrol when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by a roadside bomb near Kabul. With his entire life before him, Jeremy risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 1992 graduate of Southwestern High School, Jeremy went on to attend Wabash College where he won the NCAA Division III Great Lakes regional title in 1993 for distance running and graduated with honors as a chemistry major. Jeremy joined the Army in 2002, pursuing his long-time fascination with the military. Like most things Jeremy set his mind to, he was successful in his military career, becoming a member of the elite Green Beret. Wabash spokesman Jim Amidon shared memories of the former student with the Associated Press, saying his "rare combination of intellect, courage, discipline and passion made him a naturally brilliant distance runner . . . Those are the same qualities that made him a fine soldier, too, the kind of officer our country needs in the military."

Jeremy was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis, WA. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Jackie Nickel and his father, Dale Wright.

Today, I join Jeremy's family, his friends and the entire Shelbyville community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Jeremy, a memory that will burn

brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Jeremy was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. Today and always, Jeremy will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Jeremy'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 Jeremy's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jeremy R. Wright in the official record of the United States 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 Jeremy'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 be with all of you, as I know He is with Jeremy.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY EHRENFREUND

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor and pay tribute to a distinguished individual, Jerry Ehrenfreund, who served as Chief Clerk in the Office of Printing Services from 1985 to 1990.

Mr. Ehrenfreund spent a lifetime in dedicated service to his country, serving in the Army and working for the Federal Government. In 1969, he began working for the Government Printing Office and worked on the staff which compiled the Federal Register. Shortly thereafter he was detailed to the Senate where he became the staff printer on the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and, later, the staff printer for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Ehrenfreund truly exemplified the positive work ethic and dedication to his job and was named the Chief Clerk in the Office of Printing Services in 1985. In 1990 he retired from the staff of the Secretary of the Senate and retired to Katy, TX.

Mr. Ehrenfreund passed away on July 14, 2004. His work in the Senate deserves special recognition, and I know

my colleagues will join me in honoring him. Mr. Ehrenfreund was held in high regard by all who knew him and will be deeply missed by his wife of 48 years, Sylvia, their two daughters and five grandchildren.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I recognize the fundraising efforts of the National Funeral Directors Association NFDA. The NFDA is the largest funeral service organization in the world and is dedicated to funeral service professionalism and quality.

The recent tsunami tragedy in South Asia has created a desperate need for monetary donations to charitable organizations participating in the relief effort. In a direct response to President Bush's nationwide appeal to assist tsunami victims, the NFDA has established the Funeral Service Asian Relief Fund. The NFDA has asked its members, funeral service suppliers, and domestic and international allied organizations to contribute to this endeavor. All contributions will be directed to an appropriate charitable organization.

The generosity and caring of the funeral service industry was demonstrated during past humanitarian crises such as the September 11th terrorist attack and the Oklahoma City bombing. This new effort further proves the commitment of the NFDA to utilizing its resources for the benefit of those experiencing great hardship. I commend the charity of the members of the National Funeral Directors Association during this time of need in South Asia.●

HAYES CENTER AND VILLA HAYES

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, Hayes Center is in the southwestern part of my home state of Nebraska. Villa Hayes is in the southwestern part of the Republic of Paraguay. I rise today to highlight the unusual connection between these two towns, named for the same American President, which have forged strong ties despite the distance between them. Thanks to a historian's efforts, these towns share a bond that affirms the power of international friendship and the enduring legacy of President Rutherford B. Hayes.

In 1878, President Hayes arbitrated a boundary dispute between Paraguay and Argentina, awarding new territory to Paraguay. The country named a department and a city, near the national capital of Asuncion, for him. John Fatherley of Chicopee, MA, is a historian who studies President Hayes. During college studies in Paraguay, he learned about the country's respect for our 19th President, whose decision in 1878 enlarged Paraguay by 30 percent.

Mr. Fatherley has since sought to promote ties between Hayes Center and Villa Hayes. He has traveled to Nebraska to educate Hayes Center students about the President for whom their town is named. He has also brought documents on President Hayes from the U.S. to Paraguay. In return, Villa Hayes presented Mr. Fatherley with its town seal, which he donated to the Hayes Center Historical Society in Nebraska.

Nebraskans are fortunate to share this connection with our South American friends and to have benefited over the years from Mr. Fatherley's admirable efforts. He has promoted international cooperation between Nebraskans and Paraguayans and honored the memory of a president too often forgotten. In an age when the well-being of any nation depends on so many others, it is more important than ever to strengthen the ties between Americans and our fellow human beings around the world.

I wish to express my admiration, therefore, for Mr. Fatherley and the towns of Hayes Center, NE, and Villa Hayes, Paraguay. Mr. Fatherley's work has revealed a small but important piece of common ground between the United States and Paraguay. He has also taught students in a small Nebraska community about the world beyond their walls. Both these things are essential to continued American prosperity and leadership in these challenging times.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the citizens of Warrensburg, MO, in celebration of their 150th anniversary as an incorporated town.

The town of Warrensburg was incorporated in 1855 as a community proud of its heritage and loyal to the ideals, traditions and institutions that have contributed to the success and growth of the city.

Warrensburg prides itself as being a self-contained city with a vibrant employment base, excellent education system, active cultural scene, and many civic events and activities for residents to enjoy.

Warrensburg serves as the county seat for Johnson County, and is currently home to 17,075 residents who are served by an excellent school system which has been accredited with Distinction in Performance by the Missouri State Board of Education. The Warrensburg School System has also been named a Gold Medal School, ranking them among the Nation's top 18 percent of schools.

The community is also the proud home of Central Missouri State University, which has provided quality post-secondary education for more than 130 years. This comprehensive university annually serves nearly 14,000 students from all over the State, Nation, and

world, and offers more than 150 areas of study at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The city's heartland work ethic and community pride make it a great place to do business, with several local companies which have grown into national and international prominence aided by the exceptional workforce and affordable business climate. Warrensburg is home of EnerSys, G.E. Transportation Systems, ThyssenKrupp Stahl Company, Swisher Mower, Bomag Paving Products, and the world headquarters of both Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity and Carlyle Van Lines.

Warrensburg is also proud of its rich diversity, with over 35 different languages spoken within the Warrensburg School District, and over 30 faith communities gathering for worship and service each week.

Warrensburg is also the boyhood home of John William "Blind" Boone, the legendary ragtime composer and piano player; home of the first gasoline-powered, push lawn mower invented by Leonard Goodall; the original self-propelled mower and the zero-turning radius riding lawn mower both invented by Max Swisher, who remains a Warrensburg resident; and Errett Lobban Cord, inventor of Cord Automobiles.

Finally, Warrensburg is also the hometown of Old Drum, the hunting dog for which Senator George Graham Vest's "Eulogy on the Dog" was delivered, coining the idea that "man's best friend is his dog."

I am honored to share Warrensburg's proud history and its sesquicentennial anniversary as a town with my colleagues, and I wish the people of Warrensburg all the best for the future.●

JOHN SACKETT RETIREMENT

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, after years of faithful service and dedication to his work at Argonne National Lab, a friend and respected Idahoan, John Sackett, is retiring to pursue a quieter life with his family. John served in a number of positions in the Lab over the past 34 years, the most recent being director of Argonne National Lab West located at Idaho National Environment and Engineering Lab in southeast Idaho. He has earned international recognition and respect for his work in the areas of nuclear safety and advanced reactor design.

I have had the privilege of working with John the entire time I have served in Congress. Over the past 12 years, I have witnessed his steady leadership, commitment to the goals of the Lab and DOE. John and I share a fervent belief in the role of nuclear energy and research in economic, technological, security and energy sectors.

Perhaps what is most remarkable is that despite the tremendous demands of his work at Argonne, he finds the time to give back to his community, serving on numerous medical and eco-

nomic boards and councils in eastern Idaho as well as on the advisory boards of both the University of Idaho and Idaho State University.

Argonne National Lab's loss is certainly John's family's gain, as well as the gain of any organization in which he decides to invest his retirement energy. He has my best wishes in his retirement.●

HONORING DAVID L. DAY ON HIS RETIREMENT

● Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor David L. Day on his retirement from 35 years of public service as the Deputy Engineer for Programs and Project Management with the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his 35 years of Federal service, 33 with the Corps of Engineers, from 1969 to present, Dave held a clear vision and achieved a remarkable string of successes in furthering the mission of the Nashville District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dave has earned a reputation of being honest, fair, and professional with his coworkers. He began his career with the Nashville District in October 1998 when he was selected as the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management and is the senior civilian for the district with more than 800 employees and a \$140 million annual operating budget. The district provides Federal engineering, planning, construction, project management, real estate, and environmental services. His responsibilities included budgeting, planning, and executing Civil Works and Interagency and International Services programs under the project management business process.

Dave Day has distinguished himself as a leader in many ways during his tenure. He continuously has encouraged a culture of professional improvement, fostering team leadership and activity to meet district goals, while at the same time, taking care of the people with whom he works. Dave had a strong, positive impact on the morale of the district's Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division employees as well as Project Delivery Team members. He always made time to recognize deserving individuals or discuss any problem that arose. His genuine concern for every member of his team was reflected in his many messages, letters, awards, and hallway greetings.

Dave oversaw the operation of the Account Executive Program, which the Nashville District uses to establish and strengthen relationships with customers and find ways to meet regional and national needs. He also led the effort to partner, both formally and informally, with the States of Tennessee and Kentucky, Tennessee Valley Authority, TVA, Southeastern Power Association, SEPA, Tennessee River Valley Authority, TRVA, Tenn-Tom Waterways, Metro Nashville, and other