

Sergeant Graham, 25, leaves behind a wife and two small children. He was known for his kindness and willingness to help others, often playing soccer with neighborhood children.

Sergeant Graham was assigned to 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, an antitank unit based in Broken Arrow, OK. He was deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force to provide support in the ongoing reconstruction and security efforts. While serving there he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Selective Marine Corps Reserve medal. On Monday, August 1, he was killed as a result of a suicide bombing while conducting combat operations near Hit, a city about 85 miles northwest of Baghdad.

The soldiers, friends, and family who are left behind remember a true example of professionalism and patriotism. Sergeant Graham died a true hero, worthy of the respect and gratitude of every American. None among us can dispute the tragedy of plans unrealized and ambitions unfulfilled, and our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Graham's wife and family. Though we are all grieved by the loss of this soldier, we will never cease to be proud of him. His sacrifice echoes across the world and in our hearts. He was a true Oklahoman, and a true American—Sgt James Graham, III.

#### OPERATION HOME DELIVERY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Hurricane Katrina has caused unprecedented destruction and suffering for so many people in this country. The rest of the Nation has been extremely generous to help people who are suffering from the devastation caused by Katrina.

One area where people need help is rebuilding housing. To help Katrina victims, Habitat for Humanity International is launching "Operation Home Delivery," to provide assistance and rebuilding opportunities in New Orleans and elsewhere along the gulf coast. A major component of this operation is the "home in a box project."

The plan is to "pre-build" the frame of a home. The house will be assembled to ensure the construction, and, then, the frame will be taken apart and the components placed, along with other necessary construction materials, in a container and shipped to an area along the gulf coast or New Orleans where families, volunteers, and builders will rebuild the home.

"Operation Home Delivery" homes will mirror traditional Habitat homes by being simple and affordable, providing approximately 1,100 to 1,300 square feet of living space. The estimated cost of a house for the gulf region is only \$85,000. This includes all components to completely build the home and costs associated with transportation, delivery, utilities and site preparation. The first project in "Operation Home Delivery" will be this month in Jackson, MS.

I am asking each Senator to go back to your respective States and seek assistance for Habitat for this outstanding project. Designated dollars for "Operation Home Delivery" will purchase specific pieces of the house. For example, \$35 will buy roof shingles or \$100 will buy a front door. These gifts will allow people not only to have a home but to begin to rebuild their lives.

Habitat for Humanity is working to provide hope for the future to the victims of Katrina with this worthy project.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On September 22, 2004, a 36-year-old man was stabbed several times outside his home by two men in New Orleans, LA. The apparent motivation for the attack was the man's sexual orientation.

I would note that recently in the House, hate crimes legislation was passed in a bipartisan vote. I strongly believe that we must also move similar legislation in the Senate. In the months ahead I look forward to working with Senator KENNEDY as we continue our work in passing a hate crimes bill.

#### "SHOW-ME" LEADERSHIP THAT SAVED LIVES

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, the tragedy that has befallen the gulf coast region, its impact on families and communities, has been truly staggering. Our thoughts and prayers are with each individual who has been affected by this hurricane. Yet even in our darkest hours and our most difficult days once again we have seen the emergence of an American spirit that takes pride in triumphing in the face of great adversity. The examples of this American spirit are too numerous to document. We have seen examples in every neighborhood, every city, and every state in the nation as Americans all over the country have rallied around those who are most in need. In Missouri, we have opened our doors and welcomed displaced families to our homes, our communities, our churches, our schools, our health centers, and our hospitals.

Today, I would especially like to highlight the efforts to bring some of New Orleans' littlest victims to safety in Kansas City. Confronted with no electricity, shortage of supplies and the growing security concerns in the

face of looters, the New Orleans Children's Hospital was forced to evacuate and seek safer locations for all of their young patients. In the great spirit of the Show-Me State, the dedicated leadership and staff of Kansas City Children's Mercy Hospital didn't sit back and wait to be asked to help. Instead, Children's Mercy President and CEO Rand O'Donnell picked up the phone and called the CEO of the New Orleans Children's and asked how he could help. Children's Mercy threw open their doors to make room for 24 of these children ranging in age from 3 months to 23 years, from New Orleans Children's Hospital. These patients are being treated for a variety of conditions including asthma, cystic fibrosis, leukemia, kidney failure, and broken bones.

With the help of the Missouri National Guard, two C-130 military transport planes transported the patients and family members from New Orleans. The C-130 planes, part of the 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph, MO, were already in the region as part of national hurricane relief efforts. Children's Mercy also sent a smaller, fixed-wing aircraft capable of transporting two patients at a time. That plane and the Children's Mercy crew were used to transport a critically ill child to another children's hospital. Children's Mercy and MAST ambulances helped transport the children from the airport to Children's Mercy and Children's Mercy South. About 30 parents and other family members traveled with the patients. I am pleased to report that these children are doing well; in fact some of these children have already been discharged from the hospital.

Missouri, no stranger to disaster, wasted no time in showing folks that in difficult times we pull together, sending doctors, transport teams, supplies, and the National Guard to rescue these children and their families. Children's Mercy even arranged for lodging, food and transportation to be provided for the parents and families during their time in Kansas City. Thanks to the generosity and hospitality shown to these families by both the hospital and the community some of these families are considering a permanent relocation to the Kansas City area.

I rise today to salute the remarkable work of the staff at Kansas City Children's Mercy and the Missouri Air Guard on behalf of some of the hurricane's littlest victims and their families. In times of trouble, people look for leadership. During a week of great uncertainty, you pulled together as a team and led people from chaos to safety. Together you provided leadership and hope to those who desperately needed it. You were an inspirational example to others seeking to provide help. I have never been prouder to represent you and the State of Missouri.