

Sergeant Kokesh is survived by his father and stepmother, Allen Sr. and Kristi Kokesh; mother and stepfather, Becky and Jason Beebee; siblings, Chasity, Katrianna, Tom, and Jaylon; and numerous other family members, friends, and fellow soldiers.

I offer my sincere condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Sergeant Kokesh. His noble service to the United States of America is to be respected and remembered by all. Every American and all Nebraskans should be proud of the service of brave military personnel such as SGT Allen D. Kokesh, Jr.

PRIVATE TIM J. MADISON

Mr. President, today I honor Pvt Tim J. Madison of Bellevue, NE.

Private Madison's children will grow up knowing their father is a hero. A 1997 graduate of Bellevue East High School, Private Madison, 28, joined the Army last October. Private Madison enjoyed the outdoors and shared that experience with his children on numerous occasions.

While serving with E Company, Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade at Fort Carson, CO, Private Madison was struck by .50-caliber machine gun fire during a live-fire operation at a shooting range. "He was very proud of his country, and he wanted to defend and make it a better homeland for his own immediate family, his wife, and kids," said his mother, Nancy Madison.

Private Madison is survived by his wife Melissa and three children, Hailee, 3, Jonathan, 2, and Michael, 4 months, of Fort Carson, CO; parents, Ken and Nancy Madison of Bellevue, NE; brothers, Ken Jr., Tony, and Rick Madison, all of Bellevue; and sister, Christina Coy of Bellevue.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Pvt Tim J. Madison. You are all in America's thoughts and prayers.

ARMY SPECIALIST BENJAMIN SLAVEN

Mr. President, today I honor Army SPC Benjamin Slaven of Plymouth, NE.

Following in his family's footsteps, Specialist Slaven, 22, chose to enlist in the Army Reserve because he wanted to serve his country. "He was enthusiastic about working on the front line of the war on terror," said his father, Bruce Slaven.

Before enlisting, Specialist Slaven earned his high school equivalency diploma and was employed in Beatrice, NE, most recently at the Beatrice State Development Center, where he became known for his compassion. Because of his love for scuba diving, Specialist Slaven was considering a career in underwater welding after the military.

While serving with the Army Reserve's 308th Transportation Company of Lincoln, NE, then Private First Class Slaven was killed when a roadside bomb struck his vehicle on June 9, 2006, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq. He was promoted to army specialist posthumously.

Specialist Slaven is survived by his mother, Judy Huenink, of Plymouth;

his father, Bruce Slaven, of Beatrice; and his sister, PFC Misti Slaven, currently serving with the Army Reserve.

All Americans admire the dedication Specialist Slaven exhibited as he defined what a true soldier should be. The family and friends of Army SPC Benjamin Slaven are in our thoughts and prayers.

ARMY SERGEANT 1ST CLASS TERRY WALLACE

Mr. President, today I honor Army SFC Terry Wallace of Winnsboro, LA.

Sergeant First Class Wallace graduated from Winnsboro High School, where he met his wife, Shunda Wallace. Wallace joined the Army shortly after graduating from high school. "It was something he'd always wanted to do. He always wanted to serve his country," said Mrs. Wallace.

While serving with the 42nd Field Artillery based at Fort Hood, TX, Sergeant First Class Wallace was killed when a roadside bomb hit his humvee in Taji, Iraq, on June 27, 2006. He had served several assignments abroad, including locations in the Middle East, but this was his first tour of duty in Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Sergeant First Class Wallace is survived by his 2-year-old daughter, Raven; his parents, James Jr. and Marry Wallace, of Winnsboro, LA; his twin brother, Jerry Wallace, and several other brothers and sisters, also of Winnsboro.

I know I join all Nebraskans in grieving the loss of Sergeant First Class Wallace. He will be remembered for the selfless hero he was and for being a devoted and compassionate husband, son, and brother. Sergeant First Class Wallace's family and friends remain in our thoughts and prayers.

LANCE CORPORAL BRENT ZOUCHA

Mr. President, today I honor LCpl Brent Zoucha of Clarks, NE.

Being a dedicated athlete at High Plains Community School, Zoucha had already attained much of what he needed to be a good marine: commitment. Knowing he wanted to serve, Zoucha, 19, enlisted in the Marines while still in high school.

Serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, in Twentynine Palms, CA, Corporal Zoucha passed away on June 9, 2006, due to injuries sustained in an explosion while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar, Iraq. "He died doing what he wanted to do: fighting for his country," said friend David Beck.

Corporal Zoucha is survived by his mother, Rita Zoucha, of Clarks, NE; his sister, Sherri Krueger, of Duncan, NE; and two brothers, Dominic Zoucha of Clarks, NE, and Corporal Dyrek Zoucha, currently serving in Iraq.

All Americans admire the dedication LCpl Brent Zoucha exhibited as he defined what a true soldier should be. The family and friends of Corporal Zoucha are in our thoughts and prayers.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to give my support to the 2007 Defense appropriations bill which passed the Senate last week by a unanimous vote of 98 to 0. The bill provides \$469.7 billion in discretionary spending authority for the Department of Defense and will supply critical funding to many Connecticut defense companies that provide our Nation's military with the cutting edge technology, weaponry, and equipment it needs.

It includes \$2.5 billion for the construction of another *Virginia* class submarine, which will be built at Connecticut's submarine base in New London. It also includes \$54 million for submarine research. This funding will support the significant work of our submarine designers and engineers in New London and will enable important cost-cutting improvements to the *Virginia* class. Eight million dollars of that funding is targeted for advanced submarine research, which will allow our designers and engineers in New London to begin the early steps of designing a new class of nuclear attack submarines. In aircraft procurement, the bill contains funding for 12 additional Black Hawk helicopters for a total of 94 aircraft and 12 C-17 transport aircraft, also produced in Connecticut. Finally, I am particularly heartened by the inclusion of funding for several of our smaller defense companies and contractors in Connecticut, which provide our troops with sophisticated technological support. Fuel cell development, sonar technology, clotting agents for troops wounded in battle, mobile military health units, and laser machine tool systems are all products of the high-tech defense industry in Connecticut, and I am proud that I was able to secure funding for this burgeoning sector of my State's economy.

There were several important amendments proposed to the Defense appropriations bill. Senator KENNEDY offered an amendment that would have required the Pentagon to provide information about whether a civil war has developed in Iraq as part of the Defense Department's already mandated quarterly reports. Senator MENENDEZ's proposed amendment prohibited the use of funds for a public relations program designed to monitor news media in the United States and the Middle East to create a database of news stories to promote positive coverage of the Iraq war. Both of these amendments were prevented from being considered explicitly by procedural votes on the Senate floor. If I had voted on those motions, I would have supported both amendments, which would have meant voting against both motions to table. Unfortunately, both amendments were set aside, and my vote would not have changed the procedural outcome in either instance, nor prevented their defeat in a party-line vote.

As I have stated earlier, I will be spending much of my time before the

November election in Connecticut. I believe it is important for me to spend time with people in Connecticut, listening to their ideas and concerns. These next 2 months will provide me with a good opportunity to learn more about their views on how we can move forward to solving our Nation's most pressing problems. That being said, I plan to return to the Senate for votes when my presence is a deciding factor and important committee business in which my participation is crucial. The task of representation is truly a two-way street, and I value those times, such as during campaigns, when citizens and their elected representatives can engage in a democratic dialogue. I am looking forward to continuing to participate in that process and also continuing to represent the people of Connecticut in the U.S. Senate.

HONORING GARY STEVENS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gary Stevens, an accomplished Hall of Fame jockey and Idaho native.

Gary retired in 2005 from an impressive career in horse racing that includes several victories in each leg of the Triple Crown, as well as multiple titles in the Santa Anita and Breeders' Cup races. Holding claim to honorary awards and international racing cups, Gary's popularity only grew in 2003 when he played the role of George Woolf in the Academy Award nominated movie *Seabiscuit*.

It is an honor to note that Gary started his career in Idaho. At 16 years old, Gary rode his first thoroughbred winner at Les Bois Park in Boise. Born in Caldwell, Gary's father was a riding trainer and his mother was a rodeo queen. This summer, Idaho Governor Jim Risch named a week in Gary's honor, to spotlight this accomplished jockey's ties to Idaho.

On behalf of thousands of Idahoans who are proud of him and his Idaho roots, I say congratulations to Gary Stevens for a lifetime of outstanding achievements.

LET US LOOK UPON THE OCEAN WITH REVERENCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, during the August recess, one of my constituents, Michael Mulroy, of Fairhaven, wrote a very thoughtful article that was printed in the *New Bedford Standard-Times* on August 15 in its "Your View" feature. Mr. Mulroy's article eloquently describes the restorative and wondrous nature of the ocean and questions the wisdom of placing wind farms and other large-scale industrial projects at sea. He urges us to "look upon the ocean with reverence."

As someone who is committed to preserving the natural beauty of Massachusetts and its magnificent coastal waters, I was moved by Mr. Mulroy's inspiring article, and I believe many of our colleagues will be inspired by it as well. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the *RECORD*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From the *New Bedford Standard-Times*, Aug. 15, 2006]

"YOUR VIEW: LET'S LOOK UPON OCEAN WITH REVERENCE, UNOBSTRUCTED"

(By Michael Mulroy)

After years of reading about and listening to the debate over the proposed wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod, I felt compelled to weigh in on the subject after reading David Kibbe's article in *The Standard-Times*.

As a child growing up in one of the tenement neighborhoods in New Bedford, I loved it when my parents would take my sister and me to one of the area beaches for the day. Sometimes we would stop to get ice cream afterwards, or maybe have some clam cakes at one of the small clam shacks that dotted the coast. When it was too cold for swimming, we would still go down to the shore and walk the beach looking for shells or whatever treasure the tide may have washed ashore. In the winter, we would simply take a drive along the seashore and enjoy the scenery. One of the greatest joys for me was looking out at the ocean and being able to see unobstructed to the horizon—there were no tenements or telephone poles or wires or factories to spoil the vista. The ocean was to my mind a blank canvas, I was free to paint my imagination across it, and I dreamed of whaling ships and merchants of days long ago.

Later, when I was first married, one of our first apartments was in Fairhaven. I used to ride my daughter around town in a carrier seat on the back of my bicycle. Wherever else we went, we always went down to Fort Phoenix, and out onto the Hurricane Barrier, and looked out upon the ocean. My grandfather was a construction worker who helped build the barrier, and so it made our visits there all the more special.

Life being what it is, we could not afford to buy a home in Fairhaven at the time, and so we moved back to New Bedford. As time went by, I was eventually divorced from my first wife. Saddled with debt, I was forced to file for bankruptcy. Through hard work and determination, I was able to restore my credit and eventually bought a fine tenement on the same street where I grew up. I went to the beach, I took drives by the shore, but I also worked; I worked hard.

I am now remarried and once again live in Fairhaven. We have easy access to the beach, and I ride my bicycle by the shore. Through all the changes in my life, one thing that has never changed is the ocean. I can still gaze out upon the open sea and look unobstructed to the horizon. I am humbled at the awesome power that lies there. The sheer vastness of the sea amazes me, and I cannot help but think of our great Creator every time I look upon it. Surely this is a holy place! I can imagine how the first people to set eyes upon this wonderful site must have felt, and I feel that as I am able to see what they first saw, I can share their experience.

At first I felt guilty for not wanting to see a wind farm off the coast. After all, this would be a great source of energy. Clean, renewable, it might even lessen our dependence on foreign oil, even if it's only a little bit. I would feel patriotic. I felt like one of the NIMBY (not in my backyard) people, but it just didn't feel right. Some people say that the only argument against the project is that some rich folks on Nantucket and Cape Cod don't want to spoil their view. Rep. Bob Kocera calls it "reasons of aesthetics and really nothing else." I've got news for you, Bob, the grandeur of the world's natural wonders are not "aesthetics!" Aesthetics are in your living room! That's like calling the Grand Canyon "just a hole," or Mount Everest "a big hill and really nothing else."

The ocean is our last wild place on this Earth. We are a throwaway society, and we are too lazy, or too cheap, to bother to clean up the messes we have made on land, and so now we are looking to the sea. Rep. Frank Smizik of Brookline states "We're relying on dirty power plants" and urges us to "get away from that."

Well, Frank, why not hold the Bush Administration to their responsibility, and stop letting them relax pollution standards for these filthy polluters? Why not force them to clean up their act? I, for one, am sick to death about hearing these corporations whine about the cost! Too bad! Record profits for Big Oil sound familiar? All the while, the public is being gouged at the gas pump!

Why do we have to have this wind farm in the ocean when there are many existing wind farms in areas that are not near the ocean? The answer is simple: It is easier, and cheaper! Cape Wind wants to locate here because they feel this is the best location for them. What is best for an energy corporation is not necessarily what is best for the Earth or for our people. It is time we start to think of ourselves as people of the Earth, and not as people who belong to corporations. It is time we listen to the ancestors of our native peoples. Since time began, they have known that the Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth. We are here as her caretakers. They have been telling us this since the white people first came here. It's time we open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts, and listen.

It is time to use self-restraint and set limits for ourselves. We must take responsibility for our actions, and clean up the mess we have made upon our lands, and not expand our careless ways to the sea. Let us look upon the ocean with reverence, and let us see to the horizon, unobstructed, and let it be our inspiration to take back our Earth from unbridled development. Let us say, "Stop!" Enough is enough! We have the technology to develop alternative energy sources without this project. This is not a "do or die" issue. Why not explore other options? Cape Wind would have us in fear of not supporting them now. Who says they are the only energy development corporation on the horizon? Rep. Matthew Patrick wants to "let the process go forward, and if Cape Wind survives based on its merits, it should not be subject to the arbitrary whims of the governor." If? If it survives? Well what Matthew, pray tell, will befall us if it doesn't survive? Who will pay to dismantle it? Or would you rather it just stay out there, a rusting hulk, as a monument to our failure, until it finally collapses into the sea? If that happened, what then would be the danger to navigation? What would be the environmental impact then? Has anyone thought about this? And what about the diesel fuel stored there for the generators?

The sea and its creatures are a precious resource. Today, our fishermen are paying the price for the sins of our fathers. Exploitation of fish stocks since pre-Colonial times has left them depleted to the point of disaster. We cannot think that human invasion of this delicate environment will have little or no impact. I cannot help but think that if we allow this wind farm, that they will want to expand in the future, or that others will want to follow. Will we ask our children to pay forever for our sins?

I am not rich, but this is not about being rich. It is about a deep respect and reverence for our earth, and yes, it is about my vista. When I look out upon the ocean, it is, to me, as if I am looking upon the face of God, so I would say to you: Yes, I would be happy to