

Chief Warrant Officer Engeman enlisted in the Army when he was 18, and was stationed in Korea and Germany, and served in Kosovo and Operation Desert Storm. Two years ago, he moved with his family to West Virginia, where he was the active duty liaison between the National Guard and Reserves.

But he was more than a career military man; he was also a devoted father and husband, brother and son.

The soldiers in his unit called him a father figure and a great story teller. They recalled that whenever they needed advice, they always went to the Chief. They said they would follow him anywhere because he was a great leader, a good decisionmaker, and a good friend. And, they said, he loved to talk about his wife Donna or his two children, Nicole and Patrick.

So I can only imagine how he must have felt when the Army made special arrangements for him to watch his wife graduate from college. It had been a shared goal between the two of them, and on the day before Mother's Day, he sat half-a-world away and watched the dream turn into a reality. He ended that day by telling his wife how proud he was of her, and that he would call the next day to wish her a happy Mother's Day.

It was a call that would never come. Chief Warrant Officer Engeman's humvee would be struck by a roadside bomb later that evening.

From the earliest days of the Republic we have held a special place in our hearts for those families who have lost a loved one in war. Later this week, as part of the White House Commission of Remembrance, the family of Chief Warrant Officer Engeman will be honored, along with the families of other soldiers, sailors, and marines who have been lost in combat.

It is altogether right and fitting that we do this. Chief Warrant Officer Engeman answered the call to duty and served with honor and distinction. He won the respect of his soldiers and the admiration of his country.

But those truly timeless qualities—his laugh, his quirky smile he would give you when you needed his advice, and his love for his family—will live in the hearts of his wife, children, sisters, and parents forever.

All of West Virginia joins with me today in keeping the Engemans close in our hearts and prayers.

ESTABLISHING A FEDERAL STATUTORY FIRST AMENDMENT PRIVILEGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, The Senate Judiciary Committee has considered and for the first time reported a bill to establish a Federal statutory privilege to safeguard the freedom of the press. The Free Flow of Information Act, S. 2035, is bipartisan legislation that was reported on a strong bipartisan vote. The House has already passed legislation on this same subject,

H.R. 2102, with a strong, bipartisan and apparently veto-proof majority of 398 to 21. Thus, both S. 2035 and H.R. 2102 are available for Senate action on the Senate business calendar. I strongly support the enactment of a Federal shield law for journalists, and I urge the Senate to promptly consider Federal shield legislation.

All of us have an interest in enacting a balanced and meaningful first amendment privilege. Sadly, the press has become the first stop, rather than the last resort, for our Government and private litigants when it comes to seeking information. This is a dangerous trend that can have a chilling effect on the press and the public's right to know.

Enacting Federal shield legislation would help to reverse this troubling trend. In fact, proceeding promptly to consideration of this legislation is something I strongly support. Should the Senate take up the bipartisan shield bill that overwhelmingly passed in the House, Federal shield legislation could go immediately to the President's desk and be signed into law without delay this year.

The Senate bill has the support of a bipartisan coalition of Senators, including Senators SPECTER, SCHUMER, LUGAR, DODD, GRAHAM, and myself, who have all united to cosponsor this legislation. In addition, more than 50 news media and journalism organizations support this legislation, and the call for Senate action on this historic bill extends to editorial pages across the country, including the New York Times, Arizona Republic, L.A. Times, Salt Lake Tribune, and San Francisco Chronicle, among others.

The Senate and House bills protect law enforcement interests and safeguard national security. Moreover, both of these bills follow the lead of 33 States and the District of Columbia which have shield laws, and many other States, including Vermont, which recognize a common law reporters' privilege. Tellingly, the Bush administration has not identified a single circumstance where a reporters' privilege has caused harm to national security or to law enforcement, despite the fact that many courts have recognized such a privilege for years.

When he testified before the Judiciary Committee in favor of Federal shield legislation in 2005, William Safire told the Committee that the essence of newsgathering is this:

[I]f you don't have sources you trust and who trust you, then you don't have a solid story—and the public suffers for it.

On behalf of the American public, I urge the Senate to protect the public's right to know by promptly considering and passing a Federal shield law.

KINGDOM GEMS OF VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to stand before the Senate today to tell my friends about Vermont's Northeast Kingdom—a place

that is known as much for its natural beauty as the rural and industrious Vermonters who have settled there.

This region, defined by the three northeastern-most counties of Vermont that sit between the headwaters of the Connecticut River and the U.S.-Canadian border, became one of America's first National Geographic geotourism destinations. The designation highlights the character and sense of place that has come to define the dozens of mountain valley communities that sit in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia Counties.

My wife Marcelle was born in the Northeast Kingdom, just south of the Canadian border in the city of Newport. Since then, like many Vermonters, we have often found ourselves heading to this part of Vermont to visit friends, go for a hike, or find a special place to have a meal. The people of the Northeast Kingdom have made this region of Vermont advance while carefully holding on to the key elements of their identity. Whether they are crafting furniture from the forests of the north woods or diversifying their family farm, these individuals have helped the communities of northeastern Vermont grow.

This autumn, Michelle Edelbaum and Daria Bishop of the Burlington Free Press published an article about a trip the two of them shared through the area, and I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the text of the article offering a glimpse into these "Kingdom Gems."

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

[From The Burlington Free Press, Sept. 30, 2007]

KINGDOM GEMS

(By Michelle Edelbaum)

When trees scream with crimson, gold and orange, head to the Northeast Kingdom for world-class leaf peeping.

With foliage in mind, photographer Daria Bishop and I spent a day exploring the towns, shops and people that make the area special. We strayed from our loose plan to follow locals' hand-drawn maps down scenic dirt back roads to not-to-miss destinations.

On our 13-hour tour we didn't reach half the locations on our list, which included classic attractions Cabot Creamery, Great Vermont Corn Maze, Stephen Huneck's Dog Mountain and Fairbanks Museum. But we did visit a handful of gems worth a stop.

GREENSBORO

Twenty-eight years ago an enthusiastic David Smith and his wife, Willie, took over Highland Lodge in Greensboro from his parents and fostered a community-centric gathering place that hosts out-of-town guests and community gatherings. "The Walking Ladies," a group of 55 women who range in age from 40 to 86, meet thrice weekly in the dining room for coffee and muffins after they exercise.

On their recommendation we ate moist, sugar-crusted blueberry muffins, from-scratch blueberry pancakes and a fluffy cheese and veggie omelet with McKenzie sausage links. After breakfast, we set out on the lodge's 30 miles of trails from a grove of soaring pine trees decorated with colorful placards of children's artwork, courtesy of the lodge's summer campers.