

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CAPTAIN TIMOTHY I. MCGOVERN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave soldier from Idaville, IN. CPT Timothy McGovern, 28 years old, died October 31 in Mosul, Iraq. Captain McGovern died of injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. With an optimistic future before him, Timothy risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Timothy was a graduate of Twin Lakes High School and Purdue University, where he began his military service in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. At Twin Lakes, he was a leader on the football team and ran on the track team. His football coach and uncle, Mike Wright, said that he could depend on Timothy on the field because of his intelligence and positive attitude. He always supported his teammates. Later in life, he would support his fellow soldiers.

Timothy wanted to be a soldier nearly all his life, and he believed strongly in the goals of our engagement in Iraq. Two weeks before his death, Timothy spoke to a local radio station about the positive impact Americans at home can have on the morale of the soldiers abroad, saying, "Any support they get, any letters they get, anything like that is great for morale and lets the soldiers here know that people still care about them and care about what they're doing."

Timothy was serving a second tour of duty when he died. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Bliss, TX. For his service and sacrifice, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Timothy is survived by his parents, LTC Colonel Bill McGovern and Jonell McGovern, and his sister, Miranda.

Today, I join Timothy's family and friends 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 Timothy. Today and always, Timothy 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 Timothy'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 state-

ment is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Timothy's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of CPT Timothy I. McGovern in the official RECORD of the U.S. 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 Timothy'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 Timothy.

## HEALTHY AMERICANS ACT

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, as I travel and talk to folks across Minnesota, one thing is abundantly clear—Minnesotans, like most Americans, are more concerned about health care than just about any other issue—and for good reason.

As a Nation, we are spending about \$2.2 trillion on health care each year, about 16 percent of GDP. This is more than twice what many other developed countries spend, yet 47 million of our fellow Americans are uninsured. And even those with insurance are worried. Worried about the escalating cost of premiums, whether their children will be covered, or whether they will lose their health plan at work.

One thing we can all agree on is that inaction is not an option. As these concerns grow and the costs continue to increase, the problem will only get more complex and more difficult to solve. The time for solutions is now.

It is in the spirit of finding a solution to our Nation's health care crisis that I recently joined four of my Republican colleagues as a cosponsor of Senator RON WYDEN's Healthy Americans Act. While this is certainly not a perfect solution, it is not "Government-run" or "single-payer" health care. It is a private market, consumer-focused proposal that serves as a good place to start the discussion. Yet, as a cosponsor, I think it is also important that I point out some of the areas where I disagree with this legislation.

One area of concern has to do with transitioning people from employer-based insurance to the private market. The Healthy Americans Act severs the ties between employment and health insurance and shifts everyone into the individual market. Instead, I think the Government should level the playing field regarding taxation of health benefits, so workers can leave their employer, start a new business, change jobs, or spend more time at home with their family without risking their health care coverage.

Another area where I strongly disagree with Senator WYDEN is his requirement that health insurance companies cover abortions. I have never wavered in my support for pro-life policies. While I am willing to work with Senator WYDEN on this bill in the interest of improving access to health insurance, I will absolutely not support passage of any legislation that requires coverage of abortions. This is one area of the bill that must be reconsidered.

I have also expressed concerns to my colleagues about using the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, FEHBP, as the standard for health insurance. While I certainly believe people should have access to this level of coverage, I don't think it should be the only option. My vision of health reform does not include this one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, I support giving people access to a variety of health insurance options and the ability to make informed choices.

While these are a few of the areas where I disagree with Senator WYDEN, there are definitely provisions in this bill that I will work to preserve or even expand upon. I am pleased that the legislation focuses on more than just expanding coverage but also on reforming the health care system and providing peace of mind that a person's coverage won't end when his or her employment situation changes. The Healthy Americans Act provides incentives for preventive health care, expands wellness programs, and emphasizes important cost containment measures. It also promotes greater adoption of health information technology and enacts vital medical malpractice reforms.

As you can probably see, the Healthy Americans Act is a work in progress. But as I said before, it is a good place to start the discussion. That is why I look forward to working with Senator WYDEN and all of the cosponsors of the Healthy Americans Act to make sure we come up with a proposal that provides the health care choices we all want, the quality we need, and the health care security the American people deserve.

## NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge National Adoption Awareness Month and National Adoption Day on Nov. 17, 2007. With over 114,000 children available for adoption out of the U.S. foster care system, I think it is crucial to celebrate those lawyers, social workers, officials and, most importantly, parents who help many children move from foster homes to adoptive families.

Adoption has personally touched my life this year as two new children have been welcomed as members of my family. My son Brendan and his wife Jana recently adopted Trualem, age 11, and Peneal, age 8, from Ethiopia. I am now a proud grandfather of five, and our family is larger and richer with them in it.