Tribute to Pete Suazo

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Eluid Pete Suazo, a distinguished Utah State Senator whose untimely death in August has had a tremendous impact—not only on his family and close friends, but also on the entire state of Utah.

At the time of his death, Senator Suazo represented Salt Lake City's multi-cultural west side, and he also served as the Assistant minority whip. Pete was heralded for his unflagging determination and advocacy for his constituents. Indeed, his integrity and absolute dedication won Senator Suazo respect from his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

As the only Hispanic member of the Utah Legislature, Pete felt a strong sense of responsibility to honor and help Utah's growing Hispanic and minority populations. He was a top leader of the Hispanic community, who was also able to cross Utah's ethnic and political lines to effect policies benefitting the entire community. I remember how Pete's wife, Alicia, fondly recalled the day her husband decided to run for office. He passionately stated, “The Chicano boy is going to be a senator, not in New Mexico, but in Utah where the world will be doubly happy and the victory glorious.” This optimism showed in Pete's face, for he was always smiling.

Pete fought for the underdog and the less privileged. For those who sought his assistance, he always had a helping hand and a listening ear. He worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the youth in his neighborhood. He organized graffiti removal teams, baseball and soccer leagues, summer work programs, and provided so many other opportunities to strengthen the characters of countless young men and women.

Over the past few years, Pete helped reinvigorate amateur boxing in Utah and participated as a referee to ensure safety in the sport. The Senator undertook these and many other volunteer efforts to help the less fortunate, always giving hope to those who needed it so much.

Senator Suazo's work ethic was extraordinary and was developed at a very young age. He took great pride in whatever he was doing—from selling popcorn at a charity carnival in his youth to serving as a leading state senator. Throughout his life, he used his tremendous energy and his capacity for hard work to champion the causes in which he so fervently believed.

While serving in the Utah legislature, Senator Suazo was not afraid of the tough battles. In recent years, his work to adopt a more pro-active and stronger hate crimes law defined Pete Suazo's leadership and determination. He never gave up, and through his efforts this issue rose to the forefront of the legislature's attention.

Mr. President, Utah has lost a true hero. Senator Pete Suazo was a man with great integrity, strong personal conviction, and a humble heart. His life was an example of dedicated public service and utmost love for his community and fellow man. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the Suazo family—his wife, Alicia, and their children Travis, Abel, Emilio and Julio, his parents Pat and Lilly, his siblings Kathy, Becky, Georgia, Anna, Ellie and Andy—and also to the many, many friends and neighbors of Pete who will deeply miss him. My hope is that future generations of Utahns will have the desire to follow in this good man’s footsteps, and continue his legacy of work for the people of Utah. In so many instances Pete did not only dream the impossible dream, he strove for and attained it.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2888. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for additional disaster assistance, for anti-terrorism initiatives, and for assistance in the recovery from the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)