

Whereas, the theme of World Population Awareness Week in 2001 is "Population and the Urban Future";

Now Therefore, I, Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21 through 27, 2001, to be World Population Awareness Week in Idaho and urge all citizens of our state to take cognizance of this event and to participate appropriately in its observance.●

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President. I rise today to alert my colleagues that October is Spina Bifida Awareness month.

Many Americans don't know much about Spina Bifida. For instance, most don't know Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect and occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of a child's development in the womb. Even fewer Americans realize that the most severe form of Spina Bifida occurs in 96 percent of children born with this disease. However, thanks to the good work that the Spina Bifida Association of America is carrying out to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and to enhance the lives of all affected by this condition, we are all learning more every day.

During the month of October the Association makes a special push to increase public awareness about Spina Bifida, and future parents about prevention. Simply by taking a daily dose of the B vitamin, folic acid, found in most multivitamins women of child-bearing age have the power to reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida by up to 75 percent. That such a simple change in habit can have such a profound effect should leave no question as to the importance of awareness.

However, awareness is not the only important work done by the Spina Bifida Association of America. The Association was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the Spina Bifida community and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. There are more than 60 chapters serving over 100 communities nationwide.

One such chapter in Wichita, KS, was started by Tammy and Tim Wolke. Tammy and Tim have four children, two of whom are adopted. Not only do these heroic parents care for one child born with Spina Bifida, but also a child with cerebral palsy. But caring for their own children just hasn't been enough to keep Tammy and Tim busy. So, in their "free time," the Wolkes have developed and cultivated a chapter of the Spina Bifida Association of America which serves about 200 families in their part of Kansas.

As we discuss the wonderful work of the Spina Bifida Association of America and the Wolkes, I would be remiss if I failed to mention another great

Kansan. In 1988, the Association established a scholarship fund to enhance opportunities for individuals with Spina Bifida to achieve their full potential through higher education. This year's four year scholarship of \$20,000 was recently awarded to Jennifer Maxton of Derby, KS. Thanks to this scholarship, Jennifer will be able to attend the school of her dreams at the University of Kansas. Jennifer is a truly amazing person who wants to become a pediatric surgeon and study abroad in Nepal. As if those goals weren't lofty enough, Jennifer hopes to some day climb Mount Everest. Jennifer wants to improve the lives of others who have not been as fortunate as she. This scholarship will start her down this path. I wish her the best of luck as she begins her academic life this fall as a Jayhawk.

I would also be remiss if I failed to mention that this evening, the Spina Bifida Association of America will be holding its 13th annual event to benefit the Association and its work in local communities around the country. Washington Post Sports columnist, Tony Kornheiser will be roasted at this event by a number of distinguished members of the Washington community, including our Congressional colleagues Senator CLINTON and Representative STEVE LARGENT. I regret that I will be unable to join my friends tonight, but wish to commend the Association for all of its hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

God bless the Spina Bifida Association and God bless America.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RONALD JAMES VAUK

● Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Lieutenant Commander Ronald James Vauk, whose life was cut short on September 11, 2001, while he was doing what he loved to do, serving his country. He was a Reservist on duty as Watch Commander at the Naval Command Center when terrorists attacked the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. This tragedy was not only a savage blow to the United States, but will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of a loving family, a strong Idaho community, and many loyal friends.

Ron was a devoted husband and good father who was born to Dorothy and Hubert Vauk and raised in Nampa, ID. He was the youngest of nine children and attended St. Paul's Catholic School and Nampa High School, graduating in 1982. I had the pleasure of

recommending Ron for an appointment to the United States Naval Academy after he served a year as an enlisted sailor. He graduated the Naval Academy in 1987 and married an incredible young woman by the name of Jennifer Mooney. Ron had an exemplary career as a Naval Officer and submariner, serving on both the USS Glenard P. Lipscomb and the USS Oklahoma City. His love for the Navy continued with his service as a Reservist and a project manager for the Delex Corporation and then as an assistant group supervisor in submarine technology for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Ron's work at Johns Hopkins was extremely important, but he was always ready to serve our Nation as a Naval Reserve Officer whenever called upon. He was a quiet genius who wasn't afraid to work hard to get the job done. And, he was a very good man who loved his family and was devoted to his wife Jennifer and their pride and joy, Liam, who is almost four years old. The entire family is excited and looking forward to the upcoming birth of Ron and Jennifer's second child, expected in November.

Ron will also be sorely missed by his parents, Dorothy and Hubert, and their eight other grown children. Ron's brothers and sisters all came together to be with Jennifer and son Liam at their home in Mt. Airy, MD. They are Charles Vauk, of Boise, Teri and Bill Masterson, Carson City, NV; Celia and Ken Shikuma, Huntington Beach, CA; David and Suzie Vauk, Nampa; Lynne and Alan Caba, Nampa; Gary and Julie Vauk, Grapevine, TX; Patricia Vauk and Paul Wilson, Minneapolis, MN; and Dennis and Donna Vauk, Houston, TX. Ron is also survived by his father and mother-in-law Patrick and Carol Mooney of Baltimore, and sister and brother-in-law Alissa and Chris DeBoy of Mt. Airy, MD, and 18 nieces and nephews. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the Senate in expressing my profound sorrow to the Vauk family for their loss.

LCDR Ronald James Vauk was awarded the Purple Heart in the name of the United States President for his ultimate sacrifice. General George Washington, this Nation's Founding Father, established the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 as a means of recognizing courage and steadfastness in actual combat against the enemies of our Country. From the original three Badges of Military Merit awarded by General Washington, we now have the Purple Heart. LCDR Vauk was one of the first casualties of the War on Terrorism. Rest assured, this war will be won and the United States will continue to lead the world in protecting freedom. Ron was at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, because he was bravely doing what he believed in and what needed to be done. He was a thorough professional who believed in his