

fallen American soldiers from World War II and Korea were interred next to their comrade of World War I. These brave soldiers, and all those who have died on the battle field who have never returned home for a proper burial, are guarded day and night by men and women in the armed services.

Today America is facing a new kind of war, one that does not quickly assimilate with previous conflicts our soldiers have faced, a war that is being fought by men and women who, as thousands before them, have answered the call to duty to protect and defend our freedom.

Our military is engaged in conflict overseas with a vile and inhumane enemy, an enemy that lives in shadows, strikes at innocent civilians, and finds victory in terror. It is a new kind of war. But one thing remains the same. Our armed forces carry on the fight for freedom.

On September 11, our world changed. Once again, we are a nation at war. Once again, our troops are engaged in conflict overseas. And once again, they will prevail.

It is my sincere honor to thank all veterans who have served in our armed forces.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD A. LAURIE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward Laurie of Enfield, NH, an exemplary public official who dedicated himself to serving the people of New Hampshire for more than 26 years. As chief of police for the city of Lebanon since 1991, he has brought to the office the professional skills and knowledge of law enforcement which has benefited the citizens of Lebanon and the entire State.

Edward began his career as a patrol officer in 1975, and was promoted through the ranks of the Lebanon Police Department serving positions including: police sergeant from 1984–1985, police lieutenant from 1985–1986, police captain from 1987–1991 and police chief from 1991–2001.

He was an active member of the law enforcement who participated in programs including: chairman of the New Hampshire Regional Drug Task Force, executive board member of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force, president of the New Hampshire Police Association, associate of the FBI National Academy, and member of the New England and Grafton County Chiefs of Police Associations.

Edward was active in the Lebanon community and provided dedicated service to area charities including the New Hampshire Special Olympics and Lebanon Lions and Kiwanis Clubs.

Throughout his career, Edwards has served the city of Lebanon and the State of New Hampshire with dedication and pride. The people of Lebanon owe a debt of gratitude to Edward for the contributions which he has made making the city and the State a safer and more pleasant environment in which to live.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Edward Laurie in the United States Senate. I wish him and his family Godspeed in his retirement and in all of their future endeavors.●

VETERANS DAY, 2001

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as we again approach Veterans Day, it is vital that we pause, more so than on any Veterans Day in recent memory, to give tribute to the more than 48 million heroic veterans who have served in our military since the start of the Republic and who have fought so that the freedom and safety of this great Nation would not be compromised. We owe our veterans our heartfelt gratitude for answering the call and serving us all in the United States Armed Forces.

Today, as it should be, military service is being held in high esteem. The events of September 11 have renewed America's sense of gratitude toward the men and women of the Armed Forces for the great sacrifices they make everyday on behalf of our Nation. America has been steadfast in its commitment to the world to be a beacon for freedom. Our military personnel have honored our commitment to the world, time after time, in every part of the globe.

At present, the members of our Armed Forces are fighting the terrorist regime responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans on September 11th. We will win this fight. And once again, our men and women in uniform will honor our commitment to the world. What strikes me with enormous poignancy is the age of those who have answered the call to duty throughout our history. In this war, as in those of our past, we send our young to honor our commitments abroad and to protect our great Nation. They are the best of the best. Their motto might well be, in the words of Alexander Pope, "Act well your part, therein all honor lies."

As we observe Veterans Day, let us remember that we owe our veterans our gratitude and appreciation year round, and not merely on the day set aside for the commemoration of their service and sacrifice. It would be truly disgraceful if veterans were made to feel forgotten except for this one day per year. Indeed, our gratitude should be as steadfast as the great monuments that Americans have built in commemoration of the very service and sacrifices our veterans made. There should be no ambivalence in our atti-

tude toward those who serve in the United States Armed Forces.

I am proud to represent the State of West Virginia in the Senate. West Virginia has one of the highest veteran populations per capita of any State. The deep patriotism and loyalty to our country of the people of my State of West Virginia fills me with gratitude, and inspires me in my role as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In that position, I am fortunate to represent not only the veterans of West Virginia, but veterans all over our country.

As Chairman, I have fought very hard for improvements in benefits and services to veterans. We have made significant strides this year in fulfilling the pledge of Abraham Lincoln, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans."

A critical need for veterans is long-term care. Our veteran population is aging rapidly and it is our responsibility to care for them. I am dedicated to this need, and in groundbreaking legislation, I was able to secure a significant expansion in the eligibility for and types of treatment that will soon be available to veterans.

It is my belief that the Montgomery GI Bill must be sufficient to recognize the commitment and sacrifices that individuals make to serve in the military. In keeping with that belief, the Committee has endorsed legislation under which the basic rate of the MGIB benefit will be raised over the next 3 years. In addition, accelerated payments of MGIB benefits will be authorized to accommodate the compressed schedule of courses that leads to employment in a high technology industry. We should make every effort to accommodate the educational needs of our veterans, and this change is an important step in doing so.

Additionally, the Committee endorsed legislation under which the maximum amount for the popular VA home loan guaranty will be increased. It will now be within the reach of veterans to buy homes in major metropolitan areas where home prices have skyrocketed. Many years have passed since a VA home loan guaranty increase, and high housing costs in certain areas had put homeownership beyond the reach of our veterans who live in those areas. This increase will add value to the existing benefit.

Today, and everyday, we should honor those who have worn the uniforms of our Nation. All those who served deserve our appreciation, our respect, and our compassion. They are indeed, the best of the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA CATANESE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jessica Catanese, of Groton, MA for being honored as the 2001 recipient of