

War, both World Wars, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and operations in Bosnia.

Recently, the 155th completed a year-long tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 4,000-member brigade combat team was attached to the II Marine Expeditionary Force and deployed to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. They conducted operations that included rebuilding infrastructure, hunting down insurgents, and supporting elections. Each of these activities made an indelible impact on the people of this fledgling democracy and improved their chances of surviving and prospering in a much safer and secure environment.

It is truly remarkable what our soldiers have accomplished. They served in a combat environment where they thwarted continuing attacks from a determined insurgency. They endured the hardships of being away from their families. They suffered the loss and injury of their fellow comrades. They had to endure the worry for their families' well-being as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the gulf coast. Through it all, they remained dedicated and determined to carry out their mission.

As Mississippians have done for centuries, these soldiers left their families and the comforts of home to answer the call of duty. This was not done without cost. During its deployment, the 155th lost 24 soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. These soldiers left behind wives, children, and loved ones. They answered the call of duty and gave their lives for America's freedom and security. This wasn't done for fame or fortune. It was done out of a commitment to duty and service to our great country. They are true heroes.

The 155th is the modern-day "Mississippi Rifles" that has carried on the proud traditions of Mississippi and our Nation.

As we honor these brave men and women, it is appropriate for us to also honor their families. No one understands the hardships of war and sacrifice more than a soldier's family. For 18 months, these Mississippians sacrificed as their loved ones answered our Nation's call. Although their lives were disrupted, they assumed the role of both mother and father. Their resilience and courage during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita continue to be admired by us all.

Of course, they did not accomplish all of this alone. Our Mississippi communities came together to provide support which ranged from countless letters and packages, to daily support at home that included clearing storm debris and ensuring shelter for their loved ones, to support for the families of fallen comrades and those who were seriously wounded.

As we pay tribute to the accomplishments of the 155th and give thanks to

their sacrifice and service, it is important we remember our country is still at war. The State of Mississippi has over 500 of its citizens deployed in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan continuing to fight the global war on terrorism. In addition, we have citizen-soldiers in various stages of mobilization preparing to answer our Nation's call. Our country's military is the most committed and powerful in the world, and they are well prepared to serve in our hometowns and across the globe. We will keep them in our prayers as they continue their great legacy of sacrifice and service.

BOULDER CITY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Boulder City, NV.

Boulder City lies 24 miles east of Las Vegas, and 40 miles from Searchlight near Lake Mead. It's very close to my hometown, Searchlight, and it is a city dear to my heart. Boulder City is a Nevada treasure, and I am proud to honor them today.

Boulder City was created by the Federal Government on March 11, 1931, to provide housing to the thousands of people who built the Hoover Dam. Because Boulder City was operated as a Government reservation, the residents could not buy homes and unlike its neighboring cities, liquor and gambling were prohibited. In fact, gambling is prohibited in Boulder City to this day.

As the first planned community built in the United States, Boulder City has gone to great lengths to maintain its small town feel. Boulder City only sees about 400 new residents each year due to a growth control ordinance that was enacted in 1979.

Boulder City is most widely known as the home of the Hoover Dam. Twenty-one thousand men worked for 5 years and poured more than 5 million barrels of cement to complete the work on the \$49 million dam. Forty-nine million dollars adjusted for inflation equals \$676 million. Named after President Herbert Hoover, the dam is located in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River. It sits on the border between Nevada and Arizona and sees 13,000 to 16,000 people cross it each day.

Mr. President, it is important that everyone understand that Boulder City is more than just the home of the Hoover Dam, more than just a tourist attraction. It is a city whose people exemplify what being a Nevadan is all about. I invite all my colleagues here in the Senate and all the people of this great country to experience a part of Nevada that I love.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT GREGSON GOURLEY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is my solemn duty to rise before the Senate

to pay tribute to one of the great sons of Utah, SSG Gregson Gourley.

Sergeant Gourley, who grew up in Sandy and Midvale, UT was killed last week with three other members of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) near Hawijah, Iraq.

As I sat down to learn more about Sergeant Gourley's life, I was struck by his dedication to service. He first served as a missionary in Pennsylvania for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, then spent 16 years as a member of our Armed Forces. His aspiration for the future was to begin a career in law enforcement.

According to what his comrades have said, Sergeant Gourley's service surpassed the motto of his battalion: "Above the Rest." Not surprisingly, he had previously been decorated for meritorious service.

I believe that his grandmother, Adena Gourley, said it best, when reflecting on the sergeant's life:

He was a very gentle person. He has a great desire to be an outstanding soldier and an outstanding man.

Mrs. Gourley, I can say that, by all accounts, he achieved those goals.

Sergeant Gourley's passing is a further tragedy because he leaves behind a wife, three sons under the age of 10, and a newborn daughter.

To his boys, and especially little Alexa, over the years you will learn more about your father and that he was a remarkable man. But you should always remember that your father was a hero, a man anyone would be proud to call father, and our country will forever owe a debt of great gratitude to him for his unselfish service to our country.

I hope my colleagues will all join me in saluting the bravery of Sergeant Gourley, and in sending our condolences, prayers, and best wishes to his family during their time of sorrow.

SERGEANT RICKY E. JONES

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Kokomo. Sergeant Rickey Jones, 22 years old, was one of four soldiers who died on February 22 when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb during a patrol near Hawijah, 150 miles north of Baghdad. With his entire life before him, Rickey risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2002 graduate of Kokomo High School, Rickey joined the Army because of concerns about a tight local job market at the time. After his first tour in Iraq, he returned with a new world view and volunteered for a second tour of duty. His mother told local media that the change in her son was unmistakable and that during his time in the Army, Rickey had matured into a man and a true soldier. Rickey's

brother, Michael, spoke of his admiration for Rickey's patriotism, saying, "Rickey was proud of what he did and proud to serve his country. He died proud." Other family members fondly recalled that Rickey was a loving person and the pride of his family, who simply wanted to help ensure a better quality of life for Iraqi children.

Rickey was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, KY. Today, I join Rickey'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 Rickey, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Rickey was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Rickey 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 Rickey'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 statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Rickey's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Rickey Jones in the official record of the United States 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 Rickey'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 Rickey.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Sen-

ator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On March 30, 1999, Tracey Thompson was murdered in Wilcox County, GA. Thompson was a transgender person that was found bleeding from a head wound after walking a half-mile to a local farmhouse. According to police, she was beaten with a baseball bat, and desecrated in a way that made the attack an apparent hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that are born out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

KRESMIR COSIC

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of the greatest foreign athletes to play in my home State of Utah—Kresmir Cosic.

My dear friend from Yugoslavia fell victim to cancer in 1995, but this Saturday, Brigham Young University will officially retire Kresmir's No. 11 jersey during a ceremony at BYU's final home game this season. It is a fitting tribute to a four-time Olympian and two-time all-American already enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Kresmir—or Kresh, as I called him—is a legend at BYU, but he will most likely be remembered for opening the door for foreign athletes in American colleges and the NBA. He truly had a global influence—Drazen Petrovic, Toni Kukoc, Dino Radja, and Vlade Divac are just a few players who owe their success in America to their former coach from Yugoslavia.

When I visited Yugoslavia one time, Kresh heard that I would be in Zagreb and drove up from Zadar so he could introduce me to one of his former players, who was a leader of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the area. He arrived in a VW bug, and to see Kresh unwind out of that little car was a humorous experience.

I considered Kresh to be a tremendous friend. When he became the deputy ambassador for his country, he went out of his way to see me, and I was more than pleased to be an advisor and help him. He tirelessly walked the halls on Capitol Hill, trying to dispel misunderstandings about Croatia and Bosnia and the Serbian war waging in his native land.

The last time I saw Kresh was at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. The

doctors thought he was in a coma, but when I spoke to him, tears came to his eyes, and a warm look of caring showed he understood my words of consolation.

After his death, when once again I was in his native land, I was pleased to see his wife, the person he loved so much.

Mr. President, I have only mentioned just a few highlights from the life of this great man. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a touching article from the Deseret Morning News that summarizes why so many of us in Utah are looking forward to finally seeing his jersey hang from the Marriott Center's rafters this weekend.

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

[From the Deseret Morning News]

LATE COUGAR COSIC'S TALENT, FUN COULDN'T
BE CONTAINED

(By Dick Harmon)

Kresimir Cosic could barely fit into my '63 Volkswagen that day. But who'd have guessed this world, as well, could hardly contain him and, at the age of 46, gave him back to God.

I was just 17, puttering around in my Bug when I saw the 6-foot-11 Cosic walking down the sidewalk of a street in Provo on his way to basketball practice. I stopped and asked if he wanted a ride. He said he did and he crammed himself into the car. It was like putting a praying mantis in a thimble.

The first thing Cosic did was reach over and turn on the radio. He broke out in a big smile, turned his face to mine and said: "I love the music."

In a nutshell, that epitomized all you need to know about Cosic, the Yugoslavian. He loved life. He loved basketball, and he loved playing to the largest crowds in the college game when they hatched out the Marriott Center back in 1972.

To Cosic, music played when he had a basketball in "his hands. He may have been one of the most entertaining players who ever lived. Certainly he was the most gifted passing center to play the game. As they say in Europe, Cosic was Magic Johnson before Magic Johnson.

On Saturday, folks at BYU will officially retire Cosic's No. 11 jersey during a ceremony at the final home game this season, against New Mexico. There is a generation of BYU fans who never saw Cosic play. They got robbed.

"When we toured Europe a couple of summers ago, everywhere we went, they knew BYU basketball because of Cosic," BYU coach Dave Rose said.

Cosic's resume reads like he invented basketball. In Europe, and in his native Yugoslavia, he just about did. A four-time Olympian and two-time all-American, Cosic is enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Cosic died in May 1995 of lymphatic cancer. The week before he passed, he was distraught when he talked to his former coach, Glenn Potter, because he felt he'd defeated the cancer, but in the process, he'd contracted hepatitis and was going to get a liver transplant. "The next thing I knew, he died," Potter said.

Cosic's passion for the game overwhelmed his approach to play. Cosic took more pleasure in passing the ball and setting up teammates than shooting. Still he could be heard