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HONORING MY CHILDREN ON FATHER'S DAY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, though the origin of Father's Day is not clear, fathers throughout the United States are made to feel special by their children every year, on the third Sunday in June.

Sunday, June 15, marks my 24th year as Dad to Mike, Jay and Shae. And in recent years, their seven children have made me a doting granddad to boot, doubling the joy of our celebration.

Throughout these years, I have never taken a Father's Day remembrance for granted—perhaps because I adopted my children when I had the wisdom and maturity to appreciate the pure joy of having them in my life. I have treasured the handmade trinkets, the interesting ties and the simple melody of their voices greeting me on that Sunday morning every year, "Happy Father's Day, Dad! We love you."

Father's Day always has been a time of reflection for Suzanne and me—to look back fondly on our kids' achievements and to take pride in how they handled life's disappointments. I remember Shae's first date and her first breakup, Mike's first car and Jay's first soccer game.

But nothing affected me as emotionally as my children's love and loyalty during the dark days of last August.

When I was under siege by the media, by my political opponents and even by some I thought were my friends, it was my three children who surrendered their privacy and risked being tarred by those demanding my head to take on their Dad's critics.

They were relentless in correcting the record—in television interviews and in doggedly responding to newspaper reporters' endless questions. And when I appeared before the media to respond to unspeakable accusations, my kids stood with me, looking my accusers squarely in the eye. In the privacy of our home, when I would despair, they were there to lift up their Dad.

Someone once said, "If there is anything better than to be loved, it is loving."

No father in America is prouder of his children than I. So this Sunday, the luckiest Dad in Idaho won't be just waiting around for his annual Father's Day calls and visits. This Father's Day, Dad is honoring the three who chose me to be their father—Shae, Mike and Jay.

FLAG DAY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, this Saturday, June 14, our Nation celebrates Flag Day. It was on this day 231 years ago that the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the red, white,

and blue flag to serve as an icon for our newly formed Nation. Living and working in the United States, one may find it easy to overlook the prevalence of our flag—it stands atop buildings, in school yards, next to libraries, and even in our neighborhoods. President Woodrow Wilson, in recognition of the significance of our flag, set aside June 14 as a day to observe our flag and take pride in our Nation.

The first flag, commonly known as the "Betsy Ross" flag—given the name after the legend that she designed the flag—contained 13 stars and stripes to symbolize the 13 original colonies. As our Nation grew, so did the stars in the constellation, finally leaving us with the 50 stars that we all recognize today.

One of the many beautiful aspects of our flag is that it can mean different things to different folks and is even open to your own personal interpretation. For many, the flag represents freedom; for others, individual rights or justice. For some, it is a reminder of those who fought to protect all Americans' right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our first President, George Washington, had this to say about the flag's symbolism: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her."

This year, we honor our flag the day before Father's Day. In light of this, I would especially like to pay tribute to all the fathers serving in our armed forces who will be unable to celebrate with their families this weekend. I ask that we keep these brave men—whose service ensures the freedom that our flag so gallantly symbolizes—in our hearts and prayers as we celebrate Flag Day.

In closing, let me read an excerpt from a poem that is familiar to many in our country, because it has been read at countless ceremonies where American citizens are gathered. It's entitled "I am the Flag," and it was written by Howard Schnauber:

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.

I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning.

I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up . . . and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.

I stand for freedom.

I am confident.

I am arrogant.

I am proud.

LOSS OF LIFE DURING IOWA TORNADO

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to express my heartfelt sympathies for the families of four

young Boy Scouts who lost their lives, and 48 other who were injured, in a terrible storm and tornado which struck last night just across the border from Nebraska in my neighboring state of Iowa.

Josh Fennen, 13; Sam Thomsen, 13; and Ben Petrzilka, 14—all of Omaha, Nebraska—and Aaron Eilerts, 14, of Eagle Grove, IA, were on what should have been a fun-filled camping trip with their Boy Scouts of America troop in a beautiful and rugged area not far from Omaha when this terrible weather hit their campsite.

At this somber time, I would like to recognize the heroism of the Scouts who came to the aid of those injured yesterday. You have the admiration of our entire State; your heroism and courage are in the finest tradition of Scouting. As an Eagle Scout, my thoughts go out to the entire Boy Scouts of America organization—nowhere is the sense of brotherhood so deep as with this wonderful group. While it is a dark hour for the Scouts, the character, strength, and sense of duty of these brave young men will help carry them through this tragedy.

Midwesterners are accustomed to violent weather, but we will never be accustomed to the tragic loss of life it sometimes brings. My thoughts and prayers are with these young victims and their families.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2007 SLOAN AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate the 2007 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, which recognizes companies that successfully have used flexibility to meet both business and employee goals.

As I did last year, I wish to draw attention to the Sloan Awards because I think these companies should be commended for their excellence in providing workplace flexibility practices which benefit both employers and employees. Achieving greater flexibility in the workplace—to maximize productivity while attracting the highest quality employees—is one of the key challenges facing American companies in the 21st century.

For 2007, businesses in the following 24 cities were eligible for recognition: Aurora, CO; Boise, ID; Brockton, MA; Chandler, AZ; Chattanooga, TN; Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Dallas, TX; Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Durham, NC; Houston, TX; Long Beach, CA; Long Island, NY; Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL; Morris County, NJ; Providence, RI; Richmond, VA; Salt Lake City, UT; Savannah, GA; Seattle WA; Spokane, WA; Tampa, FL; Washington, DC; and Winoona, MN.

The Chamber of Commerce in each city hosted an interactive business

forum to share research on workplace flexibility as an important component of workplace effectiveness. In these same communities, businesses applied for—and the winners that I am about to name were selected for—the Sloan Awards through a process that considered employees' views in addition to employer practices.

In Aurora, CO, the winners are Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, Lee Hecht Harrison, and The Medical Center of Aurora.

In Boise, ID, the winners are American Geotechnics, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho, Children's Home Society of Idaho, DJM Sales & Marketing Inc, Group One Real Estate, J-U-B Engineers, KPMG, The Leavitt Group of Boise, Prime Equity Mortgage Group, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, and TitleOne Corporation.

In Brockton, MA, the winner is Old Colony Elderly Services.

In Chandler, AZ, the winners are A&S Realty Specialists, Abalos & Associates PLLC, AHM Mortgage, Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital, Cachet Homes, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Chandler Connection, Chandler Unified School District, Clifton Gunderson LLP, Hacienda Builders, Henry & Horne LLP, Intel Corporation, Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, Johnson Bank, MDI, Microchip Technology Inc., Omega Legal Systems Inc., RIESTER, Spark, Technology Providers Inc., Today's Women's Health Specialists, US Airways, and Wist Office Products.

In Chattanooga, TN, the winners are Center for Community Career Education at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Management Recruiters of Chattanooga, Reading Education for Adult Development (READ) of Chattanooga, and Unum.

In Chicago, IL, the winners are Ernst & Young, First Midwest Bank, KPMG LLP, Lee Hecht Harrison, and Perspectives Ltd.

In Cincinnati, OH, the winners are Barnes Dennig, CSC Consulting Group, Deloitte & Touche, FSCreations, and Physical Therapy Options.

In Dallas, TX, the winners are Accenture, BDO Seidman LLP, The Beck Group, Community Council of Greater Dallas, Deloitte, Direct Energy, Kaye/Bassman International, Lee Hecht Harrison, Nortel Networks, and State Farm Insurance.

In Detroit, MI, the winners are Albert Kahn Associates Inc., Amerisure Mutual Insurance Company, Brogan & Partners Convergence Marketing, Detroit Regional Chamber, Humantech, and Menlo Innovations.

In Durham, NC, the winners are Durham's Partnership for Children, Greenfire Development, Horvath Associates, P.A., and VirtualOfficeAmerica.

In Houston, TX, the winners are Access Sciences Corporation, Binkley & Barfield Inc., Continental Airlines,

Deloitte, Direct Energy, El Paso Corporation, Fullbright & Jaworski LLP, Klotz Associates Inc., KPMG LLP, PGAL, PKF Texas, and Simdesk Technologies Inc.

In Long Beach, CA, the winners are KPMG and PeacePartners Inc.

In Long Island, NY, the winners are CMP Technology, Girl Scouts of Nassau County, and KPMG.

In Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL, the winners are Melbourne-Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and Wesche Jewelers.

In Morris County, NJ, the winner is Solix, Inc.

In Providence, RI, the winners are Embolden Design Inc., Family Service of Rhode Island, KPMG, LGC&D P.C., Lighthouse Computer Services, Inc., Rhode Island Housing, and Rhode Island Legal Service, Inc.

In Richmond, VA, the winners are Bon Secours Richmond Health System, Capital One Financial, Chesterfield County Government, and VCU Health System.

In Salt Lake City, UT, the winners are Cooper Roberts, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company, Intermountain Healthcare, Jones Waldo Holbrook & McDonough P.C., McKinnon-Mulherin Inc., Prince, Perelson & Associates, Redmond Minerals, Inc., and Select Health.

In Savannah, GA, the winners are Lazard Dana LLP and Wachovia.

In Seattle, WA, the winners are Blue Gecko, Cascadia Consulting Group, Child Care Resources, Consejo Counseling and Referral Services, Friends of the Children, Leadership Institute of Seattle, MarketFitz Inc., NRG::Seattle, PACE Staffing, Washington Health Foundation, WithinReach, Worktank, and URS.

In Spokane, WA, the winner is Gonzaga University.

In Tampa, FL, the winners are Argosy University Tampa, CIBERsites, Citigroup, Greenacre Properties Inc., Kerkering, Barberio & Co. P.A., Residential Drywall Inc., Self Reliance, Inc., Success 4 Kids & Families, and TEKsystems.

In Washington, DC, the winners are Capital One Financial, Discovery Communications Inc., and MorganFranklin Corp.

In Winona, MN, the winner is Wells Fargo Bank.

The Sloan Awards are presented by the When Work Works initiative, which is a project of the Families and Work Institute, in partnership with the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Twiga Foundation. The When Work Works initiative is sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Building on the success of the first 3 years, the next phase of the When Work Works initiative will extend the number of participating communities

to 30 in 2008 to include: Atlanta, GA; Birmingham, AL; Charleston, SC; Dayton, OH; Lexington, KY; Louisville, KY; and San Francisco, CA. Again, I congratulate the 2007 winners of the Sloan Awards and look forward to the continuing expansion of this worthwhile initiative.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. (The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5749. An act to provide for a program of emergency unemployment compensation.

H.R. 6003. An act to reauthorize Amtrak, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1245. An act to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capital Region.

S. 2516. An act to assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3179. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to authorize the use of Federal supply schedules for the acquisition of law enforcement, security, and certain other related items by State and local governments.

H.R. 3913. An act to amend the International Center Act to authorize the lease or sublease of certain property described in such Act to an entity other than a foreign government or international organization if certain conditions are met.

H.R. 6124. An act to provide for the continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill (H.R. 6124) was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. TESTER).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar: