When our Nation's leaders called thousands of men and women in uniform to liberate Iraq from its most brutal dictator, Technical Sergeant Dana was among those brave citizens for whom the duty to her country comes before all other luxuries. Technical Sergeant Dana joined the Air Force in 1998 and volunteered to serve in Iraq. Her assignment included supporting Army personnel by clearing vehicles at checkpoints and searching buildings for booby traps and explosives. Jamie was never alone while performing her duties in Iraq. She was accompanied by a working military dog, Rex, a 5-year-old German shepherd. The duo had trained together in the military fo 3 years and deployed as a team first to Pakistan and then Iraq.

Last June, after completing another mission, Technical Sergeant Dana and Rex were traveling in an armored humvee when a roadside bomb exploded under her seat. She suffered severe wounds resulting in massive internal bleeding that required 19 blood transfusions. ''The helicopter ride was the scariest 45 minutes of my life,'' remembers Major Paul Morton, a member of the medical trauma team who helped save Jamie's life.

Even when facing death, Technical Sergeant Dana never stopped thinking about her friend and comrade Rex. While recuperating from the injuries she suffered in Iraq, Rex has always been in Jamie's prayers. Although her future in the Armed Forces remains uncertain to this day, Dana never questions her decision to go to war. As she stated in a recent interview, ''I had begged for it. I wanted to deploy. You want to feel like you're a part of it.''

After her military duty is over, Technical Sergeant Dana plans to become a different kind of vet—a veterinarian, a profession that I admire. Dana asked the Air Force for permission to adopt her beloved friend, and I commend the leadership of the Air Force and Senator WARNER for their efforts to find a legislative solution to Jamie's request. I fully support the inclusion of this solution in the Defense authorization conference report. The work of our Nation's military and political leaders demonstrates their willingness to express our humble gratitude to those who proudly wear our Nation's uniform and endanger their lives to protect the freedom that we often take for granted. Jamie's story traveled thousands of miles and warmed the hearts of her fellow Americans, as well as political and military leaders.

A simple act of Congress will allow Technical Sergeant Dana be reunited with Rex. Both Jamie and Rex gave their best in the fight to protect the ideals of liberty and courageously participated in the spread of democracy across the globe. The least this country can do to honor their service is to allow this friendship to continue.

STOLEN VALOR ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I join my colleagues, Senators CONRAD, VITTER, SALAZAR, NELSON, JOHNSON, CHAMBLISS, THUNE, HAGEL, ISAKSON, LAUTENBERG, DOLE, and STEVENS, in cosponsoring S. 1998, the Stolen Valor Act of 2005.

During this Christmas season, our forces are deployed around the world, and many serve in hostile locations. Our service men and women continue to make great sacrifices abroad to ensure our safety here at home. It is our duty to recognize and honor that sacrifice and heroism. Unfortunately, some civilians have created elaborate lies to claim some of this honor as their own.

I am disturbed by stories of these despicable frauds who have tried to falsify heroic military records. These people wear medals that they did not earn, and claim honors which they do not deserve. This type of lie strikes at the very heart of the honor of our military and our Nation.

We must act now to protect the reputation of our military heroes with the full force of law. Those who seek to steal recognition that they have not earned must be held accountable and brought to justice. The Stolen Valor Act of 2005 does just that by enhancing penalties for making false claims in regard to personal medals awarded for combat action and valor, such as the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, or Congressional Medal of Honor. This law will allow law enforcement officials to prosecute individuals who falsely claim to be recipients of these awards, and perpetrators may receive a sentence of up to 1 year as a result.

As a veteran, I will always seek to protect the honored place of our military heroes. I cherish the sacrifices of all veterans, and I will continue to do everything in my power to support and protect their interests. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

REPUBLICAN JEWISH COALITION AD SUPPORTING WAR ON TERROR

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, Freedom is Worth Fighting For. That is the headline of a full page advertisement today in The New York Times. I was proud to add my name to this strong statement in support of our troops and our President in fighting the war on terror. The ad is sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition, a grassroots organization based in Washington, DC, with five full-time offices, 41 chapters, and over 20,000 members across our Nation.

The ad takes strong exception to a resolution approved last month by about 2,000 members of the Union for Reform Judaism—URJ—at a convention in Houston. The URJ resolution said, ''American Jews, and all Americans, are profoundly critical of this war and they want this administration to tell us how and when it will bring our troops home,'' and called the Iraq war ''unjust.'' The resolution reversed a 2002 URJ endorsement of the war and, according to news accounts, was adopted with very limited debate and only one person speaking against it.

As the Republican Jewish Coalition ad states, the URJ statement that American Jews oppose President Bush on Iraq is misleading and wrong. The URJ does not speak for me. Nor does it speak for all reform Jews or for the American Jewish community.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ad carries the signatures of 180 leaders and prominent figures in the Jewish community. In addition to my name, among those signing the newspaper ad are my colleague in the other body Representative ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, and two former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, James Tisch and Kenneth Bialkin. Other signers include rabbis and cantors; as well as State and local elected officials.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ad contains several other important messages. It notes that we support the President and the war on terror. We stand behind our troops and their mission of creating a safe, democratic Iraq. This mission is vital, says the ad, not only for the continuing fight against terrorism and the stability of the Middle East, but also for making the world a safer place for our children. I believe this message of support is particularly important as the Iraqi people prepare to vote for a permanent government later this week.

We can never surrender to terrorism. Those who attacked us on September 11, 2001, will not hesitate to do so again if given the opportunity. We dare not encourage them by weakness and vacillation in our unrelenting war on terror.

I commend the Republican Jewish Coalition for its leadership on this vital issue. I am proud to stand with them in defense of freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER DAVID MARIN ROMERO: IN MEMORIAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Today I rise to honor and share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, Officer David Marin Romero of the California Highway Patrol. Officer David Marin Romero spent 23 years with the California Highway Patrol, providing the citizens of California with safety and service. On September 23, 2005, while on motor patrol in the city of Industry, Officer Romero was struck and killed by a driver suspected to be under the influence of a controlled substance.

The California Highway Patrol was Officer Romero's passion. He began his career with the California Highway Patrol at the Riverside Station near his home, and a year later he transferred to the Sante Fe Springs Station, near his childhood community. Romero served the remainder of his career in Santa Fe Springs, giving back to his community. He loved riding his motorcycle and combined this with his passion for law enforcement to become a very successful motorcycle officer. Officer Romero's colleagues shall always remember his infectious grin, practical jokes, and commitment to his job.

Officer Romero was a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife Sandra and children, Austin, Windsor, David, Victor, and Vanessa. When he was not on duty, Officer Romero enjoyed spending time with his family, riding dirt bikes, and coaching his children's sports teams. Officer David Marin Romero served the State of California honorably and conscientiously, and fulfilled his oath as an officer of the law. Officer Romero gave his life while assisting those in peril or distress. His character, integrity, loyalty, and dedication to law enforcement are greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Officer David Marin Romero sacrificed his life doing what he loved to do—providing protection for the community in which he was raised. We shall always be grateful for Officer Romero's heroic service and the sacrifices he made while protecting the community he loved.●

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF NICK BRONZAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of the late Nick Bronzan, a tireless champion for young people and seniors in central California. Mr. Bronzan, a long-time Fresno resident, passed away in the peaceful company of his family and loved ones on December 4, 2005. He was 90 years old.

Nick Bronzan, the son of Yugoslavian immigrants, was a true son of California's Central Valley. He was born in Stockton and spent his formative years in Manteca. A gifted athlete, Nick excelled as a football player at Fresno State College. Admired by his coaches and teammates for his great leadership qualities, Nick served as the captain of the 1939 championship team.

Upon graduation, Nick taught mathematics and coached a number of sports at Kerman High School for 5 years. Nick and his wife Peggy were beloved for all they did in both school and community activities. He would further his passion for helping young people by working for the YMCA in Fresno, Tulare, and Culver City. In 1961, Nick became the general secretary of the Fresno YMCA, and 7 years later, he was appointed as the executive director of the Central Valley YMCA. Throughout his professional career, Nick demonstrated an unyielding commitment to positively impact the lives of young people.

In his retirement, Nick generously lent his leadership and passion for community service to a number of very worthy and empowering causes. As director of the Fresno Foster Grandparents Program, he spearheaded a volunteer program for seniors to work with children lacking parents and families. Nick also began a house-sharing organization to increase and enhance older companionship. A powerful and determined advocate for the senior community, Nick successfully convinced businesses to hire senior watchmen to work late shifts. In 1984, he was appointed by then-California Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., to the California Commission on Aging and Long-Term Care. Whereas some see their golden years as a time to fade into the background in public life, Nick embraced it as an opportunity to continue to lead, to motivate others, and to make good things happen.

Nick Bronzan devoted 70 of his 90 years to community service. Nick selflessly gave his boundless energy, genuine compassion, and precious humanity to uplifting and empowering those who are most often neglected in our society: the young and the old. Nick has left behind a legacy of service and the admiration of those whose lives he touched over the years. He will be dearly missed.

Nick is survived by his wife Peggy; two daughters, Mary Bronzan and Ann McDonald; son, Bruce; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. On December 11, more than 200 members of his family and friends gathered in Fresno to honor a rich life, well lived.●

TRIBUTE TO LINWOOD CARTER

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and recognize the contributions of an individual who has dedicated three decades of his life to serving the U.S. Congress.

Linwood B. Carter II began his career with the Congressional Research Service in 1975 and will be embarking on a well-earned retirement shortly after the New Year. As an information research specialist in U.S. military and international security affairs, Linwood has responded to literally thousands of congressional research requests over the years with a level of professionalism and skill I have seldom encountered. In carrying out our responsibilities as legislators, we in the Senate and our colleagues in the House confront a constant need for accurate and timely information; often it has been through the efforts of Linwood Carter that those responsibilities have been met. His mastery of the Library of Congress's resources and the informational nooks and crannies in the world of international security affairs has been unsurpassed.

Linwood's dedication to serving the needs of Congress is unparalleled. His quiet professional demeanor will be sorely missed by Members, the Congressional Research Service, and by the Library of Congress. I would like to extend our thanks to him for his efforts on our behalf for the last three decades and to wish him the best in the years to come.●

COMMENDING THE INDIANA WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the certification of the Indiana Civil Support Team and the support it will provide the people of Indiana in the event of an attack utilizing a weapon of mass destruction. During this holiday season, many prefer not to think of the horrors associated with nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, but the 22 members of the 53rd WMD–CST don't have that luxury. It is their job to help protect Hoosiers should a WMD attack occur in Indiana.

On November 28, 2005, the Pentagon announced that the Indiana Civil Support Team was fully ready to assist civil authorities in responding to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident. Stationed in Indianapolis, the team possesses the requisite skills, training and equipment to make a difference in assisting first responders and local officials in the critical moments immediately following a nuclear, radiological, chemical or biological event. The CST is able to deploy rapidly, assist local first responders in determining the nature of the attack, provide medical and technical advice, and pave the way for the identification and arrival of follow-on State and Federal military response assets.

In March 2004, I was pleased to join with Governor Kernan and Senator BAYH to announce the creation of the WMD–CST in Indiana. The team is made up of highly skilled, full-time members of the Indiana National Guard and Reserve who have completed 20 months of intense training. The team is equipped with sophisticated detection, analytical, monitoring, communications and protective equipment and is under the command and control of Governor Mitch Daniels. This signifies another important step to ensuring that our country, the State of Indiana, and our local communities are prepared should we face terrorists armed with a nuclear, chemical or biological weapon.

Last week's announcement occurred with little fanfare and negligible public interest. This is unfortunate because the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is the No. 1 national security threat facing our country.

Chemical weapons were introduced on the battlefields of World War I. Nuclear weapons ended World War II. Biological weapons were components of Cold War arsenals. The 20th century