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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

January 24, 2012

TO: House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Sen. Pat Roberts

Chairman Hayzlett, Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me to express these ideas on the contributions of the soldiers from Frankfort, Kansas during World War II.

In February, 2007, it was my pleasure to enter the names of the 32 young men who gave their lives in the service of their country into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. These warfighters and their families made a sacrifice and a contribution well beyond any expectation for a small town in the middle of the United States. These sacrifices of the families of these young men are constantly a reminder of how much we owe them and their comrades for the continuing freedom and liberty for ourselves and future generations of Americans.

We thank World War II veteran, Frank Benteman, for his unceasing efforts to gain proper recognition for these young soldiers and their families. It is impossible to fully communicate our gratitude for their sacrifice.

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts

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List of 32 Frankfort men killed during World War II:

- Tech Sgt Willard A. Backman was a gunner aboard "In the Mood", a B-17 bomber shot down on May 19, 1943.
- Fred Bentsen, a seaman second-class in the Navy, was reported missing on Jan. 14, 1944.
- Gunnery Sgt. Lloyd C. Blackney had enlisted in the Marines on his 18th birthday and was 24 when he was killed in the South Pacific.
- Pvt. Leland Cook, the father of three children, (9, 8 and 3) had been in the Army for eight months when he was reported missing in Italy.
- S/Sgt. Melvin Cope, 23, was a gunner aboard a bomber when he was killed in April 1944, at Finschafen, New Guinea.
- Elmer Crumpton
- S/Sgt. Kenneth DeWalt, an Army veteran of four years, was killed on Nov. 29, 1944, on Leyte in the Philippine Islands.
- Robert Emmingham
- Victor Feldhausen
- Peter Fiegenger, 38, an Army Infantryman, was killed in Germany on October 16, 1944.
- Army Pfc. William R. Gibson was injured at Carlsbad, NM, and died in a hospital on December 20, 1943, in El Paso, TX.
- Lt. Don Hockensmith, Jr., 25, was a bombardier in the Army Air Corps when he was killed on Jan 8, 1944, in New Guinea.
- Dale C. Hooper, 22, was an Army private when he was killed on Nov 18, 1944, in Germany.
- Army S/Sgt. Milan E. Jester was killed in Germany on Sept 15, 1944, three days after his 23rd birthday.
- Lt. Koester Johnston, 22, was killed when his heavy bomber crashed during an emergency landing on Dec. 11, 1944, near Minot, ND, on a long-distance training flight.
- S/Sgt Donald E. King, a gunner in Army Air Corps, was killed in the crash of three planes at Greenville, SC, on Feb 12, 1944.
- Vern F. Long
- Lt. Weldon Maneval, 26, a navigator aboard a large bomber in the Army Air Corps, was killed during an air raid over France on January 21, 1944.
- Sgt. Matt McKeon was killed while serving in Europe.
- Capt. Carl O. Nord, 31, was an Army doctor when he was killed in Italy.
- Aloysius Noud, an Army infantryman, was killed April 1, 1945.
- Howard Olson
- PFC Paul A. Paden, an Army mechanic, was captured at Bataan in the Philippine Islands in early 1942.
- Charles Poff
- Charles L. Punteney
- Theodore Rhodes, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy was killed Nov. 10, 1942, in the Pacific.
- David L. Shyne served the Navy and was killed in a naval battle in the southwest Pacific on December 24, 1942.
- James Stoffel, 23, an Army private, was killed Nov. 18, 1944, in Germany.
- Lt. Clifford Watson, 28, a Marine pilot, was killed in a plane accident. He had flown more than 50 combat missions.
- Robert B. Welsh
- Charles F. Zinn
- MunroZoellner

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Senate

WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF FRANKFORT, KANSAS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the valor and great sacrifice of the citizens in Frankfort, KS. Frankfort is a small town in northeast Kansas. It is a thriving rural community of approximately 855 people. In the early 1940s, just as today, Frankfort was teeming with good Americans, Americans who answered the call of duty and fought so that their fellow Americans could live in freedom.

But that alone is not what makes Frankfort notable. Brave men and women from small towns, big cities, and everywhere in America have served our Nation in the Armed Forces. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice.

What makes this town, then home to approximately 1,800 people, notable is the solemn fact that 32 brave men from Frankfort and the surrounding farmland gave their lives in World War II. Based on records from local county newspapers of that time, it is concluded that the Frankfort community lost more men in World War II than any other town of similar size. This fact imparts both a deep sense of pride for the bravery and commitment of these young Kansans and also sadness for the great loss of life that is inherent in times of war.

During my years in public service, I have experienced many opportunities to meet some amazing people and hear the incredible stories that truly define America. This is exactly how I have come to learn of this incredible contribution to our Nation's security. Frank Benteman, a World War II Army veteran, shared this story. Mr. Benteman, now 80 years old, is from Frankfort and was part of this "greatest generation" who served. It was Mr. Benteman who continues to honor those who went before by remembering their sacrifice and honoring their memory. I am pleased to work along with Frank Benteman to honor the heroes of Frankfort, KS, by entering their names into the Congressional Record in recognition of their ultimate sacrifice to a grateful nation.

The brave men from Frankfort, KS, who gave their lives in the great Second World War include Willard A. Backman, Fred Bentsen, Lloyd C. Blackney, Leland Cook, Melvin Cope, Elmer Crumpton, Kenneth DeWalt, Robert Emmingham, Victor Feldhausen, Peter Fiegenger, William R. Gibson, Don Hockensmith, Jr., Dale C. Hooper, Milan E. Jester, Koester Johnston, Donald E. King, Vern F. Long, Weldon Maneval, Matt McKeon, Carl O. Nord, Aloysius Noud, Howard Olson, Paul A. Paden, Charles Poff, Charles L. Puntency, Theodore Rhodes, David L. Shyne, James Stoffel, Clifford Watson, Robert B. Welsh, Charles F. Zinn, and Monroe Zoellner.

Semper fi.

least once a week are problem gamblers, and that card players exhibit the most symptoms of gambling addiction.

Internet gambling entices young people into a gambling lifestyle. Young people who are accustomed to playing video games for hours on end are particularly likely to be enticed by the games and to lack a realistic perception of the consequences of gambling for money. Conversely, traditional casinos appeal to mature adults: according to a recent survey by the American Gaming Association, 75 percent of casino customers are over 40 years old. Internet gambling appeals to the opposite demographic: at least 70 percent of Internet gamblers are under 40 according to the AGA, and they did not even count the millions of online gamblers who are under 21. Also, Internet gambling appears to be a gateway drug. According to that same survey, Internet gamblers are twice as likely to engage in traditional gambling than the general population. So the rise of online gambling is fertilizing the soil for an explosion of gambling addictions in this country.

The United Kingdom is in the midst of an effort to legalize and regulate online gambling, including efforts to prevent youth and problem gambling. This effort is not going well. A report commissioned by the British Government was issued a few weeks ago. The report admits that most gambling operators choose jurisdictions where there is very little regulation on their activities. This creates a race to the bottom, where gambling operators in a few countries can offer services that flout the laws of almost every other jurisdiction.

The new law confronts the problem of online gambling in three ways. First, it transforms violations of State gambling laws into a Federal crime as soon as the gambling operator receives money for the transaction. Second, it authorizes Federal and State attorneys general to enjoin persons who enable violations of the law, such as a person running advertisements for illegal Web sites. Third, it requires payment systems to block payments for illegal online gambling.

The new Federal criminal law is already having a positive effect. The publicly traded online gambling companies, who have to answer to financial institutions and other investors, have quickly withdrawn from the U.S. market.

Some Web sites continue to deceive the American public about the legality of online gambling. State and Federal law enforcement are now empowered to enjoin advertising for these illegal websites, and any other support services within their reach. Payment blocking is necessary to reduce Internet gambling and make it clear to the American public that this activity is illegal.

The payment blocking requirements will not become effective until the Treasury Department and the Federal

Reserve issue regulations. The statutory deadline for these regulations is August 10, 2007. I urge the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve to issue these regulations on time, and to make them strong.

Most online gambling websites use third-party offshore payment systems to receive money from U.S. customers, because many U.S. financial institutions have already been blocking payments to these Web sites for years. When a U.S. credit card or bank sends money to one of these services, the U.S. financial institution does not know how the money will be used. On the other hand, the third-party payers know the money in their accounts is being used for online gambling by U.S. customers. Therefore, these third-party payers are knowingly aiding and abetting a criminal act when they send funds from U.S. customer accounts to online gambling companies.

Firepay has appropriately chosen to stop making these illegal payments for American customers, even though it operates out of Ireland. The regulations need to make sure that law-abiding companies such as Firepay are protected, while third-party payers who knowingly aid and abet criminal activity are effectively sanctioned.

I would also note that this law empowers payment systems to make strong efforts to stop the use of their systems for online gambling. To that end, section 5364(d) of the new law protects entities from civil liability for blocking restricted transactions, or if they mistakenly block, prevent, or prohibit legal transactions when attempting, in good faith, to comply with the law. At the same time, section 5364(b)(4) clarifies that the government will attempt to draft the regulations to catch as few legal transactions as possible.

The key is implementing the most effective and efficient enforcement measures that are reasonably possible. We have not sat idly by while unscrupulous operators profiteer from evading our laws and perpetrating fraud on the public. We have worked long and hard to defend the letter and the purpose of State and Federal gambling laws, and now we ask the executive branch to help us finish the job. Strong regulations for payment systems will cut off most fund transfers to offshore online gambling operators and destroy U.S. markets. By drastically reducing the availability of Internet gambling in the U.S., we will reduce new addictions and violations of the law.

This is why, this year, 49 State attorneys general, as well as the National District Attorneys Association, Federal Criminal Investigators, and Fraternal Order of Police wrote in support of this law. These law enforcement groups were not alone. They were joined by extraordinarily diverse groups that are concerned about the effect that online gambling has on society and the rule of law.

First, sports organizations are concerned about preserving the integrity

of athletic competitions, and want to protect them from perceptions of corruption or a culture of gambling. This is why the National Football League, National Collegiate Athletic Association, Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, and National Hockey League all actively supported the law.

Second, financial institutions are concerned about Internet gambling's association with money laundering, uncollectible consumer debt, and use of their systems for criminal activity. This is why the American Bankers Association, America's Community Bankers, and Securities Industry of America, joined by individual companies such as American Express, Citigroup, and PayPal, wrote in support of the law.

Third, religious groups and family welfare groups are concerned about the devastating effects that gambling addiction can have on families. This is why this law was supported by a broad range of civic organizations, from mainline churches such as the United Methodist Church and the National Council of Churches, to coalitions such as the National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion, to conservative family groups such as the Family Research Council and Concerned Women for America.

This is why I am proud that this legislation was finally enacted. As all these diverse groups recognized, online gambling is a threat to civic society for many reasons. Failing to enforce laws that are meant to diminish this threat undermines the rule of law itself. But today we stand ready to reclaim the power to enforce the law, and I ask for the help of the Treasury Department and other executive agencies to secure this victory.

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Semper fi.

THE SATELLITE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I would like to note that while I am cosponsoring S. 4067, there are some outstanding issues that I believe need to be addressed before we proceed with this legislation. It is critical to my rural consumers that they continue to have access to distant network signals that they have come to enjoy and depend on, and through no fault of their own now face losing on December 1st, 2006. I want to ensure that all of my constituents are protected. Accordingly, I look forward to working with the bill sponsors to improve the language when the Senate reconvenes in December. In Nevada we have over 5,000 consumers that will be shut off if action is not taken to restore these signals.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to commemorate an important event that took place on Veterans Day weekend. On November 10, the Marine Corps Birthday, I was privileged to give the annual address at

the revered Iwo Jima Memorial, and then to attend the dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.

This marvelous dedication featured remarks from President Bush, President of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation General (Ret.) Ron Christmas and the distinguished news anchor and former marine, Jim Lehrer. They were joined by thousands of fellow marines—past and present—including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, GEN Pete Pace, Commandant of the Marine Corps Michael Hagee and former Senators John Glenn and Chuck Robb.

Especially moving was President Bush conferring our Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, posthumously, on Cpl Jason Dunham, who was tragically killed outside the Iraqi town of Karabilah in 2004.

For all who worked tirelessly to construct this wonderful museum that highlights the Marine Corps experience, that dedication ceremony became a tribute of a lifetime for all marines.

On this week of Veterans' Day, and the Marine Corps Birthday, we remind ourselves that we are here solely because of the sacrifices of men and women who for 231 years now have worn our Nation's uniform to preserve our freedoms against outside enemies.

Like the "Devil Dogs" of Belleau Wood, today's generation of Leathernecks—from the Commandant to the newest recruit at Parris Island—have answered one of the highest callings: serving as a marine for the greatest Nation on Earth.

As President Reagan famously observed, "some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they have made a difference. Marines don't have that problem."

My good friend of many years, Jim Lehrer, gave a particularly inspired speech at the museum dedication that captured the fundamental nature of what it means to be a marine, and how that experience shaped him, as it did all of us, in our lives.

I ask unanimous consent that his inspiring speech be printed in the RECORD as a tribute to all marines, former or current, around the world.

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

TRIBUTE TO MARINES

(By Jim Lehrer)

Mr. President, generals, colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, warrant officers, sergeants, corporals, privates, ladies and gentlemen.

We are the Marines. And in this museum, our story is told. It is a single, monumental story, made up of 231 years of many separate stories of heroism and courage, of dedication and sacrifice, of service to our country and to our corps, of honor and loyalty to each other in war and in peace; 231 years of professionalism and pride, of squared corners and squared-away lockers, perfect salutes and good haircuts, well-shined shoes, and eyes right; 231 years of Semper Fi and DIs.

First time I came to Quantico was 51 years ago. I came as an officer candidate, a PLC on

the train from Washington, having just traveled from Texas on the first airplane ride of my life. On the orders of a drill instructor, a DI, I fell in at attention with 40 other candidates on the platform at the train station over at Quantico.

And the DI told us to answer up, "Here, sir!" when our name was called. And he got to mine, and he said, "Le-her-er-er." And, like some kind of idiot, I blurted out, "It's pronounced Lehrer, sir!"

There was silence, absolute silence. And then I heard the terrifying click, click, click of leather heels on the deck of that train station platform coming in my direction. And suddenly there he was, the DI, right in front of me, his face right up in mine. And I paraphrase and cleanse it up a bit, but he said, "Candidate, if I say your name is Little Bo Peep, your name is Little Bo Peep!"

"Do you hear me?" Oh, I heard him all right. And I think it was at that very moment that I really became a United States Marine.

I'm still one today, and I will remain one forever, as did my late father, and as is my older and only brother.

I came from a family of Marines into the family of Marines. My father served in the 1920s under the great Smedley Butler right here at Quantico. He saw combat in Haiti and came out a corporal. My brother and I were both 1950s Cold War Marines in the Third Marine Division in the Far East.

Since our corps was founded on this day in 1775, there have been more than 4 million men and women who have worn the uniform of a United States Marine. This museum is about all of them, including us three "Le-her-er-ers," and even the Little Bo Peeps. That's because this museum is about what it means to be a Marine, no matter the time, the length, place, rank, or nature of the service.

It's about the shared experience and the shared knowledge that comes from being a U.S. Marine, such as knowing that you are only as strong and as safe as the person on your right and on your left; that a well-trained and motivated human being can accomplish almost anything; that being pushed to do your very best is a godsend; that an order is an order, a duty is a duty, that responsibility goes down the chain of command, as well as up, as do loyalty and respect; that leadership can be taught, so can bearing, discipline and honor; that "follow me" really does mean "follow me"; and that that Semper Fidelis really does mean "always faithful"; and that the Marines hymn is so much more than just a song.

My Marine experience helped shape who I am now personally and professionally, and I am grateful for that on an almost daily basis. And I often find myself wishing everyone had a similar opportunity, to learn about shared dependence, loyalty, responsibility to and for others, about mutual respect and honor, and about the power of appealing to the best that's in us as human beings, not the worst.

As a journalist, there has been one overriding effect of my Marine experience: While debates over sending Americans into harm's way are always about issues of foreign policy, geopolitics and sometimes even politics-politics, for me, they are also always about young lance corporals and second lieutenants and other very real people in all branches of the U.S. military, people with names, ranks, serial numbers, faces, families, and futures that may never be.

When Marines stand for or sing the Marines' hymn, as we will at the conclusion of this ceremony, it's never for ourselves personally. It's always for the Marines who went before us, with us, and after us, first and foremost for those who gave their lives,