

along the exceedingly dangerous and remote border between Afghanistan and Pakistan was remarkable, commendable, and in every way worthy of note to this body. In a self-described "unusual letter," Lieutenant Colonel Fosdal praises the many accomplishments and reputation of Company B, calling them "proud warriors." I ask unanimous consent that Lieutenant Colonel Fosdal's letter, as part of my statement, be printed in the RECORD.

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

EMBEDDED TRAINING TEAM 2-4,
3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN),
FPO AP, February 15, 2007.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Boise, ID.

GOVERNOR OTTER, I apologize for this somewhat unusual letter, but I feel it's important to let you know about the selfless courage and exceptional performance of one of Idaho's National Guard units.

I'm currently deployed to a Forward Operating Base located on the Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. Our mission is to mentor the Afghan National Army battalion responsible for the Bermel District of Pakistan Province in one of Afghanistan's most remote and remote regions. Within days of our arrival last October we found ourselves in a 4-hour running gun fight through the mountains in response to an insurgent attack on an American convoy. We had less than a full company of Afghan soldiers but managed a significant victory largely due to the brave men of Company B, 1st BN, 183rd Aviation out of Boise, Idaho. Despite heavy ground fire and a chaotic battlefield they provided precise and timely fires against the enemy, killing many and saving the lives of Afghans and U.S. forces alike. On November 7th we found ourselves in another serious fight, this time with a wounded Marine and Afghan soldiers pinned down by enemy fire. Once again the men from Boise came to our aide—staying on station and working with the Marines on the ground to suppress the enemy and save the wounded. Lesser men would have declared the area too dangerous and flown away leaving us to fend for ourselves, but not Company B. They stuck with the troops in the fight and as a direct result of their heroic efforts a Marine is now at home with his family, healing and thankful to be alive.

There were numerous other occasions when the Afghans were apprehensive about venturing into steep valleys or mountain passes. I only had to mention to the Afghan Commander that the Apaches from Boise would be there and his response would inevitably be, "The helicopters that saved my life? We will win then. Come, we go now." This respect did not stop with the Afghans, the U.S. Army and Special Forces were also imbued with confidence knowing that your unit had their back. In my time on the border, I have not witnessed any other single unit that had the amount of respect and whose mere presence boosted morale like that of Company B.

Company B is now on its way back to Boise. I'm sure the awards have been written, welcomes planned and everyone is just eager to see their families and loved ones. I would only ask that if you have the opportunity, please thank them and let the citizens of Idaho know that they should be proud of these brave warriors. As a state rich in natural resources I thank you and the people of Idaho for sending your most precious resource, its citizens, to serve here in Afghani-

stan. I hope that you are as proud of them as I am for having served along side them.

Thank you.

S.G. FOSDAL,
LtCol, USMC.

Mr. CRAPO. It makes me proud to hear fellow Idahoans described this way. Our military men and women from every State and territory continue to stand strong for freedom and uphold their solemn commitment to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America." This is simply my opportunity to thank and pay deep respect to the men and women of Company B, part of Idaho's esteemed military tradition, current and past. The steadfast commitment to duty, perseverance, excellence, and reliability are all traits that reflect the spirit of Idaho characteristics clearly articulated in respectful words of honor and thanks from a commanding officer. These soldiers and their families have sacrificed much to keep us free and keep terror and tyranny far from our own shores. On behalf of my family, I thank them all for their valorous service, heartfelt commitment, outstanding patriotism, and willing sacrifice.

HONORING THE INDY RACING LEAGUE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today Senator LUGAR and I wish to recognize the Indy Racing League, IRL, for its decision to use 100 percent ethanol in its race cars and the impact that decision will have on ethanol's viability as a major fuel source for Americans. With its decision to use ethanol as the fuel for the IndyCar series, the IRL is leading the way to encourage greater public use of renewable fuels. If the world's fastest cars can run on ethanol, then there is no doubt that America's cars, trucks and SUVs can, too.

This year all of the IndyCars will race on 100 percent ethanol that is available right here in America—produced by American workers. With this change, the corn harvested on farms across the country will power the fastest cars in the world.

The ethanol that will power the IRL racecars will deliver the same high-performance capabilities that drivers rely on, only without harmful air pollution. It also represents an important step toward reducing America's dependence on foreign oil by providing a renewable energy source grown in our own fields. By tapping the energy potential of America's farms, we can ensure a reliable domestic energy supply to meet our Nation's needs, end our reliance on unstable countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Venezuela, and create jobs for Hoosier farmers.

This Saturday, March 24, millions of Americans and sports fans from around the world will not only watch the opening race of the IndyCar Series and see first-hand the power of ethanol, but they will also watch the future of American energy unfold at 220 miles per hour.

Reducing our dependence on foreign oil is one of the great challenges of this generation, and the IRL is playing a key role in this effort by helping inform Americans about this important alternative fuel. Since 1911, Indiana has been the center of the auto-racing world, setting the standard in racing for drivers and fans alike. And now, the Indy Racing League is setting a new standard, this time for greater energy independence.

Earlier this year, we introduced the DRIVE Act, legislation that is supported by both Democrats and Republicans to reduce our dependence on oil by 7 million barrels per day in 20 years—more than twice the amount we currently import from the Middle East. It achieves this goal through a combination of steps, including increased use of ethanol, tax credits for manufacturers to produce advanced diesels, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid vehicles, and greater funding for the research and development of energy efficient technologies.

We applaud the Indy Racing League for leading the way in this effort and, along with thousands of other Hoosiers, look forward to this year's ethanol-powered races.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR THOMAS EAGLETON

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to add to the praise of a great statesman and a great friend: Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri.

Those of us who knew Tom remember him as a man of nearly endless drive and boundless energy. Those qualities carried him to a career in Missouri politics unmarked by a single defeat: the youngest St. Louis circuit attorney, the youngest Missouri attorney general and Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator at the age of 39.

Tom spent his political career, as his hometown paper put it, as "a force of nature. He worked crowds with a fervor, sweating like a mill worker, chain-smoking Pall Malls, shaking hands, trading insults, telling jokes, remembering names and pet causes." As he conceded himself, "I campaigned myself right into the hospital."

Thankfully, Tom emerged to serve as one of the most eloquent liberal voices in Congress. His achievements should make his constituents proud and his fellow Senators a little envious.

He was crucial to the enactment of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, legislation that still forms the backbone of our environmental defense today.

Tom sponsored the amendment that ended American bombing of Cambodia and helped bring an end to the Vietnam war.

He was a longtime opponent of unchecked Presidential powers to wage war; and I am sure I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we could sorely use his example and his counsel in the months ahead.