

Richard was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of Company E, 38th Main Support Battalion, Indianapolis. This brave soldier leaves behind his wife Patricia and two children, Whitney, 11, and Richard Jr., 9. He also leaves behind his mother, Janice Schauwecker, and father, James Blakley.

A medic in the Indiana National Guard, Richard's devotion to duty had been commemorated just months before his death, when he was presented with a Purple Heart following a wound from an enemy sniper in January. Because of his injury, Richard was offered a trip home and was urged to take time off to recuperate. Instead, he chose to return to active duty the same day.

Richard joined the Indiana Guard out of high school in 1989 and volunteered to serve in the Persian Gulf war and at U.S. ports in 2003 and 2004. In civilian life, Richard was a journeyman millwright, putting together machinery and heavy equipment. An avid Colts fan, Richard always wore a team shirt on game days, even if he was on patrol. He was wearing one on the day he was shot in January, and the Colts had planned to sign the bloodstained shirt and return it to him. Richard was also known for being a devoted father who was driven by a desire to help others! A friend and fellow Indiana National Guard member recalled to the Indianapolis Star Richard's dedication to those around him, saying "It was just who he was. He wanted to be where the action was. He wanted to help people . . ." His wife called her husband "the strongest person I've ever known in my life."

Today, I join Richard'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 Richard, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Richard was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Richard 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 Richard'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 Richard's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Richard Blakley in the official RECORD of the 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 Richard'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 Richard.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I honor the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. In 1956, the people of Hungary stood in the face of adversity and expressed their passion for democracy and independence. They had a vision of what a free and democratic Hungary would look like—a vision that finally came to fruition after nearly 35 years. Only 10 years prior to the revolution, Hungarians participated in free elections. Through those elections, the people felt the hope and promise of democracy. The perseverance of these strong people can be seen in their remarkable journey toward freedom.

On October 23, 1956, tens of thousands of Hungarians stood in the streets, demanding independence from the Soviets. The revolt began as a peaceful gathering of student protesters that spread to the general population, and the first day ended with clashes between the police and the demonstrators. Those on the streets were advocating for basic principles of liberty—free elections, freedom of the press, withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, and the return of their Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who had been forced out of office because of his democratic policies.

In an attempt to calm the uprising, on October 26, 1956, the Central Committee of the Communist Party reinstated Nagy as Prime Minister. He promised the people of Hungary political freedom and vowed to revive the democratic process. He began by vowing to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact and declaring neutrality on November 1, 1956. As Nagy was working to satisfy those revolting, the Soviets were working on a plan to counter the revolution. Even though some members of the Hungarian Army defected and worked against the Soviets, ultimately it was not enough to fight off the ever-powerful Soviet regime.

Only 12 days after the revolution began, the Soviet Air Force started a counterrevolution, bombing parts of

Budapest on November 4, 1956. The hope of the Hungarian people for freedom quickly slipped away. In the days and weeks following the revolution, many of those involved fled to other countries. Prime Minister Nagy tragically, however, was tried in secret and executed in June 1958, paying the ultimate price for his involvement in the revolution.

Today, we reflect with Hungarians around the world, including many proud Hungarian Americans, 50 years after this significant time period and celebrate the promise it held for the future of Eastern Europe.

#### DECOMMISSIONING OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER "MACKINAW"

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*—WAGB 83—and her crew for their years of service to the United States, the State of Michigan, and the Great Lakes. Today, after 62 years of service, the *Mackinaw*'s commissioning pennant will be lowered, and the Coast Guard will pass the honor of keeping the Great Lake's shipping lanes open to her namesake and legacy, the new U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*—WLBB-30.

On March 20, 1943, construction of the *Mackinaw* began at the Toledo Ship Building Company. When commissioned on December 20, 1944, the *Mackinaw* was the most powerful icebreaker in the world. The ship measures 269 feet from bow to stern, and it is still the largest cutter in the Great Lakes. The "Big Mac," as it is affectionately known, set the standard for other icebreakers to live up to.

The *Mackinaw* began her service at the end of 1944 breaking ice and keeping the shipping lanes open to ensure the flow of steel during World War II. The cutter's design was state of the art and gave her the ability to break channels 70 feet wide through 4 feet of ice. The *Mackinaw* once broke through an astonishing 37 feet of ice. During her first season she made 17 passes through the Straits of Mackinac.

While the Big Mac's primary mission was to keep the shipping lanes open during the winter months, she also conducted search and rescue, aid to navigation, law enforcement, and public relations missions. On a tragic day in 1965, the U.S. *Cedarville* and Norwegian *Topdalsfjord* collided in Lake Huron, and the *Mackinaw* rushed to aid survivors and take on casualties. When performing its primary mission from December to April, the *Mackinaw*'s motto is "we move ships when no one else will." In 1948, the *Mackinaw* freed 12 ice-locked ships in Buffalo, N.Y., and in 1984 opened a channel through the St. Clair River Ice Jam freeing 13 vessels stuck in the ice and opening a passage for 75 other freighters waiting for passage. For these and other feats, the *Mackinaw* also became known as the "Great White Mother."