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Senate

Statement on the Death of First Lieutenant Garrison Avery

by U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel

I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Army First Lieutenant Garrison Avery, from Nebraska. Lieutenant Avery died of wounds he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle while on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq on February 1. He was 23 years-old.

Lieutenant Avery grew up in Lincoln and graduated from Lincoln High School in 2000. He received his parents permission to enlist in the Army at age 17 and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2004. During his junior year at the academy, Lieutenant Avery established an organization called, "Light by Morning," to aid Iraqi orphans. After graduating from West Point, he successfully completed the U.S. Army Ranger School and the Sapper Leaders Course and was as-

signed to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was deployed to Iraq in October 2005. Lieutenant Avery will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lieutenant Avery are currently serving in Iraq.

Lieutenant Avery is survived by his wife, Kayla; parents, Susan and Gary Avery; brothers, Clinton and Johnathan; and sister, Elizabeth. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Lieutenant Avery's heroic service and mourns his loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring First Lieutenant Garrison Avery.