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Senate

REMEMBERING DAVID VANBUSKIRK

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, the State of Nevada mourns the loss of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Search and Rescue Officer David Vanbuskirk. Officer Vanbuskirk was a true hero who lost his life during a search and rescue operation at Mt. Charleston. His inspiring legacy of public service will be long remembered.

Officer Vanbuskirk began his service with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department 13 years ago, and was one of only seven commissioned officers charged with conducting rescues for the department. On Monday, July 22, 2013, he responded to a call for help from a stranded hiker who needed emergency assistance. It was during this dangerous rescue mission that Officer Vanbuskirk nobly gave his life in the line of duty.

Officer Vanbuskirk represented the very best of Nevada, and his sacrifice is exemplary of the highest standards of public service. His commitment to service above self is the definition of heroic, as is his willingness to place the safety and welfare of others before his own. His actions remind us that there are brave and fearless Americans who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe, and we owe them all a profound debt for their service.

While the State of Nevada will dearly miss this dedicated officer, his memory and legacy of courage will continue to live on in our hearts. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this fallen Nevadan, and I offer my deepest condolences to Officer Vanbuskirk's family and loved ones during this difficult time.