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NEWS RELEASE

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Honoring My Children On Father's Day **by Senator Larry Craig**

Though the origin of Father's Day is not clear, fathers throughout the United States are made to feel special by their children every year, on the third Sunday in June.

Sunday, June 15, marks my 24th year as Dad to Mike, Jay and Shae. And in recent years, their seven children have made me a doting Granddad to boot, doubling the joy of our celebration.

Throughout these years, I have never taken a Father's Day remembrance for granted – perhaps because I adopted my children when I had the wisdom and maturity to appreciate the pure joy of having them in my life. I have treasured the handmade trinkets, the interesting ties and the simple melody of their voices greeting me on that Sunday morning every year, “Happy Father's Day, Dad! We love you.”

Father's Day always has been a time of reflection for Suzanne and me – to look back fondly on our kids' achievements and to take pride in how they handled life's disappointments. I remember Shae's first date and her first breakup, Mike's first car and Jay's first soccer game.

But nothing affected me as emotionally as my children's love and loyalty during the dark days of last August.

When I was under siege by the media, by my political opponents and even by some I thought were my friends, it was my three children who surrendered their privacy and risked being tarred by those demanding my head, to take on their Dad's critics.

They were relentless in correcting the record – in television interviews and doggedly responding to newspaper reporters' endless questions. And when I appeared before the media to respond to unspeakable accusations, my kids stood with me, looking my accusers squarely in the eye. In the privacy of our home, when I would despair, they were there to lift up their Dad.

[MORE]

Craig page 2 – Honoring My Children On Father’s Day

Someone once said, “If there is anything better than to be loved, it is loving.”

No father in America is prouder of his children than I. So this Sunday, the luckiest Dad in Idaho won’t be just waiting around for his annual Father’s Day calls and visits. This Father’s Day, Dad is honoring the three who chose me to be their father – Shae, Mike and Jay.

[30]