

HONORING A HOOSIER HERO

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the life and memory of a young Hoosier soldier who recently fell while serving his country in the U.S. Army.

Capt. Milton Palmer was a bright and committed American soldier pursuing his dream of becoming an Army Ranger and serving his country for the balance of his life. Training in the swamplands of Florida's Eglin Air Force Base, Captain Palmer was just a few days away from completing the grueling 13-week trial that would set him apart as one of America's elite soldiers—a U.S. Army Ranger. The final days of training were understandably the most difficult, the most demanding. During one of these fateful days, the Ranger trainees had to simulate an assault operation in chest-deep, 50-degree waters, which would push any man to the very edge of survival.

Captain Palmer would not join his fellow trainees as they graduated from the Ranger Program in Fort Benning, GA, and solemnly accepted their new monikers. He and three other determined would-be Rangers died of hypothermia during that combat training exercise on February 15.

While I did not know Captain Palmer, I know some of his inspiring story. He was the middle child of three. Along with his older sister Torria and little brother Nathan, Milton grew up in a military family. His parents were able to keep the family close-knit, even during the moves and long tours of duty that are common among Army families. His father, a retired major, dedicated his entire adult life to military service, and Milton planned to follow in his father's footsteps. He was only 27 when he took the last of these steps.

Like other American heroes and leaders, Captain Palmer had an indomitable spirit and a willingness to meet adversity head-on. He attended the Citadel Military Academy, graduating with honors in 1990. Once in the service of his country, Captain Palmer earned several achievement commendations. He was awarded for his skills as an infantryman and parachutist—"leading the way"—to paraphrase the Ranger motto. And not long after graduation, he entered the Ranger Training Program in hopes of realizing one of his ambitious goals. Suffering from exposure and frostbite, Milton was eventually forced to cut short his participation in the demanding and grueling program.

But this would not deter him from pursuing his dream of joining the ranks of the U.S. Army Rangers. Captain Palmer would return to the Ranger Program to inspire his comrades as they pursued the same dream. He would challenge them to overcome both the elements that weakened their bodies and the fears that tried their spirits. It was during this second trial in the Ranger Program that Capt. Milton Palmer would pass away. He died while pursuing his goal, inspiring those who knew him and his story through it all.

However, to remember Captain Palmer and those other fallen trainees only for their pursuit of a common personal goal is not enough, because in the end these brave young men died for something much greater than them-

selves or any one of us who survive them. Captain Palmer and the three Ranger trainees that died with him laid down their lives so that we might be free. Their deaths were not senseless. The tragedy at Eglin Air Force Base reminds us that our freedom comes at a high price. Readiness and preparedness—ensured by training missions like the one that claimed young Milton and three of his brothers—deter our enemies and prevent war. These men did not die in vain.

And so, it is fitting that Arlington National Cemetery, the eternal home of so many of America's other heroes and martyrs, will serve as Capt. Milton Palmer's final resting place. For Captain Palmer was a hero, epitomizing the American military tradition of fidelity and bravery, preserving our freedom, and challenging us to follow his courageous example.

WINNERS OF BLACK HISTORY
COMPETITION**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate seven students in my district who won the Black History and Cultural Brain Bowl competition.

These outstanding students are Mickel Anglin, Kevan McIntosh, Kim Jefferson, Latonya Cooper, Jason Gibson, Markease Doe, and Rolando Cooper. All seven attend Plantation High School.

For 6 months these students studied black history during lunch, after school, late at night, and on weekends. They read books by major African-American authors, and learned about the contributions that African-Americans have made to American history, politics, sports, entertainment, the arts, and sciences.

They won the Broward County School district competition in October, and in late February beat out 10 other teams for the trophy and 4-year college scholarships.

I am proud to represent such outstanding young people and I am confident that all of these students will join the next generation of African-American leaders.

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE SUAREZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in my district I am fortunate to have business people who are dedicated to supporting the community. Arlene Suarez is one such person. Arlene was born and raised in New York City and attended Mother Cabrini High. She then attended New York Institute of Technology where she majored in Computer Science and Business Management.

Arlene has been employed by Good Paz Development Corp. [Good Paz] as managing director for commercial properties for the past 7 years. As the liaison between the Good Paz Corp. and the Bedford-Stuyvesant community she has been actively involved in the reopening of the Paz Williamsburg Center.

As a certified New York City Fire Safety Director, Arlene has consistently ensured stellar safety performances by all individuals who work with the Good Paz Development Corp. I am honored to recognize Arlene Suarez for her professionalism and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES W.
GALLAGHER**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, James W. Gallagher, for his service to the Nation and Delaware County, PA.

A resident of Newtown Square, PA, Mr. Gallagher is well known and highly regarded by many people throughout our community for his selfless charitable contributions. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Jim has remained dedicated to his country as an active historian, by preserving our patriotic history like no other.

Jim is best known throughout the region and the Nation as his alter ego, "George Washington." As vice-president of the Washington Crossing Foundation, Jim portrays George Washington as the principal speaker at the Nationwide Bell Ringing Ceremony sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Jim portrays our first President every Christmas in the reenactment of Gen. George Washington's historic journey during the Revolutionary War. He has promoted the legacy of George Washington by appearing in many parades and in our Nation's Capitol in costume.

Jim, like many throughout our great Nation, has worked to overturn the Supreme Court's decision of 5 years ago that ruled people who burn American flags are entitled to legal protection under the first amendment's provisions regarding free speech. As cosponsor of the flag protection amendment, I am gratified the amendment has been reintroduced and is gaining wide support among Members.

As a member of the General Society Sons of the Revolution, Jim published an eloquent and inspirational piece entitled "Freedom is a Light for Which Many Men had Died in Darkness." I would like to submit this article for the record so that my colleagues can appreciate Jim's keen insight. It is my hope that those who read it will be inspired as I was to reflect upon our rich historic roots.

I have been honored to work with Jim and am pleased to call him a friend. He deserves our recognition and continued support. I ask the Members of the House to join me in honoring this outstanding American.

FREEDOM IS A LIGHT FOR WHICH MANY MEN
HAVE DIED IN DARKNESS

(By James W. Gallagher)

Independence Day is a day to remember what transpired here 218 years ago. In July 1776 John Adams wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail, in Massachusetts. He wanted her to know about an important vote that he had just cast in Philadelphia as a member of the Continental Congress. The subject of his letter was the passage that day of something