

Although Gene has become well known and quite comfortable with the various agencies in California, he has also expanded his horizons. He participated in the California Agricultural Leadership Program and traveled to Africa and visited Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Egypt to observe the culture, economies and governments of those nations.

His many experiences both here and abroad have combined to make Gene the all around great guy that he is. His family, wife Susan and son Nels, have graciously shared Gene with the community for many years. While I am sure that Gene will not completely retire from public service, I am sure he will be spending more time with his loved ones.

For us, his retirement is bittersweet—although it is well deserved his efforts will be greatly missed. I congratulate Gene Lundquist, and wish his family all the best.

IN HONOR OF STAFF SERGEANT  
KIMBERLY FAHNESTOCK VOELZ

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a young woman who made the ultimate sacrifice for her country. Staff Sergeant Kimberly Fahnestock Voelz of Cumberland County Pennsylvania died December 14, 2003 in Iraq from injuries sustained on the battlefield. A Leader of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, Kimberly was fatally injured performing her duties with the EOD while approaching a suspicious device outside of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad. She is credited by her superiors as saving countless lives.

Born in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania on August 24, 1976 to Floyd Jr. and Carol (Mardis) Fahnestock Kimberly graduated from Trinity High School and joined the Army after briefly studying at Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA. She was also a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mechanicsburg.

Serving with the 703rd Ordnance Company, 2nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Staff Sergeant Voelz began her tour of duty in Iraq in September 2003. During her time of service to her country, she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, two Good Conduct Medals, and a National Defense Service Medal. Sergeant Voelz was also Posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, the Purple Heart, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for her service in Iraq. Kimberly was the first female soldier from Pennsylvania to die serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Described as a bright, talented self-starter, Voelz loved what she did, plain and simple. She reenlisted for another 10 years of service shortly before her death. Voelz chose EOD because it was something different, and it took her all over the world. She was often assigned Secret Security detail ensuring government facilities were free of explosives, including events such as the 2002 Winter Olympics and a visit by the late Pope John Paul II to St. Louis.

Staff Sergeant Kimberly Fahnestock Voelz will be honored in a ceremony at Letterkenny

Army Depot in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on May 2nd, 2005. Upon the recent completion of a new security gate, it will now bear Kimberly's name in honor of her service and sacrifice to the security of this nation. It is a fitting tribute that validates both her distinguished work as an Ordnance Soldier and Letterkenny's mission to support national security.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband Sergeant First Class Max Voelz, who was holding Kimberly in his arms when she died from her injuries. To her parents, brothers Chad, Mark and sister Kelly, who proudly and deservedly esteem Kimberly "their hero". We are humbly indebted to them for their sacrifice and a grateful nation honors Kimberly's memory.

### COMMEMORATING AFRICA MALARIA DAY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, whether you are from Minnesota or Mozambique, Kansas or the Congo—we all want good health for our children and ourselves. We all want the opportunity to be free from want and the hope that tomorrow will be a beautiful day, maybe even better than today.

Sadly, for millions of families across the African continent, good health, opportunity and hope are all needlessly diminished or extinguished by malaria.

Now I'm from Minnesota so I know a lot about cold winters and just as much about mosquito filled summers, but in Minnesota our mosquitoes annoy us—they don't make us sick and they don't kill our children.

The human misery and economic destruction caused by malaria in Africa is a reality that must change.

And we have the tools to slow malaria's destruction—bed nets, improved sanitation, improved drug treatments, appropriate pesticide use and a committed global partnership to provide resources and to help strengthen national health systems to fight malaria as well as tuberculosis and HIV infection.

Every year across the African continent more than one million babies, toddlers and children under five years old die from malaria. This unimaginable number of children dying last year alone is equal to every single child under 15 years of age in my state of Minnesota.

One million African children dying in a single year from a preventable disease is beyond comprehension, but in fact it is reality and it is a reality that can and must be changed.

For those of us who are moms and dads, we know small children burning with fever don't scream, they whimper almost silently and they stare into your eyes looking for help. Their voices are not heard.

More than a million African moms stare back into their children's eyes equally helpless. And tragically they watch them die from a disease that can be prevented, treated and defeated, if, if the world comes together with the resources, the determination and the urgency to defeat malaria.

Today we need to hear those one million tiny voices. Today we need to look back into

the eyes of a million mothers with our compassion and our commitment.

The leadership of the United States, along with other donor nations, when partnered with the Global Fund, the United Nations, W.H.O., UNICEF, along with health ministries and health workers across Africa—if we stand together—can transform the helplessness faced by millions of moms into the promise of surviving, thriving children and healthier families.

I am proud of the commitment Congress, the White House and the American people have made and will continue to make to overcome malaria and the suffering and poverty it causes. But there is much more work to be done. On-going American leadership and strong global partnerships are needed for Africa's leaders, health workers and citizens to successfully control malaria.

So, as we commemorate Africa Malaria Day, let me conclude by paying tribute to our partners—the partners we must not forget. They are the heroes who struggle against malaria everyday. They are the community health workers and midwives, the doctors and nurses, the lab technicians and pharmacists. They work in village health centers, urban hospitals and rural clinics and they are saving lives, often times under very, very difficult conditions.

And together—as partners—their work along with our support, our commitment and a collective sense of urgency—we can save lives, keep families healthier and keep entire communities free from malaria's misery.

### HONORING COMMANDER LEDA MEI LI CHONG

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of and the recent promotion of Commander Leda Mei Chong of the United States Navy.

Commander Chong was born in Kowloon, Hong Kong and calls San Diego, California her hometown. After graduating from the University of California-San Diego with a degree in Applied Mathematics and French Literature, she joined the Navy through the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program and received a direct commission as an Ensign in November 1987.

Commander Chong reported to her first assignment at Naval Nuclear Power School, Orlando, Florida as an instructor of mathematics, chemistry, materials engineering, and radiological controls. Her second assignment was as the Administrative Department Head at Afloat Training Group Pacific, San Diego. In 1994 she reported to Naval Postgraduate School as a student in the Systems Technology/Joint C3I curriculum.

Her next assignment was the Navy's Drug Law Enforcement Agency where she was concurrently assigned to the Coast Guard's Telecommunications and Information Systems Command (TISCOM). As the liaison to the Coast Guard, she was responsible for military satellite communications interoperability and policy. Following TISCOM, she moved to Keflavik, Iceland where she was the Deputy Director for C4 to Commander Iceland Defense Force and the N6 for Commander, Fleet Air Keflavik.