

I welcomed into this world Virginia Parker Etheridge, the new daughter of our son Brian Etheridge and his wife Meredith. Virginia arrived at 8:40 p.m. in Raleigh, NC. She weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Faye and I are truly blessed today by the arrival of Virginia Parker Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. I hope that Virginia will live in a world that is even better than the one we live in today. I hope that she will have access to the best education and technology in the world, that she will breathe fresh air and drink clean water, that her streets will be safe, and that her generation will not be burdened by the debt of the previous generation.

A new child in the family is a gift from God. The Etheridge family and I look forward to spending time with our new bundle of joy and introducing her to all of our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WOLVERINE MARCHING BAND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of LaVergne High School's Wolverine Marching Band.

In September, the band marched in the LaVergne Old Timers' Day Parade. I was also a participant in the parade, and I was impressed by the talent and precision of the young musicians. Their many hours of practice had culminated in a flawless performance.

It is not just the students and teachers who make the Wolverine Marching Band great. The parents of these students also play a significant role. In addition to providing financial support, the parents often pitch in to transport band equipment to competitions and football games.

This season, the band has been awarded numerous accolades, including First Place Band Overall and First Place Percussion Overall at the Phoenix Classic Invitational. Other honors include two Color Guard, Band, and Percussion Superior Ratings and two First Place Field Commanders awards.

Residents of LaVergne, Tennessee, can be proud of their Wolverine Marching Band. I applaud the students, parents and teachers for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHIRLEY MCINTYRE OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and constituent from the 9th Congressional District of Massachusetts, Mrs. Shirley McIntyre, who passed away on Friday September 23, 2005. Born Shirley Powers,

she was formerly a South Boston resident before moving to the neighboring town of Dorchester. In 1956, Shirley married George McIntyre, her beloved husband of 49 years and they had five beautiful children: Darlene, Daniel, Shirley, Vanessa, and the late William.

Shirley was a devoted mother and grandmother who nurtured and guided her family as well as many of the children in her neighborhood and local community. She was a dedicated wife who spent her time with her children and beloved husband George, a retired Local 7 Iron worker who loved Shirley with all his heart.

Mr. Speaker, Shirley McIntyre will be fondly remembered not only by her family, which includes eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews; but also by the many friends who were touched by her kindness and unconditional love.

On a personal note, throughout my tenure in public service both as a member of the Massachusetts State House and in the United States Congress, I have had the unique opportunity and pleasure to see first hand Shirley's commitment to her family and community. Shirley's willingness to be involved with her neighborhood and local political process is a testament to her endless devotion to family and friends.

Today, I ask the Membership of the House of Representatives to join with me in offering our deepest condolences to the McIntyre family for their loss. We will all miss Shirley as a shining example to her family and community.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SGT. ARTHUR A. MORA, JR.

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deepest sympathy that I pay a special tribute to my constituent Sgt. Arthur A. Mora, Jr., who was killed in Balad, Iraq on October 19 when his vehicle was hit by enemy fire. His passing at the age of 23, marks the end of a young and promising life which had already exemplified duty, honor and heroism.

Arthur will be remembered as the quiet student at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera who missed having his photo taken for the senior yearbook. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 27, 2000. Upon completion of basic training, Arthur was assigned to the 1st Battalion, the 3rd Air Defense Artillery, and the 3rd Infantry Division followed by Bravo Battery 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Camp Pelham, Korea. He returned to the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In July 2005, Sgt. Mora was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Mora's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Ribbon, the Army Service Medal, and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Family members say they draw comfort in knowing that Arthur was doing what he wanted. He was a young man who loved the military and would have most likely made a career in the Army.

Arthur is survived by his wife Veronica, daughters Olivia, Celina and a newborn son, Christopher, whom he had never seen. He is also survived by his mother Sylvia Mora of Montebello, sisters Michelle, Celia, and his brother Paul.

His family and friends will miss this caring young man greatly, and to them I extend my sincerest heartfelt sympathy and pray that they will receive God's comforting graces in their time of sorrow.

DEMOCRATIZATION IN INDONESIA: A NEW ERA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the last several years, Indonesia has entered a new era of democracy. At the national level, the Indonesian people voted freely in an open and fair 2004 Presidential election for the first time in that country's history. The election campaign was vigorous, with public debates and ample discussion of issues among the main candidates. There was no significant violence or attempts at voter intimidation. International election observers as well as domestic monitors reported that the election in Indonesia was conducted fairly. Voter turnout in the general election was very high, about 80 percent.

More recently, another major step forward in democracy is taking place in Indonesia. Regional and local elections have recently been held throughout this vast country of more than 17,000 islands. As before, in last year's presidential election, some observers predicted that local elections would lead to communal conflict. But they were wrong. Nationwide local elections conducted in June went off smoothly although there were tensions among ethnic and religious groups in a few districts. But the security forces maintained order and enforced fair elections. I am informed that of 166 regional districts, 116 succeeded in conducting orderly local elections. Although sporadic, minimal violence did occur in about 16 districts, it was brief and quickly controlled by the police. As in the presidential election last year, according to reports I have seen, voter participation in the local elections was very high, nearly 74 percent.

Indonesian officials recognized openly that there are some weaknesses to be fixed. One is the difficulty in quickly counting the votes in some districts. This case could and did give rise to allegations made by losing candidates, charging that the election was unfair and manipulated. The government intends to work with district officials to improve election procedures, especially voter tallies.

In West Papua there appears to have been no violence or conflicts during the local elections. Reports indicated that elections were successfully held in 14 districts in West Papua. People came out to vote for their candidates to regional councils and exercised their right to choose the local leaders they prefer. Regarding elections for a regional governor, I am told the West Papuans are waiting for the establishment of the People's Council of Papua before conducting the election. This council will be the highest representative body