

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Yolanda Martin, a native of the town of Puerto Annuelles in the beautiful and rich province of Chiriqui, in the Republic of Panama. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Ms. Martin migrated to the United States in 1981, and settled in Brooklyn, New York. Ms. Martin's story is similar to many of our Nation's proud immigrants. In 1999 through 2002, she founded three Child Care Services. Ms. Martin is the executive director and CEO of Minnie's Day Care Center, Parents United For A Better Day Care Centers No. 1 and No. 2, both of which operate 24 hours. All centers provide parents with day care services, an after school program, pre-kindergarten classes, a summer program and overnight child care.

Ms. Martin attended several colleges over the years and is a N.Y. State certified EMT, NY State certified AIDS and HIV educational instructor, an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid instructor.

From 1982–1985, Ms. Martin worked for NY State with the mentally disabled, from 1985–1998, she worked for the NYS Division for Youth Corrections in facilities with incarcerated youth ages 14 to 18 years old. From 1991 to 1995, she worked with the NYC Department of Education as an integrating bilingual paraprofessional in special education. From 1990 to 1995, Ms. Martin also worked as an Emergency Technician with Tri-Com Ambulance services.

Ms. Martin is the proud mother of three beautiful children: Ronald (25) Kendra (18) Courtney (9) and an adopted daughter in Panama, Kiris (10). When she is not working with others in the community, Ms. Martin spends time with her children and family. She is known for her excellent cooking, baking and interior decorating skills. Ms. Martin's hobbies are the performing arts, modeling, and horseback riding. One of her short-term goals is to own her own horse and then a stable with a minimum of six horses is her long-term goal. Ms. Martin truly believes that the key to success is to do for others. Says Ms. Martin, "the more you do, the more is returned to you," it is the rule of the Universe.

Mr. Speaker, Yolanda Martin's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I am proud to pay tribute to the years of service and protection provided to the citizens of Missouri by the Highway Patrol.

On April 24, 1931, Governor Henry S. Caulfield signed Senate Bill 36, establishing the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The bill provided for a superintendent, 10 captains, and 115 patrolmen, but only 55 men were originally hired as troopers. The first superintendent, Lewis Ellis, was hired on July 21, 1931, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol became effective on September 14, 1931.

Throughout its 75 years, the Patrol has provided many invaluable services. In addition to enforcing traffic laws, it encourages traffic safety to the public through displays, speaking engagements, Community Alliance Programs, and the Safety Education Center. The Governor's Security Division, a branch of the Patrol, provides security to Missouri's governor, his family, and visiting dignitaries. Since the Patrol assumed the operation of Missouri's weigh stations in 1942, it has also proven vital to the removal of illegal drugs from the highways.

In the last 75 years, Missouri has called upon the Patrol for assistance in periods of civil unrest and natural disaster. In 1954, troopers were called upon to help quell a full-scale prison riot. The Patrol helped Missourians overcome the paralysis caused by the Great Flood of 1993. After Hurricane Katrina, 56 Patrol personnel responded to a call for assistance to Biloxi, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, the Missouri State Highway Patrol can be proud of all it has done for the State of Missouri. I know the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the Missouri State Highway Patrol for 75 years of excellent service.

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA "LIBBY" MAYNARD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Olivia Maynard as she receives the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus. Olivia will be honored at a luncheon on Saturday, April 8th in Detroit.

Olivia Maynard, also known as Libby, has served the people of Michigan in numerous capacities since graduating from the University

of Michigan in 1971 with a Master of Social Work degree. After serving as the director of the Office of Services to the Aging, she ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1990 with Governor Jim Blanchard. President Clinton appointed her to the Federal Council on Aging, and she served as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.

Elected in 1996 as a Regent of the University of Michigan, she was re-elected in 2004 and continues in that capacity at the present time. Deeply committed to Michigan and its people, Libby was a founding member of Michigan Prospect an organization committed to connecting government to its citizens and creating a caring democratic society. Currently serving as President of Michigan Prospect, Libby devotes her time and energy to bringing about a diverse, just, humane state of Michigan.

Libby also serves as a trustee of the C.S. Mott Foundation, on the boards of the Nature Conservancy of Michigan, McLaren Regional Medical Center, the Council on Michigan Foundations and the Council on Foundations. She is the past chair of the Michigan Democratic Party. Along with her husband, S. Olof Karlstrom, an attorney in private practice, they have generously supported Michigan establishments. Their gift of \$2.25 million to the University of Michigan School of Social Work is just one example of their commitment to supporting the institutions and ideas that will make the future of Michigan brighter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to stand with me and applaud the tremendous contributions Olivia Maynard has made to the promotion of dignity, justice, education, and social well-being. Her lifelong commitment to all segments of society has made a positive impact on the lives of countless persons. I value her support, counsel and common sense. Olivia Maynard is one of the giants of the Flint Michigan community and I am honored to call her my friend.

REAFFIRMING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to visit Washington, DC, later this month. Mr. Hu is most likely to discuss trade, currency, North Korea, Iran and Taiwan with President Bush. I ask President Bush to not yield to Chinese demands on Taiwan but to reaffirm our long standing support for Taiwan and its people.

During the 1995–1996 Taiwan Strait missile crises, President Clinton sent two aircraft carrier battle groups into the region. Since then, the Chinese military has greatly expanded its capabilities and deployed hundreds of missiles targeting Taiwan. As the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Peter Rodman mentioned in his remarks before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, "U.S. policy opposes unilateral changes in the Taiwan Strait status quo by either party. The PLA military build-up changes that status quo and requires us to adapt to the new situation, as we are doing now." Therefore, we must help the Taiwanese people to protect themselves in the event of a military conflict in the Strait.

Taiwan is very worried about China's military intentions. Last March, the Chinese enacted the anti-secession law, which gives them the right to use force against Taiwan. Chinese leaders have consistently maintained that military action is a viable possibility.

I ask President Bush to persuade Mr. Hu to withdraw Chinese missiles from the Strait, to rescind the anti-secession law and to resume a dialogue with Taiwan's elected leaders.

Peace in the Strait is important to the United States, China, and Taiwan. The 23 million people of Taiwan have worked hard to earn their democratic way of life and they should be allowed to determine their own future. Keeping the freedom of the Taiwanese people secure is a matter of deepest concern to all of us.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE WITH VIETNAM: IS VIETNAM MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, I co-chaired a hearing to examine the results of the recent Human Rights Dialogue with the government of Vietnam, and the progress, or lack thereof, in Vietnam's respect for human rights and religious freedom. While the hearing revealed that there have been some improvements in Vietnam's human rights record, the testimony showed that the evidence of abuse is still too strong for us to relax our efforts.

It would be inappropriate, in any discussion of Vietnam, not to first raise the issue that engages more Americans, more deeply, than any other when we talk of Vietnam—the need to complete a full, thorough and responsible accounting of the remaining American MIAs from the Vietnam conflict. As my colleagues know well, of the 2,583 POW/MIAs who were unaccounted for—Vietnam (1,923), Laos (567), Cambodia (83) and China (10)—just under 1,400 remain unaccounted for in Vietnam. During my last visit to Vietnam in December 2005 I met with LTC Lentfort Mitchell, head of the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). While JPAC is making steady progress and is able to conduct approximately four joint field activities per year in Vietnam, I remain deeply concerned that the government of Vietnam could be more forthcoming and transparent in providing the fullest accounting. It is our sacred duty to the families of the missing that we never forget and never cease our pursuit until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of our MIAs.

This hearing took place in the context of the recently concluded Human Rights Dialogue with Vietnam, which our distinguished witnesses from the State Department, the Honorable Barry F. Lowenkron, Assistant Secretary

of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the Honorable John V. Hanford III, Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of International Religious Freedom, and the Honorable Eric John, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, reported on.

The State Department had suspended the Human Rights Dialogue since 2002 because it was clear Hanoi was not serious about our concerns. Since that time Hanoi was designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for egregious and systematic violations of religious freedom in both 2004 and 2005. Vietnam is currently anxious to receive Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with the U.S., to gain admittance to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to have President Bush attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in November. Indeed, this is the "APEC Year" in Hanoi. Now that the dialogue has been resumed, at Hanoi's request, it is both imperative and opportune for the administration and Congress to pressure Hanoi for more deeds than words. Vietnam needs to show that it is not merely trying to smooth out some minor "misunderstandings" which get in the way of Vietnam's important economic and political goals, but rather that it has made a fundamental commitment to human rights and reform, and to fulfilling its international commitments, a fundamental commitment which will not be forgotten after it has achieved those goals.

Section 702 of Public Law 107-671 requires the Department to submit a report on the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue within 60 days of its conclusion "describing to what extent the Government of Vietnam has made progress during the calendar year toward achieving the following objectives:

(1) Improving the Government of Vietnam's commercial and criminal codes to bring them into conformity with international standards, including the repeal of the Government of Vietnam's administrative detention decree (Directive 311/CP).

(2) Releasing political and religious activists who have been imprisoned or otherwise detained by the Government of Vietnam, and ceasing surveillance and harassment of those who have been released.

(3) Ending official restrictions on religious activity, including implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance.

(4) Promoting freedom for the press, including freedom of movement of members of the Vietnamese and foreign press.

(5) Improving prison conditions and providing transparency in the penal system of Vietnam, including implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

(6) Respecting the basic rights of indigenous minority groups, especially in the central and northern highlands of Vietnam.

(7) Respecting the basic rights of workers, including working with the International Labor Organization to improve mechanisms for promoting such rights.

(8) Cooperating with requests by the United States to obtain full and free access to persons who may be eligible for admission to the United States as refugees or immigrants, and allowing such persons to leave Vietnam without being subjected to extortion or other corrupt practices.

So far, all the evidence suggests, however, that Vietnam still has a long way to go before it can convince us that it has made any fundamental and lasting change in its human rights policy. The State Department's Human Rights report on Vietnam for 2005, upgraded Vietnam's Human Rights record from "poor" to merely "unsatisfactory." Freedom House still rates Vietnam as "unfree," but it is no longer at the absolute bottom of the repression scale. These are not exactly ringing endorsements.

There are fewer religious and political dissidents in jail, but there still are too many. Even those let out, like Father Ly, Father Loi, Dan Que, are subject to continued forms of house arrest or harassment. Restrictions on the legal churches have eased, but requests to build churches, to receive back confiscated properties, and provide charitable and educational services, which are allowed under current law, are never answered quickly, and often never answered at all. Hundreds of churches have been closed in the past 5 years. Last year, a few dozen were opened, which does to begin to redress the earlier harm. And still large numbers of believers who belong to "illegal churches" suffer continued harassment—not everywhere, not everyone, not always, but their rights to believe and practice are still not secured by rule of law. Too often all of the improvements are based on local and arbitrary decisions which can be reversed at any time. The Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) is still illegal, and its leaders, the Venerable Thich Quang Do and Patriarch Thich Huyen Quang remain under strict "pagoda" arrest, and 13 other senior figures remain under similar restrictions. The independent Hoa Hao Buddhists are also illegal, and their church was singled out for repression last year. Evangelical Protestant house churches, Mennonites, Bahai, Hindus, and others exist in a legal limbo: technically illegal, sometimes tolerated, but sometimes repressed. Those officials who violate government guaranteed religious rights appear never to be punished. This is not the way a rule of law society is constructed.

Reports of forced renunciations of Christianity in the Montagnard regions have diminished—but they have not ended. Montagnard house churches are allowed to operate, but have not received their registration. The UNHCR, and various diplomats, are allowed to travel, sometimes, to some Montagnard regions, but only when carefully monitored. Montagnards eligible for resettlement in the U.S. get their passports and exit visas, but not all, not everywhere. And hundreds of Montagnards languish in detention.

Vietnam reportedly weakened its two-child policy several years ago, after coercive policies involving contraception, birth quotas, sterilization and abortion cut Vietnam's fertility almost in half in 20 years. Yet last year the Deputy Prime Minister called for "more drastic measures" to cut the birth rate further. It is not clear that this has yet been enforced, but it hangs there as a storm cloud over all families, but especially over Vietnam's long-abused indigenous minorities. Like China's one child policy, Vietnam's two-child policy has led to a large and growing imbalance in male and female births, which will only increase its already severe problems as a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking. According to last year's State Department's Human Trafficking report, Vietnam remained a

Tier II country because of its serious trafficking problems, but was removed from the Watch List. Many of us think this was an error, and that Vietnam's response to its trafficking problems remains inadequate.

In December I met with over 60 people: government officials, political and religious activists, archbishops, heads of churches and ordinary believers. I have had several, somewhat stilted, I must admit, conversations recently with mixed delegations of religious leaders and government officials. That the Vietnamese government even consented to send these delegations was an important step. It does seem that some of the government officials at least are beginning to understand our concerns. What they will now do is the question. I believe that Michael Cromartie, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, has made the crucial observation: "We are not arguing over whether the glass is half-full or half-empty. We just do not know if the glass, so recently constructed, will continue to hold any water. Will legal developments hold in a country where the rule of law is not fully functioning? Are changes only cosmetic, intended to increase Vietnam's ability to gain WTO membership and pass a Congressional vote on PNTR? . . . Though promises of future improvement are encouraging, we should not reward Vietnam too quickly by lifting the CPC designation or downplaying human rights concerns to advance economic or military interests."

I could not agree more. We have seen various thaws in other Communist regimes. The Khrushchev thaw was followed by the worst persecution of religion in 30 years, and then the long stagnation of the Brezhnev regime. In the 60's we thought Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania would be the next Tito, I remember when we thought that was an advance; instead, he decided to be the next Kim Il-Sung. Finally, who can forget the democratic opening in China which was crushed at Tienanmen Square.

We must be sure that the change in Vietnam is real. We have a unique opportunity this year to achieve real and lasting progress in Vietnam. We should use the leverage we have, and seek to increase it. The House of Representatives has twice passed legislation authored by me on human rights in Vietnam. H.R. 1587, The Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2004, passed the House by a 323-45 vote in July 2004. A similar measure passed by a 410-1 landslide in the House in 2001. The measures called for limiting further increases of non-humanitarian United States aid from being provided to Vietnam if certain human rights provisions were not met, and authorized funding to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia and funding to support non-governmental organizations which promote human rights and democratic change in Vietnam. Regrettably, both bills stalled in Senate committees and have not been enacted into law. But we are again ready to work with the administration to find ways to encourage and promote civil society in Vietnam. I have re-introduced the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2005, H.R. 3190. I would be delighted to hear what sort of measures we could add to the bill to cooperate with Vietnam's government if it is indeed serious about strengthening civil society and the rule of law: to help promote genuine NGO's, especially faith-based NGO's, to deal with Vietnam's problems with trafficking, addic-

tion, HIV/AIDS, street children; to create an independent bar association, and help train lawyers who can defend the rights already guaranteed to Vietnam's people by Vietnam's own constitution and laws.

Human rights are central. They are at the core of our relationship with governments and the people they purport to represent. The United States of America will not turn a blind eye to the oppression of a people, any people in any region of the world. Our non-governmental witnesses: Ms. Kay Reibold, project development specialist for the Montagnard Human Rights Organization; Mrs. H'Pun Mlo, a Montagnard refugee who after many years of abuse, was finally allowed to join her family in the U.S.; Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, the executive director of Boat People SOS; and Mr. Doan Viet Hoat, the president of International Institute for Vietnam, gave us valuable independent testimony, so that the world will get a true and complete picture of this government with whom we are growing ever closer.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when you think of the leaders of the future—what qualities come to mind? Civic activism? Community awareness? Personal leadership? Academic excellence? It is a privilege to recognize the members of the 2005-2006 Congressional Youth Advisory Council because they embody these qualities and more.

For the last 2 years, the members of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council have represented the young people of the Third District well by working as ambassadors of the future. Several times a year the members of the Youth Council would share a valuable youth perspective on the current issues before Congress. This year 42 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference to Congress.

For the first time, this year there was a philanthropy element to the Youth Council. For the community service project, the members of the Youth Council reached out to veterans and encouraged them to share their stories. Called the "Preserving History Project," each member had to interview a veteran. Then the student had to submit a lengthy paper detailing the veteran's service and sharing what the student learned from that experience. The students submitted a summary of their work. Today I'm proud to submit the briefs provided so the hard and valuable work of the Youth Council may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Someday, each member will be able to share with children and grandchildren—"In high school I served my community and my work will always be recognized in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD."

A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for your time, effort and sacrifice to help make the

Congressional Youth Advisory Council a success. You're the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

I was thankful for my list of questions as my Grandpa (William Frank Morgan) began relating his military experiences to me. I learned about his life, sacrifices, and service. He was a Seaman First Class in the Navy, and later a Senior Master Sergeant when he retired from the Air Force. This opportunity to talk with him and hear his story has strengthened our relationship, and I'm so thankful for this chance to glean more knowledge about my family. Grandpa and Grandma Morgan visit once a year at Thanksgiving and I always look forward to their arrival. Reconnection through our talks and the time we spend together has become more precious each year. We also try to visit them, and keep in touch through phone calls and letters. Surprisingly, although Grandpa is not talkative, he will sporadically crack the funniest jokes. He is a good example in studying the Bible and desiring a life of a Godly character. He has a talented green thumb, and I enjoy stepping into his untidy greenhouse to watch him care for his healthy plants. When he isn't gardening, Grandpa spends time among his books, or checking the weather for the coming week. Grandpa's traveling, distance from loved ones, disrupted education, interesting experiences with food, and dangerous challenges have molded his character and sacrificially ensured the freedoms and safety Americans enjoy today.—Meredith Morgan

A native of Elmira, New York, William Stone, Jr. served in the U.S. Army for two years as an officer stationed in Germany. There he was assigned as a motor officer responsible for CMMI's beginning in 1967. Stone entered the Army as a 2nd lieutenant and reached the rank of 1st lieutenant prior to returning to civilian life. After working for several years as an insurance adjuster in New York, Stone moved to Texas, where he and his wife have been teaching in the Plano Independent School District.

As a result of this interview, I was able to gain insight into the role of our nation's military. Mr. Stone, like many others, is among those who have helped safeguard the freedoms we enjoy in the United States. Listening to his experiences has allowed me to better understand the sacrifices the men and women of the military have made on our behalf.—Albert Chang

Joe McAnally is a great man. He is my neighbor, who I have known for about four years, and is very active, knowledgeable and helpful. His tour doesn't even seem to have affected him in any adverse way. He was born, raised and still lives in the Dallas area. He chose to be in the Army R.O.T.C. because he knew, since his birthday was 12th on the draft list, he would have to serve anyway. Since he was already an officer his enlistment and boot camp were an easier transition, and since his family knew he was going to be drafted, they supported him fully. He served in the Vietnam War and had to find his own way, because he landed at midnight when everyone was asleep. He earned two Bronze Stars, the third highest medal in the service. His food was good, especially the food mailed from home, except for the muton. His platoon was well supplied and was entertained by Bob Hope once. On leave he went to Thailand and Australia. When he returned home he was offered his old job back, got married and eventually bought a business making plastic molds, which he still owns and runs to this day.—Elliot Post

I interviewed Mr. Spencer Guimarin, a retired first class petty officer in the United States Navy. Mr. Guimarin surmounted obstacles in his life that most men would consider their worst fear. He survived the first

wave of D-Day landings at Omaha Beach, the invasion of Okinawa, and every other confrontation that war threw his way. I have read books and seen movies and documentaries about Okinawa and D-Day, but to actually have the chance to sit down and talk with someone that was there was an experience I will never forget. The movies just don't do it justice. I was excited when I heard that we were going to have the chance to do a project like this, and I couldn't wait to get started. It was a humbling experience hearing his stories, yet not being able to appreciate it for what it is worth because I was not there. I learned about the lasting effects a war can have on a veteran. As I will be entering Merchant Marine Academy in July of 2006 and hope to pursue a career in the military, I realize that I may be faced with some of the same repercussions.—Doug Hermann

For my Preserving History project, I interviewed Lieutenant Colonel Charles Beck. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving as a jet fighter pilot in the Air Force. He flew reconnaissance and bombing missions over North Vietnam, tracking enemy base movement, taking surveillance pictures, and calling and participating in air strikes. He was deployed for three years. Survival rate for his fighter group was less than 50%, but Lt. Beck made it through the war without ever being captured by enemy forces. For his service to our country, Lt. Beck was awarded 27 medals, including a Silver Star.

I found it interesting how a man from such humble beginnings pursued a passion for flying. He served heroically during major combat operations. His pride and his service to our country and his love for the United States have helped me understand the important role that our veterans have played in preserving the freedoms we enjoy in America. I think that it is very important that we capture our veteran's stories so that we have documented history of not only their military service, but of the values that led them to serve their country so honorably.—Jocelyn Sedlet

For my veteran project, I interviewed Robert L. Staib, former Captain in the United States Air Force. By the end of his service, he had fought in the Vietnam War and the Cold War as a fighter pilot and a forward air controller. He received a Distinguished Flying Cross, seventeen Air Medals, and Air Force Commendation Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, and an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon. He flew in over at least sixteen countries. He was brave and courageous in all his endeavors. From this project, I learned what a hero really is. I learned that my grandfather is a hero because he was willing to sacrifice his life for the freedom of people he didn't even know. I also learned about the deep love he felt for my grandmother and mother. Most importantly, I learned that heroes don't just do great things, they do them with great motives. If my grandfather had gone into the service for glory, he would not have been a hero. He went into the Air Force knowing he might die, because he wanted to preserve and spread freedom, a freedom that I sometimes take for granted. This is a freedom that must be fought for. This project taught me about Robert L. Staib and about my freedom.—Britney Thomas

What I gained from this interesting interview was not just another few hours spent, but an insightful and rather intriguing conversation with the most well versed person I know, Mr. John Neese. Beginning as a private, Mr. Neese escalated to the height of full colonel. He became a very outspoken individual during the interview, however his personal anecdotes and stories kept me asking for more. His impact on the conflict in

Vietnam may have been easily overlooked, however, his objectives and goals at dropping leaflets and speaking in an ultimately "fire arm free" duty, was an amazing opportunity, as well as daily routine as a member of the U.S. Air Force. He gained a new insight as to how he could survive in a "dog eat dog society." By simply joining the Air Force, he received tools he could use the rest of his life—tools that are hardly apparent in everyday Americans. What I gained from the interview was a new friend. A new friend that thinks the same way I do. A man that stands for God and represents his country to the fullest.—Bryan Blair

Around the first of the year, my mom introduced me to Lt. Colonel Kirk Chandler, a den leader in my younger brother's Cub Scout pack. His military service in the Navy spanned fourteen years from May 1991, to his retirement in October 2005. With many veterans you find battle-hardiness seeping in them, and an unwillingness to recount their combat tales. With Mr. Chandler, I found a laid back former soldier who was quite positive in his descriptions of his time in the service. Although he didn't do anything extraordinary in the field of battle, I feel his accomplishments lie in the soldiers he inspired, and in the connections he still maintains to this day with the people that he served with.

In interviewing Mr. Chandler, I was given a whole new dimension with regards to the military. In talking to him, I found someone who experienced much in the realm of the world—someone who's traveled around the world, meeting new people and new cultures. I learned how one enjoys life even in the toughest of times. In meeting Mr. Chandler, I met the embodiment of an American hero and a true stand up guy who serves the community with pride.—Adam Rosenfield

I interviewed Marvin Alan Sternberg who was a part of the Army during the Vietnam War. He started as a private and ended as a 1st Lieutenant when his service ended. Mr. Sternberg gained a lot from his experience in the Army, but the biggest lesson that he was taught and forced into was growing up and becoming a man.

After interviewing Mr. Sternberg, I realize how much a person can go through just for the protection of others. It amazes me how someone like Mr. Sternberg can dedicate part of their life so selflessly in order to protect their country and fellow citizens that are totally unknown to them. I have always had a respect for veterans, but now, after this interview, I have a different kind of respect for all of those men and women who have served in our country. There is something special about people that go into the service, and I have come to find that it is people like that that I look up to and admire. It all has become a reality to me, because I actually heard what happens behind the scenes and what they really go through instead of a sugarcoated testimony that we hear in school or out of a textbook. I'm so thankful that Mr. Sternberg took time out of his day to sit down, talk, and explain to me his experiences he faced during his journey. This is an experience that I will treasure forever, because I learned firsthand how veterans are affected by war. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this preserving history project.—Kristy MacDonnell

In my interview with my grandfather, Thomas Dale Alexander, Colonel, United States Air Force (Retired), I learned quite a few things about why he does things the way he does and all sorts of things that I never knew about my mother's family. He is a much wiser man than the young high school graduate that joined the Air Force in 1943. He served in the occupation of Japan, fought

in Korea, worked with the FAA for a while, fought in Vietnam, and retired after commanding a supply squadron. His plane was shot up badly three times in Korea, but he did always manage to fly home—feats for which he was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses. In Vietnam, he commanded a squadron of Forward Air Controllers, who interfaced with the troops on the ground and marked targets for the fighter-bombers with smoke rockets. After he retired, he moved to Junction, Texas, to build a house by the Llano River and was hired as Director of Operations at the Texas Tech Center in Junction, now called Texas Tech at Junction. After he retired for the second time, he continued to keep up with the hobbies he had started in the Air Force, like playing golf and building.—Evan Dale Wise

While his time in the Army was limited to the Postal Services, my grandfather, Charles Wallander Junior, was an excellent soldier who defined the traits of discipline, diligence, and obedience. At the completion of his military work my grandfather obtained the rank of Corporal in the Army, and was awarded with the mark of excellence in the Post Office. Through his work with the Army Post Office, my grandfather was a key factor in organizing the Korean mail infrastructure, and allowing for the Postal Service to function, in his post as Postmaster General. From this experience I can undoubtedly say that I have gained a sense of unmatched pride in my grandfather and all he has done for this country and the world. My appreciation for him is only matched by my respect for the Armed Forces at large, and my gained trust in the American way that helps to guide this country.—Andrew Schreiber

Stanley S. Malewicki was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 19 at the outset of the Second World War. After leaving his home in New York, he received five months of training before deploying to Oxford where he remained for two more months until the invasion of France. Private Malewicki entered Normandy at D-Day plus three along with the 204th Combat Engineering Battalion and General Patton's third Army. For the greater part of his service, Malewicki and his unit where tasked with transporting infantry and vehicles across the rivers of France and Germany. Whether by boat or portable bridge, they always got the job done despite fierce opposition. During his time in the service, Pvt. Malewicki earned a Purple Heart and several campaign medals. After the war was over, he got married and had two children. He also went on to become a supervisor for the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO). Mr. Malewicki says that he did not mind being drafted one bit, and the United States of America is one great country. After completing this interview, I have gained knowledge of my grandfather I had never expected to experience. To fully understand the nature of war, you have to see it through the eyes of someone that was actually in the arena.—Erik De Sousa

The veteran I interviewed is my uncle, Matthew Hancock. The branch that he served in was the U.S. Army. His initial rank was Private, and his finishing rank was CW3. Most of the work he did during his service to this country revolved around weapons specialty. He was living in Davenport, Iowa, which was his hometown, at the time that he signed up for the military. Mr. Hancock served in the military for over 20 years, and fought in both Iraqi Wars: Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He chose to serve in the military because he felt the military offered the best opportunity for him, and he had always wanted to be in the Army since he was young. He accomplished a great deal during his impressive span of service, winning several medals, including three

bronze stars. I am very glad for having done this interview, for it has given me a much more indepth understanding of what our soldiers go through in order to protect the rest of us. Before this, I mostly knew general things, but now what I know is much more specific.—Jordan Schmittou

HONORING ARTHUR TREVETHAN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Art Trevethan on his long and illustrious career with Nationwide Insurance and to celebrate his accomplishments with him as he embarks upon a new chapter in life.

Art's legendary leadership and service have contributed to central Ohio's business community and its growing fame as one of the most vibrant areas in America. No matter what he has involved himself in, he has always found success. His outstanding record of achievement speaks volumes about his quality as a topflight businessman and civic-minded leader. His commitment to free enterprise and interest in fostering good government have had a tremendous impact across our state and nation.

I appreciate the countless hours and tremendous amount of personal energy he has expended working to bridge the business and public policy worlds. Art understands the decisions made in the halls of our government impact businesses and the lives of employees. Rather than stand on the sidelines and wring his hands over public policy in Columbus or Washington, he has worked to inform policymakers about how their proposals affect companies and encouraged working people and executives to become involved in the process.

Art Trevethan has been a tremendous asset not only to Nationwide, but to the community as well. As he closes the book on one career and begins another as founder of (Re) Insurance Recovery Solutions, I am confident he will continue his good works and find happiness and success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF VICTIMS'
RIGHTS WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus, I rise today to introduce the 2006 Victims Rights Week Resolution on behalf of myself, and Caucus Co-chairs Congressman TED POE of Texas and Congresswoman KATHERINE HARRIS of Florida. This concurrent resolution expresses Congress' support of the goals and ideals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the efforts to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of crime victims and survivors in the United States. This observance will take place the week of April 23 through April 29.

In 1980, President Reagan first called for a national observance to recognize and honor the millions of victims of crimes in our country, their families, and survivors. National Crime Victims' Rights Week also pays tribute to the thousands of community-based and system-based victim services providers and to the criminal justice and allied professionals who provide critical support and assistance to victims every week of the year. National Crime Victims' Rights Week has since been proclaimed annually with ceremonies and observances in Washington D.C. and in hundreds of communities throughout our nation.

President Reagan's commitment to the rights of victims lead to the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, which in 1984 created the Crime Victims Fund. Since then, the Crime Victims Fund has dedicated more than \$7.4 billion collected from criminal fines—not taxpayers dollars—that annually supports more than 4,400 victim assistance programs serving some 3.8 million victims and compensation to more than 165,000 victims for their unreimbursed medical expenses, lost wages and funeral costs.

The 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme is "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity." It is indeed appropriate because today an unprecedented coalition of victims and survivors, victim advocacy organizations, justice professional and service providers are once together joining together to protect the Crime

Victims Fund, a legacy of the Reagan Administration.

Before the emergence of the victims' rights movement, you would hear plenty about criminals, but nothing about victims. You could go to college and take courses to learn how to help and manage abusers, but little was said about those they abused. Crime was the main issue; victims, if at all, were an afterthought. Meanwhile, society treated victims in the same manner. Victims had no voice. They had few rights. They were largely left in the shadows.

This has changed thanks to our Nation's victims' rights movement. Today, victims of crime and those who serve them have not only a voice, but a vision for what justice should look like in America. Today, there are over 32,000 laws that define and protect victim's rights. In 2006, we not only listen to victims; we learn from them. We are beginning to view them not only as an obligation mandated by law, but also as an opportunity—as people with vital information to help us better manage violent offenders; and as people who have helped us understand the devastating impact of crime.

I am proud to be one of the three co-founders, along with Representatives POE and HARRIS of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus. The goals of the Victim's Rights Caucus are to (1) represent crime victims in the United States through the bipartisan legislation that reflects their interests, rights and needs; (2) provide an ongoing forum for proactive interactions between the U.S. Congress and national victim assistance organizations to enhance mutual education, legislative advocacy and initiatives that promote justice for all—including victims of crime; and (3) seek opportunities for public education initiatives to help people in America to understand the impact of crime on victims, and to encourage their involvement in crime prevention, victim assistance, and community safety.

Crime does not know any geographic, demographic or political boundaries; it touches all of our constituents in every community. And so, as Congress expresses its support for National Crime Victims Rights Week and its efforts to increase public awareness of the impact of crime on victims, survivors and on our communities, we encourage all members to join the Caucus, as a critical voice of victims, in the Congress.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 25

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the state of the biofuels industry.

SR-328A

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act, focusing on implications of repealing the insurers' antitrust exemption.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

APRIL 26

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine parity, platforms and protection relating to the future of the music industry in the digital radio revolution.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine fostering innovation in math and science education.

Room to be announced

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

MAY 3

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office, and Office of Compliance.

SD-138

MAY 17

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.

Room to be announced

MAY 24

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

JUNE 14

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies.

Room to be announced