

Iraq, they often comment that they didn't think the government could do that. I tell them that my oldest son was a drill instructor at Parris Island. When his term was up, he re-enlisted for a second time and asked to be in the same unit with his little brother. I am not the only Marine mom who has more than one son going to war. There are many of us.

Another comment that I often hear is that people don't think the government should deploy servicemen more than once. I say to them, "This is their job." That is like saying to a fireman you have already put out one fire, . . . therefore you shouldn't have to go to another fire and put yourself in danger.

My sons and all of the other servicemen and women want America to stand behind them in this war. None of them enjoy leaving their wives and children, their moms and dads, or friends. Believe me, it is very hard. But they know that they must go. Islamic extremists are dangerous, and they must be dealt with now. Militant Islam is just as much of a danger to our country and the world as other radical fascist governments in the past have been . . . such as Hitler's Germany, Russia's Stalin, or Lenin or Karl Marx. Militant Islam no more cares about their religion but only wants total control. Traditional Islam seeks to teach people to live according to God's will. Militant Islam aspires to create a new order, even if it means rewriting Islamic law to fit their desires. They have tortured and killed many of their own people to gain control. This is evil and evil can only be dealt with by force.

So where does this leave us as Christians? I have thought a lot about that as I pray for my sons. I very seldom pray for my sons without opening my Bible and reading as I pray. It is very important that I not take my relationship with Jesus for granted. I am grateful that both of my sons have a relationship with him as well.

I have learned to pray for our enemy. I pray that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to the truth. Unfortunately, I fear that many of them are so far into their rebellion against God that they have allowed their hearts to be hardened and they may never come to repentance and salvation. This breaks my heart, because I know that it breaks God's heart. In Ezekiel, it says that God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked.

I pray for my nation. I love her and her people. I pray for a revival and that those of us who claim the name of Jesus would truly come back to our first love and burn with a desire to serve God.

I pray for Israel, God's precious people. I pray not only for my sons but for all of the troops. My oldest son, Clayton, is a platoon Sgt. He called home one night a few weeks before they left for Iraq. Sensing something was wrong, I asked him what was wrong. My big, burly, tough son broke down and cried, "I just want my men to come home. They are so young. I have trained them the best I can. I just want them to come home." My son is 26.

My youngest son, Mark, is 20. He wants to marry his childhood friend that he grew up with at church. One night when he was home for a weekend, we heard him crying in his bedroom. My heart breaks and I cry out to God.

I never forget to pray for our President. It angers me when people complain and slander him. He makes mistakes but supporting him with our prayers is what he needs, not murmuring against him.

So if you ask me how you can help or support our troops, I would say first, to give thanks to God and praise him. Love him with all of your heart. Thank him for what you have. Thank him for the sweet young

men and women he has called to defend our nation and fight for what is right. Ask God to reveal himself to our troops . . . that his glory would shine. That many would see his glory . . . our enemies as well as our troops. That they would worship him. It is then that we will have peace and our boys can come home.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing I can add. May God bless the brave men and women fighting around the world for our freedom, and their families at home. And may God continue to bless America.

HONORING ANDREA PICKENS OF
CEDAR CREEK LAKE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of Andrea Pickens, a model citizen of Cedar Creek Lake, Texas. Andrea has long dedicated herself to her community, supporting organizations including Mabank ISD, Trinity Valley Community College and the Youth Rodeo Organization. She has given her time and effort to her fellow citizens, particularly helping those most in need through civic work with the American Heart Association, the Council of the Blind, and one very dear to me personally, the American Cancer Society in Henderson County. Andrea also serves on the Board of Directors for the Kaufman Hospital District.

In addition to her dedicated hours of community service, Andrea also contributes immensely to improving the commerce and local economy of her community. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mabank Chamber of Commerce and the 1st State Bank of Athens while still finding the time to own and operate the new Tri-County Ford Dealership in Mabank with her husband Joe.

Andrea's work on behalf of the Cedar Creek Lake community has earned her a well deserved "Citizen of the Year" Award as well as a "Lifetime Service" Award. She has been an invaluable leader to the district, and through both word and example she has encouraged and fostered a communal mentality of public service and involvement.

Andrea Pickens has offered so much of her time and financial support to the causes that help to better our community. Her generosity and example is well known, and I thank her for being a blessing to the community.

On behalf of the citizens of Cedar Creek Lake and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize Andrea Pickens in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS EDWIN ANTHONY ANDINO II

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class Edwin Anthony (E.J.) Andino II of Culpeper, Virginia.

On Sunday, September 3, 2006, PFC Andino, a member of the United States Army 1st Battalion 77th Armored Division, died while responding to a mortar attack against a U.S. Army camp in Baghdad. He had been awarded the Army Achievement Medal and was recently promoted to the rank of Private First Class. PFC Andino volunteered for 18 months of combat service and had only been in Iraq for a month before he was killed. Posthumously, he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for valor.

PFC Andino is remembered as an American hero who joined the Army to serve his country and to make his family proud. We are grateful for his service to our Nation and for his ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedom. I ask that you join me in offering our sincere condolences to the family and friends of PFC Andino at this most difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 28, 2006, I could not be present for votes because I was in Michigan to attend the memorial service of the spouse of one of my longtime staffers.

House rollcall vote No. 495—I would have voted "no" on the motion to order the previous question on H. Res. 1045. Voting "no" would have allowed the House to take up the following 5 bills: A bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; a bill to increase the minimum wage to 7.25 per hour; a bill to provide authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and people with disabilities; a bill to repeal the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed by the Congress and to expand the size and availability of Pell Grants; a bill to roll back tax breaks for large petroleum companies and to invest those savings in alternative fuels to achieve energy independence.

House rollcall vote No. 496—I would have voted "no" on the motion to order the previous question on H. Res. 1046. Voting "no" would have allowed the House to take up the following 5 bills: A bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; a bill to increase the minimum wage to 7.25 per hour; a bill to provide authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and people with disabilities; a bill to repeal the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed by the Congress and to expand the size and availability of Pell Grants; a bill to roll back tax breaks for large petroleum companies and to invest those savings in alternative fuels to achieve energy independence.

House rollcall vote No. 497—I would have voted "no" on the passage of the Martial Law Rule, H. Res. 1046, bypassing House rules that ensure that Members of the House have adequate time to review legislation before voting on it.

House rollcall vote No. 498—I would have voted "no" on the previous question on H.