

St. Thomas' Episcopal School annually performs at Houston's Scottish Festival Spectacular in March at Houston's Toyota Center. This year's festival will be held on March 16, 2007.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
ARMY SPECIALIST CHRIS MASON
OF MOBILE, AL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country while helping to spread freedom abroad.

Army SPC Chris Mason, a longtime Mobilian, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, of the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, NC.

Chris joined the Army 2 years ago and comes from a family with a long and highly respected history of military service—his father, who served two tours of duty with the Marine Corps in Vietnam and completed a career in the Army, retiring with the rank of first sergeant, and his brother, an Army officer currently studying to become a chaplain.

During his career in the Army, Specialist Mason set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are the hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military.

Following his 1994 graduation from Baker High School in Mobile, Chris became a professional rodeo clown with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association. He also taught a commercial drivers license qualification course at Bishop State Community College. No matter what the task, Chris Mason undertook every challenge with a determination to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Chris Mason.

Chris's life and actions personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his comrades in the United States Army, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

He was not only a physical presence in their lives but a spiritual leader in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to SPC Chris Mason and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are in the demanding but important stages of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

Mr. Speaker, we should also remember his parents, Garland and Susie Mason, his brother, Garland Mason III, and his other relatives and many friends. Our prayer is that God will

give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Make no mistake, Chris Mason was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero. May he rest in peace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON
GLENN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American Legionnaire Emeritus Clayton Glenn for his lifetime of service and dedication to this nation and its veterans.

Mr. Glenn was born 86 years ago in Brockton, MA, and has served this country since late 1941. It was the attack on Pearl Harbor nearly 65 years ago that spurred his enlistment into the U.S. Armed Forces. This path of service took him to military bases all across the United States and abroad for the ensuing 23 years.

Mr. Glenn's first stop was Ft. Devins, west of Boston, MA, where he served as infantryman, and then he moved on to the Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, MO. He soon endeavored to join the U.S. Army Air Corps, which was to be the predecessor to the U.S. Air Force. There he served as an aircraft mechanic until 1948. Mr. Glenn desired to be stationed in New England, and so landed at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

Over the next 2 years, he worked as a floor man—sanding and refinishing floors, laying tiles and linoleum. This occupation allowed him the adventure of even flooring inside the Kennedy home while in Massachusetts. By 1950, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves and got recalled to active duty for Korea. Although Mr. Glenn never made it to Korea, he did get sent to Tooele, Greenland. His return to the States brought him from Wichita Falls, TX to Mobile, AL. From Mobile he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada for a short span of time where he purchased a home in Boulder City. Mr. Glenn's final military stop was at Rantoul Air Force Base just south of Chicago, IL, in 1960 where he finished his military journey and retired 4 years later in 1964.

From Rantoul, Mr. Glenn and his wife, Theo, returned to Boulder City where he has resided ever since. Having been a member of the American Legion for over 60 years and an active leader at the Boulder City's Post 31 since his time at Nellis Air Force Base has earned him the title "Mr. American Legion" by fellow members and friends. Mr. Glenn has served as post commander three times—something accomplished by only two other persons, and he served as district commander from 1991–92 where he oversaw 15 State posts and over 6,000 members.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Clayton Glenn today. His service and loyalty to the community, our country and our veterans has earned him many accolades. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE PANCYPRIAN
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
CHOIR AND ITS HONOREE, NIKOS
MOUYIARIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Pancyprian Association of America Choir and its 2006 honoree Nikos Mouyiaris.

The Pancyprian Association of America Choir makes a remarkable contribution to American culture by combining the best of Cypriot and American song and music. Their focus on Cypriot music helps keep the dynamic culture of their heritage alive in the United States. The choir provides its fans a rich education in the music of both cultures.

On November 4, the choir will be honoring my good friend, Nikos Mouyiaris. Nikos is an important, albeit unassuming, leader in the Hellenic-American community. He never seeks recognition for his actions, but he is unquestionably the one to go to get things done. If you need someone who will fight for human rights or help a student get an education, Nikos is the one to turn to. At a conference or gathering, Nikos will make his ideas and concerns heard, softly. Furthermore, because people know that Nikos is worth listening to, his thoughts often prompt people to take action. In short, Nikos is a man of deeds and vision.

Nikos Mouyiaris was born in Athienou, Cyprus where he attended elementary and high school. He went to England for a short time and then emigrated to the United States. In the United States he received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry and was awarded a scholarship to Rutgers University where he received his masters of science.

Since arriving in the United States, Nikos has achieved the American dream. Starting with \$6,000 that he borrowed from his brother, Apostolos, Nikos created a successful business, Mana Products, that employs over 600 people. For nearly three decades, Mana Products has been an innovative participant in the beauty industry. Headquartered in New York, the company offers research, development, manufacturing and other operations. The company works with some of the most respected brands and professionals around the globe. In addition to his company, Nikos has interests in real estate as well as investments in other businesses.

Nikos has never forgotten the place of birth, Athienou in Cyprus, where he helps to support the local home for the elderly, and has helped build a day care center. He has also provided funding for an archaeological expedition in the area of Athienou, Cyprus for Davidson College of North Carolina for several years.

Nikos also works to promote Cypriot culture and human rights interests in the United States. As a member of the Board of Directors and Trustees of the Pancyprian Association of America, Nikos works to educate young Cypriot-Americans about the culture and ethnic customs of Cyprus and Greece, and to sponsor cultural events. He is a member of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus, PSEKA, which seeks freedom and justice for the Cypriot people and promotes international human rights.

Nikos and his wife Carol, who is his partner in business as well as in their personal lives, have two children, Alexis and Ariana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Nikos Mouyiaris, a true American hero and a remarkable member of the Hellenic-American community.

REMEMBERING BILLY EARL HIBBS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor the life of a dear friend, Billy Earl Hibbs, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 67. Billy was a native Texan, born on September 25, 1938 in Quitman. He graduated from Quitman High School and married his high school sweetheart, Eugenia Stroud, in 1957. Eugenia and Billy had one child, Billy Earl Hibbs, Jr.

Starting with a small, three-person insurance agency, Billy grew his business into Heartland Security Insurance Group, one of the largest insurance holding companies in the Southwest. Heartland is one of the largest providers of claims services to the Federal Government, including all branches of the military as well as non-military personnel injured in Afghanistan and Iraq. Despite its size, Heartland maintains its Texas roots with its headquarters in Tyler and continues to serve almost half the school districts in Texas.

The Texas Legislature recognized Billy's accomplishments in 1981 for his success in handling the John Tyler High School fire loss. In 1990, he led the passage of a bond measure to provide upgrades to the city of Tyler's infrastructure. A patron of the arts, Billy served as president of the East Texas Symphony Association and worked to relocate performances to the Cowan Center at U.T. Tyler. Billy also served as president of the Tyler Civic Theatre where he oversaw construction of the Braithwaite Theater and the opening of the Rogers Children's Theatre. As president of the Tyler Rotary Club he became a Paul Harris Fellow. Billy was a member of the Henry Bell Masonic Lodge, and a founding board member of the Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas. He served as a board member for Leadership Tyler, the Tyler Independent School District Foundation, and the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Order of the Rose. He was a member of the Pairs and Parents Sunday School class, an usher, and a past trustee of Marvin United Methodist Church. Billy also remained active in the Independent Insurance Agents at local, State, and national levels throughout his life.

In 2004, Billy was inducted into the Junior Achievement "Business Hall of Fame," and made a member of the honor business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, at the University of Texas at Tyler. In 2005, Hibbs-Hallmark & Company was honored with the Better Business Bureau's "Torch Award" for demonstrating a commendable ethical record over the years, and recently, the Tyler Rotary Club honored Hibbs by distinguishing all present and future donors of \$1,000 as "Billy Hibbs Fellows."

Billy is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Eugenia "Jeannie" Hibbs, his son Billy

E. Hibbs, Jr., and daughter-in-law Tisa Weiss Hibbs, two grandchildren, Stratton Weiss Hibbs and London Elizabeth Hibbs, and two sisters, Dorma Shields and Betty Cassels of Quitman, as well as other relatives.

Billy was always generous with his time and leadership and he shared his many blessings with his community and his country. Mr. Speaker, Billy Hibbs was a valuable member of the community whose years of service will provide a legacy for many years to come.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING HIRING OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER for his leadership in introducing this legislation. I am a strong supporter of H. Res. 1070, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that members of Congress should actively engage in hiring wounded military veterans.

Earlier this year the House Veterans Affairs Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing for private sector representatives to discuss their initiatives aimed at hiring veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Although companies such as Home Depot, Exxon Mobile Corporation and R&L Carriers have initiated plans to increase the number of veterans, and specifically disabled veterans, other companies and the public sector can also improve their veterans hiring practices.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, younger veterans have a significantly higher unemployment rate than those of the general population in the same age range. Mr. Speaker, I find this situation unacceptable and I believe most Americans would agree that our country should do more to assist these veterans in transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce.

For that reason, I helped establish a "Veterans Opportunity Conference" in my Congressional district of El Paso, TX, earlier this year. This conference brought together members of the community, Federal and State agencies, and businesses to assist veterans seeking to start a business, learn about State and Federal programs, and inquire about employment opportunities. Having had a great response from our veteran community, I now plan on making this a yearly event and encourage all of my colleagues in Congress to do the same in their respective districts.

Furthermore, as a U.S. Army veteran, a strong advocate of hiring qualified veterans, and a member of Congress, I practice what I preach. I am proud to have five former servicemembers in my El Paso and Washington, DC, offices.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans deserve our utmost commitment to helping them succeed after their military service, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in voting for H. Res. 1070.

SAN JOAQUIN RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today, I submit to the House bipartisan legislation, the "San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act," which implements an historic water settlement to resolve an 18-year lawsuit to restore a salmon fishery on the San Joaquin River.

The settlement legislation achieves two equal goals: it restores the San Joaquin River and secures water management objectives to mitigate water losses to farmers in the restoration process. These two elements are crucial to the success the Act, and they are to be implemented in tandem.

The main reason I became involved in this issue last year was to ensure a stable water supply for Valley farmers. With that premise, the provisions in this measure were designed to make certain that water supply levels will remain manageable for farmers as the river is restored. It was also important to me that impacts to third parties, if any, be minimal and voluntary and the negotiators worked hard to create such language.

The landmark bill introduced today gives the people of our Valley a say in how the river is restored, as opposed to waiting for an uncertain outcome from the Federal court. This solution is science-based and included involvement from individuals throughout the Valley, the State and Federal agencies.

The significance of this bill cannot be understated. Over the past year and a half, countless hours have been spent in developing this measure, and I commend all those involved in this balanced resolution. I especially want to express my appreciation to the Friant Water Users Authority, Natural Resources Defense Council, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce and numerous third parties who were involved in the development of this bill.

I also thank Senator FEINSTEIN, who has introduced an identical bill in the Senate, for her steadfast commitment to this measure along with the members of the Valley delegation.

I'm dedicated to the passage of this measure in Congress and will work toward that end until it is signed into law.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESS IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, on December 8 and 9 in Taiwan, there will be an important gathering of legislators from Pacific Rim nations to discuss the role of congresses or legislatures in the growing number of democracies developing across Asia.

The meeting has been convened by the Pacific Congressional Caucus, an arm of the Democratic Pacific Union, DPU, a regional organization of Pacific Rim democracies.