

The bravery and sacrifice displayed by Donnie Chizek during his service to our nation goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. I know that members of the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Donnie on his well deserved award and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF U.S.  
MARINE CPL. NICHOLAS G.  
XIARHOS

**HON. BILL DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the service of U.S. Marine Corporal Nicholas G. Xiarhos—a loving son and brother, exceptionally dedicated soldier, and a constituent of mine.

On July 23, Nick died after being injured by a roadside explosive while serving in the Garmsir District, an area in the volatile region of southern Afghanistan. If ever there was an individual who went above and beyond to answer the call of service to his country, Nick was that man. He returned from a tour of duty in Iraq this past October only to change battalions so that he could be redeployed to Afghanistan in May. At the time of his death, Nick was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, and was scheduled to return home around Christmas.

Beloved and admired by his family, peers, fellow men and women in uniform, and his hometown community of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 21-year-old Nick was the epitome of a true American hero. He eschewed being singled out for his achievements and admirable sacrifices, telling others that he was no different from the thousands of other Marines who shared the same mission. As he told his parents only two weeks before his death, he was living his dream while serving in Afghanistan despite the physical and emotional toll that combat takes on even the most seasoned soldiers.

Six feet tall, athletic, and muscular, Nick had a heart of gold that instinctively drew others to him. During his years at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, he was dubbed “the mayor of DY” for his outgoing, amiable, friendly nature and popularity. As a senior, he received the “Does Most For Others” title—a well-deserved moniker that embodied how Nick approached relationships, his military service, and life in general. Upon returning from Afghanistan, Nick’s goal was to attend college and—following in his father, Lieutenant Steven Xiarhos’, footsteps—to become a police officer.

Nick’s life was one of immense promise, tragically ended too soon. As he is laid to rest tomorrow, I want to extend my deepest condolences to the Xiarhos family—his parents, Steven and Lisa; his younger brother, Alexander; and his twin sisters, Ashlynn and Elizabeth. While he will be truly missed by all those whose lives he touched, Nick’s memory and the sacrifice he made for our country will forever live on.

Thank you, Nicholas Xiarhos, for your service. May you rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF WATCHMAN  
NEE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the immense spiritual achievement of Watchman Nee, a great pioneer of Christianity in China.

Christianity Today magazine recently honored Watchman Nee as one of the 100 most influential Christians of the twentieth century. Watchman Nee died over thirty years ago but his life and work continue to influence millions of Protestant Christians in China. Today more than three thousand churches outside of China, including several hundred in the United States, look to him as one of their religious and theological leaders.

Watchman Nee was an astonishingly devoted and energetic man, which I think can be seen from a capsule summary of his life. He became a Christian in 1922. In the 1930s, he traveled to Europe and North America, where he delivered sermons and speeches. Later his sermons were collected and published as books. By the late 1940s, Nee had become the most influential Chinese Christian writer, evangelist, and church builder. In 1952, the Chinese government imprisoned Nee and many other Christian leaders for their faith. Nee was never released, though during the 1960s and 1970s several of his books continued to grow in influence and popularity, particularly in the United States, and his best-known book, *The Normal Christian Life*, sold over one million copies world-wide and became a twentieth-century Christian classic. In 1972 he died at the age of 71 in a labor farm; his few surviving letters confirm that he remained faithful to God until the end.

Madam Speaker, it is estimated that China has more than one hundred million Christians, and millions of them consider themselves the spiritual heirs of Watchman Nee. Millions more are rightly proud of the contribution Watchman Nee made to global Christianity—he was the first Chinese Christian to exercise an influence on Western Christians—and indeed of his contribution to world spiritual culture. It is sad that the works of Watchman Nee are officially banned in China—even as they are being discovered afresh by a new generation of Western Christians. It is my hope that Watchman Nee’s collected works can be freely published and distributed within China.

After Watchman Nee’s death, when his niece came to collect his few possessions, she was given a scrap of paper that a guard had found by his bed. What was written on that scrap may serve as Watchman Nee’s testament: “Christ is the Son of God Who died for the redemption of sinners and was resurrected after three days. This is the greatest truth in the universe. I die because of my belief in Christ. Watchman Nee.”

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF  
LEANDER, TX

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the City of Leander and its staff for their great work within the community for the Adopt-a-Unit Program. The City of Leander adopted troops from the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas through the Adopt-a-Unit program. The city offered support to the troops and their families with supplies, care packages and moral support during their deployment to Iraq over the last year.

I appreciate the work and dedication of the City of Leander staff and commend them for their commitment to the soldiers of the United States Army.

It is an honor to recognize the City of Leander for their great work.

PROTECTING THE SURVIVORS OF  
OUR JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

**HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am honored to bring to the floor the Judicial Survivors Protection Act of 2009. The bill would provide a limited six month period for incumbent Federal judges to opt into the Judicial Survivors’ Annuities System (JSAS) and begin contributing toward a survivors’ annuity for their spouses and dependent children.

The JSAS is a critical optional benefit for Federal judges. Currently, unlike the survivors of other Federal employees, judges’ spouses and dependent children receive no survivor income benefits unless the judge elects to participate. In addition, the judge must have specifically elected JSAS for a spouse to continue health insurance coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program after the judge’s death.

The judges of our Federal judiciary frequently give up lucrative jobs with many benefits for the honor and privilege of serving on our judiciary. Allowing a JSAS open season is a small way to allow judges to provide for their families despite the financial sacrifice of accepting a Federal judgeship.

Judges are bound by their initial decision regarding contributing to JSAS for the remainder of their career. However, circumstances change, and while initially judges may have chosen not to opt into the program due to financial pressure at the time, conflicting priorities such as the need to pay the expense of a dependant education, or simply the failure to plan ahead, this leaves the survivors of forty percent of Article III and non-Article III judges at risk.

Currently only sixty percent of Article III and non-Article III judges participate in JSAS. This bill would provide those forty percent of active or senior Federal judges, who did not initially enroll in JSAS, a limited open season to enroll in the program.

To compensate for the Judge’s delay in opting into the program, new enrollees who previously declined to participate in JSAS would