

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS POLICE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on House Administration in conjunction with Ranking Member DANIEL LUNGREN, we want to take a few moments to recognize and say thank you to the Library of Congress Police, who will be formally merged into the U.S. Capitol Police force on October 1, 2009.

The Library of Congress, founded by Congress in 1800, is not only the Nation's oldest federal cultural institution and research arm of the Congress, it is an unparalleled multimedia world resource containing more than 142 million items in its collections with more and more information in digital form, including numerous documents concerning the founding of the Nation and its history.

The Library's collections, buildings, and dedicated staff are widely known and respected and protecting these resources has been both the mission and achievement of the Library of Congress Police. Security at the Library, like other U.S. public institutions, includes protecting facilities, staff and visitors. Uniquely, the Library of Congress must also protect—for the present and future use of Congress and the Nation—the largest, richest and most diverse collection of recorded knowledge ever assembled.

In the early days, Library of Congress buildings and grounds were policed by building guards commissioned as special policemen. In 1950 the Librarian of Congress was given statutory authority to designate Library of Congress special police as employees of the Library. In 1987 Congress authorized that the Library Police rank structure and pay be made comparable to the Capitol Police and began in the 1990's considering whether the two police forces should be merged. Over time, the Library Police became an integral and critical part of the Library's interlocking structure to protect not only people and buildings but the priceless collections from a variety of threats. With the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the 1998 shootings of the Capitol Police officers at the Capitol and especially after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Congress mandated significant security upgrades in the Capitol complex, including the Library of Congress. Finally, in the interest of security uniformity, the President signed into law PL 110–178 in 2008, formally merging the Capitol and Library of Congress police forces, providing, after a transition period, for completion by October 1, 2009.

Over many years, the Library Police have provided exemplary security and law enforcement for the Library of Congress. Library Police have demonstrated the highest level of dedication and excellence in both fulfilling their public safety mission and protecting the Library's irreplaceable collections.

As the force is now merged into the Capitol Police, it marks the end of the storied era of the Library of Congress Police as a distinct entity.

We ask our colleagues to thank them. We want every member of the force, past and present, to know how much we in the Con-

gress have valued their service and professionalism.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
UNITED STATES NAVY ENSIGN
MATTHEW RICHARD MCFARLAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Navy Ensign Matthew Richard "Uncle Buck" McFarland, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

Matthew McFarland was born on April 1, 1922, the youngest of eight children. Affectionately known as "Uncle Buck" by his family, Ensign McFarland's parents, Hugh McFarland and Grace O'Reilly, and siblings, Hugh, Joseph, Katherine, Margaret, Mary Grace, John and Andrew, were a close family with a strong connection to the Catholic faith. At Holy Name Church, Ensign McFarland served Mass every morning as a child until the day before he entered the Navy. Before entering the Navy Reserves in 1943, he worked at Otis Steel in Cleveland. In 1944, he earned the rank of Naval Aviator and trained for flight in a Fighting Squadron. In 1947, Ensign McFarland was posthumously awarded the WWII Victory Medal by the United States Navy Chief of Naval Personnel.

He died while serving our country on February 15, 1945 at the age of 22. Navy Ensign Pilots, McFarland and Lt. Battenfeld vanished from the sky during a routine flight from Sand Point Naval Air Station in Washington State. Seven months later the wreckage was discovered on the side of a mountain. For more than 60 years, the bodies of the young soldiers rested in a temporary grave, buried among rock and forestry, their names engraved on the flat surface of a boulder and a cross carved at the base of a tree nearby.

Members of the U.S. military's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Team led the effort to return Ensign McFarland and Lt. Battenfeld to their families and permanent places of rest. Members of the Army Reservists from the 737th Transportation Company volunteered in the effort. On September 25, 2009, the body of Navy Ensign Matthew McFarland returns home to Cleveland, Ohio, where friends and family will gather in his honor and memory.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Navy Ensign Matthew Richard "Uncle Buck" McFarland, whose service to our nation will be honored and remembered by the Cleveland community. Though sixty-four years have passed, the memory of Ensign McFarland will remain in the hearts of his many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
BRENNAN SOKOWOSKI FOR WIN-
NING THE BOYS' DIVISION III
STATE BASEBALL CHAMPION-
SHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Brennan Sokowoski showed hard work and dedication to the sport of baseball; and

Whereas, Brennan Sokowoski was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Brennan Sokowoski always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Brennan Sokowoski on winning the Boys' Division III State Baseball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 baseball season.

HONORING BISHOP T. GARROTT
BENJAMIN, JR., D. MIN., SENIOR
PASTOR OF LIGHT OF THE
WORLD CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOR
OVER 40 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP
AND SERVICE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., Deacon Minister and Senior Pastor of the Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis.

For the past 40 years, Bishop Benjamin has exhibited bold and charismatic leadership on behalf of his congregation and his community. His efforts on behalf of the World Christian Church have made his congregation one of the most active and well respected in the city. Through his dedicated service, Bishop Benjamin has earned a reputation as a formidable advocate on behalf of poor minorities, fighting unceasingly for racial justice across Indianapolis.

At a time when committed and compassionate leadership is much too rare in public life, Bishop Benjamin's indomitable spirit continues to inspire generations to improve our communities and serve their neighbors through Christian ministry. Thousands of local residents have been touched by Bishop Benjamin and his congregation, a number that continues to grow daily.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Benjamin for his 40 years of dedicated leadership and service as the esteemed Pastor of Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.