

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT STEVEN
J. DELUZIO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio, of Glastonbury, Connecticut. Steven was killed on August 22, 2010 when insurgents attacked his unit in Paktika, Afghanistan. I had the honor of attending the funeral service for Steven in which hundreds of friends, relatives and others took time to honor his life, his service, and his sacrifice.

For those who knew Steven, they talk of a man who was passionate about life, about service and about sports. Steven played four years of varsity ice hockey and was an avid Yankees fan in part just because his father loved the Red Sox. Our thoughts are with Steven's father Mark and his mother Diane. My heart goes out to his brother Scott, his fiancé Leeza Gutt, and the scores of friends and family members who had the privilege of knowing Steven DeLuzio.

Steven graduated from Glastonbury High School in 2003 and joined the Vermont National Guard after being motivated by the attacks of September 11th. He was deployed to Iraq in 2006 and was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge. After returning home, Steven was again deployed to Afghanistan in March 2010.

Sergeant Steven DeLuzio led a life that serves as an example to all. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me, and the people of Connecticut, in honoring Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio for his sacrifice. Our thoughts and our prayers are with the DeLuzio family in their time of need.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS CHARLIE
JOHNSON

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism and courage of Private First Class Charles R. Johnson, better known as Charlie to his friends. Private Johnson fought and died to save his buddies on a hot day in a far away land, in a war largely forgotten by the American public. However, for those who fought in Korea against a dedicated enemy in some of the most forsaken terrain on this earth, scarcely a day goes by without remembering the sacrifices made there. And for those that were at Outpost Harry in June of 1953, they will never forget Charlie Johnson.

Charlie was a Browning Automatic Rifleman with Company B of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. Early in June of 1953, Baker Company, as Company B was known, was ordered to defend Outpost Harry with other units from the 15th Infantry. This

outpost in the Chorwon valley was of strategic importance. The high ground that Outpost Harry occupied could be used by communist forces to directly engage United Nations forces' defensive positions. If Outpost Harry fell, the U.S. 8th Army would have to fall back 6 miles to a new, defensible position. It was feared that public support would erode and the United States might agree to a cease-fire under unfavorable conditions if the communists could inflict heavy casualties and force a retreat of the 8th Army. As peace negotiations were ongoing, the loss of Outpost Harry was simply not an option.

The battle for Outpost Harry was fierce. Almost 90,000 communist artillery rounds landed on Outpost Harry during the battle. The U.S. and Greek soldiers were outnumbered 30–1. Some of the fighting was hand-to-hand. The fighting went on for 8 days.

It is in this context that Charlie's brave actions took place. He selflessly put himself in the line of fire to protect his fellow soldiers, all of whom were injured during the attack. After treating the wounds of his fellow soldiers, he led them to safety and then returned to defend the position and enable the rescue of his fellow soldiers. This sort of bravery went unrecognized for over 50 years. Thanks to the leadership of the current 3rd Infantry Division, Major General Cuculo and Brigadier General Phillips, this brave act has not gone unrewarded. For his actions on the 11th and 12th of June, 1953, Charlie Johnson was finally awarded the Silver Star, our nation's third highest medal for valor in combat. I believe Charlie's Silver Star write up says it best:

"During the night and early morning of 11 and 12 June 1953 against overwhelming odds during an attack on his element's position, Private First Class Johnson acted with complete disregard for his personal safety to ensure the safety of his fellow Soldiers. Ignoring his own injuries, he treated several wounded comrades, dragging one Soldier through the Trenches while under direct artillery, mortar and small arms fire to a secure bunker, stopping only to clear the path of enemy soldiers in close combat operations. Ignoring the proximity of the opposing force, he left the bunker to assess the situation and secure weapons and ammunition. When he returned, he organized a defense and departed his fighting position in order to place himself between his comrades and the enemy, thereby creating the conditions for their successful rescue."

In an age of persistent conflict, it is useful to reflect on those who have gone before us and have shown character, integrity, sacrifice and bravery in their actions. Today's soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, and indeed all of our men and women in uniform, will look to Private First Class Johnson's actions as an example to live up to. There was an easy way out that night; Charlie could have chosen to retreat. But he chose to fight, and because of his actions others lived. That is the textbook definition of the ultimate sacrifice.

Charlie's Silver Star was presented to his family this last weekend in Poughkeepsie, New York. His good friend Donald Dingee, one of the men he saved that night, was in attendance. It is unfortunate that Charlie's Silver Star had to wait so long, but I am happy that the final chapter has finally been written. Our nation continues to enjoy liberty and freedom

unlike any other, and it is due in no small part to heroes like Private First Class Charles R. Johnson. Thank you Charlie.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
SACRIFICES OF DR. PETE
TATSUO OKUMOTO AND OTHER
JAPANESE-AMERICAN SERVICE-
MEN OF WORLD WAR II

HON. CHARLES K. DJOU

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. DJOU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism and sacrifices of Dr. Pete Tatsuo Okumoto and other Japanese-American veterans of World War II.

Dr. Okumoto served as a frontline combat surgeon with the United States Army's 10th Mountain Division in Northern Italy during World War II and participated in two major campaigns including North Apennine and Po Valley. Dr. Okumoto received numerous military decorations for his honorable service. I commend Dr. Okumoto for his dedication and commitment to the field of medicine and honorable service to the United States. It is with great pleasure to formally recognize Dr. Okumoto on the floor of the House of Representatives.

As a Captain in the Army Reserve, I understand the demands placed on our servicemen and women. I thank Dr. Okumoto and all other Japanese-American veterans for their heroism and for their service to the state of Hawai'i and the United States. Aloha.

HONORING PARKER STEVEN SPAW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Steven Spaw. Parker is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Parker has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Parker has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Parker solicited donations for and volunteered his assistance towards refurbishing the family resource center for IMPACT ministries in Eastern Jackson County, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Parker Steven Spaw for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.