

poor children should be as well educated as those from wealthy families. We believe that everyone should pay their fair share of taxes and that everyone should have access to health care."

Such unapologetic open-heartedness might not appeal to many pundits but it took more courage, toughness, and patriotism to keep fighting for them for more than seven decades without rest despite the mockery and derision of those deemed to be the "responsible" ones.

I had dinner with McGovern during the 2008 presidential campaign. We discussed our hopes for that election, and he told me that at no time during those years did not he feel himself to be fighting for causes that were, in most politicians' minds, marginal. And neither, I can tell you, did McGovern ever consider dropping those issues and causes and allowing himself a more pleasant and less demanding life.

A final footnote: The only staffer working in that dingy Greek deli in 1984 was a youngster also named James McGovern (no relation). Thirteen years later, George McGovern stood by a still-pretty-young James as he took the oath as a freshman member of the 105th Congress, representing the 3rd Congressional District in Massachusetts, where he remains today as one of America's most farsighted, idealistic, and simultaneously, tough-minded representatives—in other words, a genuine "McGovernite."

#### ENDNOTES

[1] George McGovern, *Grassroots: The Autobiography of George McGovern* (New York: Random House, 1977), 5.

[2] *Ibid.*, 41.

[3] Bruce Miroff, *The Liberals' Moment: The McGovern Insurgency and the Identity Crisis of the Democratic Party* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2007), 33.

[4] Quoted in: Gloria Steinem, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions* (New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1983), 87–88.

[5] McGovern, *Grassroots*, 121.

[6] Quoted in: Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72* (New York: Warner, 1973), 127.

[7] Miroff, *The Liberals' Moment*, 38.

[8] *Ibid.*, 43.

[9] Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Society, and Politics* (New York: DaCapo, 2001), 166.

[10] Justin Vaisse, *Neoconservatism: The Biography of a Movement* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010), 84.

[11] Meany is quoted in: Philip A. Klinkner, *The Losing Parties: Out-Party National Committees, 1956–1993* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 106.

[12] Theodore White, *The Making of the President, 1972* (New York: Atheneum, 1973), 196–197.

[13] James Baughman, *The Republic of Mass Culture: Journalism, Filmmaking, and Broadcasting in America Since 1941* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 177.

"I'M EOD"—A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO—SSGT JOHNNY MORRIS, 2ND EOD, THE UNITED STATES MARINES

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Son of The South, SSGT Johnny Morris of 2nd EOD The United States Ma-

rines and his family of Loxley Alabama. Johnny has one of the most dangerous jobs in The United States Marines, and on July 2nd 2011 SSGT Morris was almost killed in an IED blast as he was sweeping for explosives. He lost his leg and almost his life, but he never lost his faith or his courage. Him and his lovely wife Natalie and their new son Gage are a great American story and family. All you need to do is spend 10 minutes with this young man and you will walk away inspired and impressed. They make us all proud to be Americans. I submit this poem penned in in his honor by Albert Caswell.

I'M EOD

I'm EOD . . .  
So don't mess with me . . .  
I'm country and I like it . . .  
I'm a United States Marine!  
And I Roll with The Tide . . .  
And whenever they win National Championship,  
it makes me so all warm so inside . . .  
I've got a beautiful wife,  
and Natalie she's but the love of my life . . .  
And I'm EOD and I'm as bad as can be!  
And now our baby son Gage,  
he makes it three!

Because,  
in this US of A . . .  
there's nothing you can not so be!  
And I'm all dressed in those Most Magnificent Shades of Green,  
that's where you'll see me convene!  
For as long as you work hard,  
and in your self so believe . . .  
That's why this Father's son,  
became oh yes one of those few ones so indeed . . .

Who stand ever so tall,  
and so protect us all . . .  
Yea, and so fight to be free . . .  
yea that's The Leather Neck all in me!  
All dressed all in Those Most Magnificent Shades of Green . . .

Oh yes,  
I am so proud as can be . . .  
But to be a United States Marine!  
So let it be said,  
that I'm ajar Head and so proud so to be!  
Yes, I'm EOD,  
and I'm as bad as can be!  
Because, me and my brothers . . .  
my fellow Marines . . .  
So go where angels so fear to tread,  
as ever we're seen!  
Right there but on that very edge death,  
if you know what I mean . . .  
Because, we are EOD and we are as bad as can be!

While, in one another we all do so believe!  
As a Band of Brothers so all dressed in Green!

Doing what most people would not so choose to be!

Being EOD!  
But, I do it all again . . .  
But for my sweet Country Tis of Thee,  
as to her all of our lives are so pledged and that's how it's going to be!

For it's better to die for something,  
than to live for nothing at all!  
And that's why I put my boots on,  
and I so answered that call . . .  
That Call To Arms!  
Because, I'm EOD . . .

so don't dare mess with me!  
And I'm as bad as can be!  
With nerves of such steel!  
Remember, Superman is not real!  
But I am you see!  
But, we are the 2nd EOD!  
As on each new day,  
it's with death that we so play!  
Yea, I lost my leg . . .

but I won't moan, and I won't beg . . .  
And I'd do it all over again,  
because I'm so proud to say that I took that stand!

All so my wife Natalie,  
and my son Gage can live in a free land that is so free . . .

As here I so stand,  
with my family in hand and a smile on my face . . .

It's just a speed bump on the road of life,  
and I have no regrets and as I'm not losing pace!

So you better start running,  
if you want to catch up to me so don't wait . . .

Because, I got nothing to complain about . . .

compared to all of my Brothers who are now in the ground . . .

As why I so honor them on each new day,  
as I so awake with a smile on my face . . .  
And for them I will always so feel the wind in my face,

and so carry them with me so every place!  
As I take what my Lord has so given to me,  
as I'm just glad to be back in these here The United States!

All in this most beautiful place . . .  
That we call The U. S. Of A.  
In soon back in sweet Alabama hip . . . hip . . . hooray!

And when I'm so done my rehab,  
I'm going back to my sweet home Bama one day . . .

Living large,  
and grow old and so grey!  
Because, when you've lived on the edge of death . . .

And you've so witnessed your magnificent Brother's own death . . .

With tears in your eyes,  
while holding them tight,  
as they give them last rites . . .

As than you so understand,  
just how lucky you are man, just to be alive!  
And how you are so very blessed,  
to have so known such magnificent men such as this!

And carry them in your hearts each day!  
And for all of them now,  
I will so live a great life to make them so proud!

And to all of their children and to all of their wives,  
and to their moms and their dads standing here with tears in my eyes . . .

I will always let them know that they were but the best,  
and in our hearts so keep them alive!  
Because they were EOD,  
and were as brave as could be!

Yea, Heroes like you SSGT Morris,  
have our Country Tis of Thee So Blessed!  
As They So Teach Us!  
And So Beseech Us!

As we so watch their fine hearts so crest . . .  
Yea, Johnny your EOD . . .  
and oh how do you make me so proud but be an American you see!

I could climb way up,  
but to the highest mountain top . . .  
But still,

I could never so reach as high as you Morris,  
where you now so stand high atop!  
As an American Hero,  
and you and your family are but the very best that we've got!

For Only The Few!  
For Only The Brave!  
For our Nation their hearts so gave!  
And so teach all just how to behave,  
yea SSGT Morris you're the cream of the crop!

And that's why you and your family,  
America so loves and we will never stop!  
And yea You are EOD,  
and You are as bad and as brave as can be!

And if ever I have a son,  
I wish he could be like this one!  
One of Alabama's bravest of all ones!  
For Heaven so awaits,  
for such men of courage and faith,  
all so dressed all in green!  
Because, he's EOD and as bad as can be!  
And his name is Johnny!

### REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

#### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn those who were killed in Newtown, Connecticut last Friday, and begin the urgent work of stopping tragedies like this from ever happening again.

Let us be clear—there can be no better tribute to the innocent children and educators who were killed in Newtown than to finally address the out-of-control gun violence that kills tens of thousands of Americans every year.

In answering the call, Congress must look to enact a comprehensive and commonsense reform to our nation's gun laws, and renew our commitment to a mental health system that has been neglected for far too long.

We can begin by taking the most dangerous and deadly weapons off our streets. That means we must do more than simply reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994. We must strengthen that law by including language that retroactively applies to weapons already in possession, so that law enforcement can finally remove all assault weapons from our communities.

These weapons serve no purpose other than to kill human beings. Our colleague, Senator JOE MANCHIN, today said the following: "I just came with my family from deer hunting. I've never had more than three shells in a clip. Sometimes you don't get more than one shot anyway. It's time to get beyond rhetoric, it's time to sit down and move in a responsible way." He continued to say that limiting the size of a gun magazine to even 10 bullets should be on the table when it comes to reforming our laws and ending gun violence. I couldn't agree more, and believe that no weapon that is designed with the primary intent to kill people should be out on our streets.

This also means that this Congress must look at the types of bullets that are sold today. The perpetrator who murdered more than 20 innocent children took their lives with bullets that were designed to break up inside a victim's body and inflict the maximum amount of damage to internal organs, bones and tissue. There is no legal activity in our country that requires the use of such deadly bullets. They should be included under any renewal of an Assault Weapons Ban.

In addition to removing the most deadly weapons from our streets, we must also close the so-called "fire sale loophole" and "gun show loophole"—two products of a powerful gun lobby that must be brought to heel. Because of these loopholes, more than 40 percent of all guns sold in the United States are sold without the buyer undergoing a federal background check.

We require anyone who wishes to drive a car to prove that they can safely operate a vehicle, yet when it comes to buying a gun, al-

most half all buyers do not have to prove they will safely operate such deadly weapons. In a country of 315 million people, there are almost 280 million guns owned. Of those 280 million guns, almost 112 million of them will have been purchased without a background check. Were they purchased by law-abiding citizens or by troubled individuals who may endanger lives? Because of irresponsible legal loopholes, we simply do not know.

No more. It is time that we require anyone in the United States wishing to purchase a gun to pass a federal background check. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 263, the "Fire Sale Loophole Closing Act" and H.R. 1781, the "Fix Gun Checks Act", and urge the Leadership of this Congress to bring both bills to the floor for a vote.

Finally, our work is not complete unless we improve our nation's mental health system. For years, experts have known how to improve our mental health care system, but a lack of political will has led to its continual decay.

Such failure has a very real impact on the health and well being of thousands of our fellow citizens everyday. Instead of accessing the care they need, they are often left on their own to deal with illnesses that they have little power to control. Place these troubled individuals in the vicinity of a deadly weapon, instead of the care of a mental health care provider, and tragedy can result.

If we are to succeed in our efforts to prevent more gun violence tragedies then an improved mental health care system is part of the solution.

I believe we must respond by drastically improving our community-based mental health services—including mobile crisis services, assertive community treatment, peer supports and supportive housing. These important mental health programs are in short supply all across our nation, which means that thousands of our friends and neighbors who desperately need help are stranded with nowhere to turn.

While no legislation can undo the terror that was done in Newtown, Connecticut, our nation has a moral obligation to act with the utmost urgency to reduce gun violence and save innocent lives. It is long past time to get to work, and I am ready to begin that work today.

**"FOLLOW ME"—IN HONOR OF RET. SPC. JIM MAYER, THE UNITED STATES ARMY, THE MILKSHAKE MAN, AND HIS AID AND COMFORT TO OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS**

#### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Ret. Spc. Jim Mayer and all of the thousands of Disabled American Veterans out across America who are making a difference in the lives of our newly returning wounded warriors. He is a former native of Missouri, who lost both of his legs when he stepped on a mine two months in his first tour in Vietnam. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell.

FOLLOW ME

Follow Me . . .

I'll walk with You . . .  
Follow me in all I do . . .  
For I was once just like you . . .  
A young man, who went off to war . . .  
All for my Country Tis Thee, with such burdens bore . . .  
So strong and bold, and so self assured . . .  
So dashing there, all in uniform . . .  
Follow me, I'll lead the way . . .  
to somehow help you move on this day . . .  
As I bow down my head, and for you I now so pray . . .  
For I was once like you, just moments away from my grave . . .  
As I too, remember that fateful morning as I awoke . . .  
While, against all odds there seemed no hope!  
As I so too, had such tears in my eyes as invoked!  
And too so wondered, so wondered how I would cope!  
When, all that I had so left . . . was but only hope!  
Follow me, they call me The Milkshake Man!  
For I have walked that walk!  
And I know you can!  
All in your shoes, as I so too have had all of those same such thoughts!  
As I so understand, how much you have to gain!  
And how much so too you have lost, all in your pain!  
So don't give up! And don't give in!  
Let go of such thoughts, my friend!  
Lift up your head, and raise that chin!  
Follow me, for this is how your first steps begin!  
So begins with you my friend . . .  
For you will learn to walk again . . .  
Or somehow replace your arms, your hands, your eyes my friend . . .  
All with that heart which beats with in!  
For you can live or you can die?  
Or you can so feel so very sorry for yourself, with tear in eye . . .  
Or with each new step, you can but let your fine soul rise!  
And oh yes, you will have many . . . many . . . dark days ahead . . .  
Follow Me, take my hand . . . and listen to what my life has said!  
Walk with me, listen to your heart instead!  
For your fine Life is worth living, and you're not dead!  
Live for all of your Brothers and Sisters, who so died for you instead!  
For them, feel the breeze on your face . . .  
And at night take them with you to bed!  
Follow me, there's so much more to be said!  
For my Son, my Daughter . . . I was once like you . . .  
With all of that anger and hate inside of me, and such self doubt too!  
For I know where your are going, and I know where you have been!  
And oh yes, I know that its not fair . . . but these are war's deadly sins!  
All in what it can so do, to such magnificent women and men . . .  
For I was once like you, right on that edge!  
All between life and death!  
Follow me, and I promise you . . . your fine life will be blessed!  
As you Bless Our World, with all of your gifts . . .  
As you so teach us all, that hope and faith are alive and still exists!  
And that your fine life, is one that is so worth to living this!  
For what you give, is what you get!  
For the best is still yet to come, as so is yet!  
Follow me, and yes it will be hard!  
For now it's time, to do your part!  
Lead my Son, lead my Daughter . . . lead but with your great heart!