

appointed by President Clinton as a Commissioner on the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, where he served until 2005.

His passion for Texas was only surpassed by his love for God, his family, his church, and Freemasonry of Texas. Jack was an active member of the First Baptist Church, not only in Vernon, Texas, where he spent most of his life, but also in Austin, Texas, the latter part of his life.

Jack was a member for over fifty years and Past Master of Vernon Lodge #655, Vernon, Texas. He also belonged to University Lodge #1190, Austin, Texas, and the Texas Lodge of Research. He served the Grand Lodge of Texas as District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Orator, member of the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee, and was elected to serve as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1972.

Jack was also a Knight of the York Cross of Honor, a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, and a Thirty Third Degree, Scottish Rite Mason, and served as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Texas. Jack was also a member of the Maskat Shrine, Wichita Falls, Texas, and served on the boards of the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas, and the Scottish Rite Dormitory at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, and the Scottish Rite Education Association of Texas.

Jack is survived by his wife, Colleen, and his three daughters, Ann Thornburg; Amy Brees; and Alison Suttle.

With more than 50 years of public service, Jack Hightower will always be remembered for his selfless devotion to the people of his State and his country. Whether holding a position at a local, state, or national level, he always put the interests and considerations of his country above all else—the living embodiment of a public servant. He will surely be missed.

HONORING OUR GOLD STAR
MOTHERS OF UTICA, NEW YORK

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of this Nation's Gold Star Mothers, especially those in New York State and in particular in New York's 22nd Congressional District.

It is fitting that we recognize the American Gold Star Mothers, whose sons and daughters have died in defense of the ideals of individual liberty. On Sunday, September 29, 2013, our Utica chapter will host its Gold Star Mother's Day at 2 p.m. at the CPT George A. Wood Postal Facility at 100 Pitcher St. in Utica, New York.

This day is made possible in large part due to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 944, which annually honors our Gold Star Mothers and families during this event complete with Color Guards, a rifle salute, the singing of our national anthem, and a wreath-laying at Gold Star Mothers monument.

Our Gold Star Mothers should be honored and offered respect and gratitude for their personal sacrifice. Gold Star Mother's Day is intended to honor women who deserve special recognition and gratitude for their tremendous personal loss on behalf of our country.

During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each Soldier in military service of the United States, and as the war progressed and Soldiers were killed or wounded in combat or died from wounds or disease, a Gold Star superimposed over the Blue Star designated the loss of these individuals. This tradition recognized Soldiers for their ultimate sacrifice to our country and the Gold Star offered families an outward symbol by which to honor the loss of a loved one.

Our Gold Star Mothers serve as the strength and inspiration for this country. They are part of an exclusive group—one that no one ever hopes to belong. One can imagine that there is no pain more far-reaching or deeper than losing a child.

While it's not possible to ever find solace in losing a child, our Gold Star Mothers find comfort in the women standing beside them. Their hurt may be soothed by knowing the lives of their sons and daughters live on through them. Their children live not only in their hearts, but in the heart of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe to serve one's country—particularly during times of war—is one of the most noble and selfless acts available to man. I urge all of my colleagues to appreciate the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America who have strengthened and inspired our Nation throughout history. May we always honor the Gold Star Mothers of America for their courage and their strength.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE RUDDY
FOR RISKING HIS LIFE TO SAVE
THE LIVES OF OTHERS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrolman Gene Ruddy, whose heroic action saved the lives of at least eight people in Dunmore, Pennsylvania on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Patrolman Ruddy was on patrol just after 2:00 a.m. Saturday on Chestnut Street when he smelled smoke nearby. He immediately searched the area near Chestnut and Drinker Street and looked for the source. He saw smoke coming from 113 Chestnut Street, a building that housed five apartments and a business.

As he approached the building, Patrolman Ruddy saw flames and he knew he needed to act quickly. He called 911 and ran into the building through a stairwell. Patrolman Ruddy went to the second-floor apartment that appeared to be the source of the growing blaze. He yelled into the apartment, pounding on the door, but no one responded. Undaunted, he ran up to the third floor to make certain the building was completely evacuated. Fortunately, he found a group of several young adults who were completely unaware the building was on fire and guided the group to safety.

Patrolman Ruddy ran to the neighboring apartment, breaking down the door and evacuating a family of three. Shortly thereafter, the situation escalated and the building became too dangerous to re-enter. Thankfully, by that time fire fighters had arrived on the scene.

Patrolman Gene Ruddy is, in every sense of the word, a hero. Without a moment of hesi-

tation, he risked his own life to remove several people from grave danger. Patrolman Ruddy deserves full recognition from his community and country for his acts of valor in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTORS
TO THE UPDATED GUIDELINES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
ACUTE CERVICAL SPINE AND
SPINAL CORD INJURIES

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, there are an estimated 12,000 spinal cord injuries every year in the United States. These injuries most often result in temporary or permanent loss of sensation and paralysis, and they can forever change the lives of those who have been injured. However, thanks to the dedication of top scientists and medical professionals across the country, we hold out hope for more effective treatments, and one day, a possible cure.

In recognition of September as Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month, we'd like to take this time to acknowledge the leadership of several neurosurgeons who worked diligently to review and update the Guidelines for the Management of Acute Cervical Spine and Spinal Cord Injuries, published in the March 2013 edition of Neurosurgery. This work describes the "state of the literature" with regard to the treatment of patients with cervical spine and spinal cord injuries and is a useful guide to help clinicians make important decisions in the care of their patients.

The contributing members of this work include Mark N. Hadley, Division of Neurological Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Beverly C. Walters, Division of Neurological Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Inova Health System in Falls Church, Virginia; Bizhan Aarabi, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Maryland; Sanjay S. Dhall, Department of Neurosurgery, Emory University; Daniel E. Gelb, Department of Orthopaedics, University of Maryland; Mark R. Harrigan, Division of Neurological Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham; R. John Hurlbert, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada; Curtis J. Rozelle, Division of Neurological Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Children's Hospital of Alabama; Timothy C. Ryken, Iowa Spine and Brain Institute, University of Iowa; Nicholas Theodore, Division of Neurological Surgery, Barrow Neurological Institute.

Mr. Speaker, the standardization and refinement of surgical techniques over the last decade embodied in this work is a substantial accomplishment. It is a testament to the experience and dedication of its contributors, and I, along with Representatives TERRI A. SEWELL, ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, JOHN LEWIS, BRUCE L. BRALEY, and ED PASTOR, hope you will join us in recognizing them for their impressive work. Due to their commitment, numerous lives are improved daily through the increased understanding and treatment of spinal cord injuries.