THE COURAGE OF LARRY DARCEY

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, at the very beginning of my first term, I came across an article in a local newspaper about a constituent of mine named Larry Darcey.

Years after being exposed to nuclear components while working in a plant supporting the U.S. Navy in Attleboro, Massachusetts, Mr. Darcey was diagnosed with cancer in 1992. Facing the fear and uncertainty of his first cancer diagnosis, Mr. Darcey quickly found out that he was far from the only former employee at the plant with cancer. But he also learned that few of those employees were aware of the Federal compensation and medical payments that they deserved.

Over the past few years, he has helped over 200 of his former coworkers file compensation claims. His work and the tireless coverage of Rick Foster and the Attleboro Sun Chronicle have kept attention on this critical issue.

Guided by their efforts, I have worked with the Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration to provide former workers and their families with over $34 million—more than twice as much as had been paid out in the 13 years of the compensation program's existence. To many families, Mr. Speaker, that support has changed or even saved lives, and it is all thanks to Larry Darcey for raising his voice when he saw a gap in our system.

Thank you, Larry, for all you have done and all you do.

HAPPY 84TH BIRTHDAY, HOWARD COBLE

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Howard Coble on his 84th birthday, a living legend of North Carolina politics who faithfully served the Sixth District of North Carolina for 30 years.

From the very first day when he assumed office on January 3, 1985, and the nearly 11,000 days following, he was a pillar for outstanding constituent service. With his three decades in Congress, he became the longest-serving Republican in the history of North Carolina, and he was regarded as one of the friendliest Members of Congress and certainly the most fashionable.

But the title I believe he embodies is public servant. He spent a lifetime serving our great country and our State. Beyond Congress, he has served in a multitude of capacities for North Carolina, including as a State representative. Additionally, he is a Korean war veteran and spent more than two decades serving in the United States Coast Guard and the Reserves.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to succeed Mr. Howard Coble. On behalf of all the Sixth District and my colleagues in Congress, I thank you for your service and wish you a very happy 84th birthday.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to legislation that is nothing short of an attack on workers, a bill that will harm the economic security of American families all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that economic growth is the key to strengthening the middle class, but only if we have fair rules in place that allow workers to share in that growth by negotiating for decent wages and benefits.

The National Labor Relations Board put forward a rule that ensures workers are treated fairly in the election process, that reduces bureaucratic red tape and ensures the right to collectively bargain is guaranteed.

Unfortunately, this body is considering legislation that would overturn that rule. It is wrong, and it is a waste of time.

If Congress wants to support business, we should pass legislation to repair our crumbling infrastructure so that folks can get their products to market, reform our Tax Code to make it easier for small businesses to compete, or invest in workforce development so that our kids are prepared to compete in a 21st century economy.

Mr. Speaker, there are Democrats who stand ready to work with you on an agenda that actually strengthens the middle class, but this resolution doesn't do that. I urge my colleagues to stand up for workers by voting down this resolution.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RYAN PITTS, AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of New Hampshire's own, Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts, an American hero and recipient of the Medal of Honor. As one of only nine living soldiers to be awarded this distinct honor, his is a shining example of this generation's sacrifice on our behalf.

Staff Sergeant Pitts demonstrated an incredible amount of courage, bravery, and honor as he fought to hold off a Taliban ambush during one of the bloodiest battles of the war in Afghanistan. Despite being attacked by more than 200 Taliban militants and sustaining injuries of his own, Pitts singlehandedly defended his platoon's observation post—his fight unwavering.

Every day our servicemembers like Staff Sergeant Pitts put themselves in harm's way to defend our liberties, our Nation, and our freedom, and for that we are forever grateful.

Mr. Speaker, during that very ambush, nine of his comrades made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We shall not and we will not forget their bravery and sacrifice.

Since 1861, the Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded to just over 3,400 of our Nation's bravest soldiers. It is my honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Pitts today.

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HONORING JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a Granite Stater who played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement: Jonathan Myrick Daniels of Keene, New Hampshire.

During his studies at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Daniels' faith inspired him to travel to Alabama, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had sought to help the fellow clergymembers in registering African Americans to vote.

Along with other students, including our esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, Jonathan spent the summer and spring advocating for civil rights, standing guard during the march from Selma to Montgomery, and even helping to integrate an Episcopal church in Selma.

While many of his fellow students ultimately traveled back north, Mr. Daniels chose to indefinitely remain in Alabama and continue to fight for equal rights.

Sadly, on August 20, 1965, Mr. Daniels was walking with fellow students when a sheriff's deputy happened upon the group and threatened them with his gun. Seeing the weapon pointed in their direction, Mr. Daniels placed himself in front of a 17-year-old girl and took the bullet that was meant for her. Friends of Jonathan had noted that he was ''willing and prepared to die to help others,'' and tragically, that is indeed what happened.

Jonathan Daniels would have been 76 years old this Friday. He left this world far too soon, and he died fighting for the values he held dear: justice, equality, and human dignity.

As we celebrate this year's 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, we honor the memory of Jonathan Daniels and those like him who fought for the essential rights of every American.