

year. As Internet business continues to grow, UPS will become an even more important engine of economic development.

One of the critical aspects of UPS's success is happy employees. UPS has an employee retention rate of over 90 percent, and tenures typically span decades. Many of the UPS executives worked their way up from driver or loader jobs.

The UPS center in Ontario, California is a big part of the success of UPS, and I want to acknowledge their important contribution to commerce. As the Congressman for Ontario, I know firsthand that the hardworking UPS employees in Ontario deserve recognition for their commitment to excellence.

UPS, a quality company that takes care of its customers and employees, is poised to deliver our nation into a high tech economy. Once again, I congratulate UPS on earning the distinction of Forbes Magazine 1999 Company of the Year.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN JOHN
CHERREY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate U.S. Air Force Captain John A. Cherrey on being chosen for recognition by President Clinton at this year's State of the Union Address, Captain Cherrey, a New Jersey native, is one of the most courageous, honorable patriots in the United States military and is destined to become a top leader among the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend the precious freedoms of this great nation.

In a wonderful tradition initiated by President Reagan in 1981, Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton have recognized one or more American heroes each year during their annual report to Congress.

Captain Cherrey was chosen for that high honor this year because of the extraordinary bravery he exhibited after an F-117 Stealth fighter was shot down near Novi Sad, Serbia, last March and its American pilot was stranded in hostile Serbian territory. Captain Cherrey, flying a single-seat A-10 attack fighter as combat search and rescue mission commander, led five other pilots past Serbian ground missiles to locate the pilot, and protect him until helicopters could arrive and carry him to safety. During the mission, Captain Cherrey was repeatedly targeted by missile installations, threatened by enemy aircraft and had to purposely maneuver into range of the missiles in order to lead the enemy away from the downed pilot. Despite being critically low on fuel and in danger of being shot down himself, Captain Cherrey remained on the scene until the downed pilot was safe.

Captain Cherrey's bravery in that incident won him the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest military honor. The captain "distinguished himself by gallantry," his superiors said in the citation accompanying the medal. The 33-year-old father of two "flew into the teeth of the Serbian air defenses * * * at extreme risk to his life * * * with impeccable courage. * * * By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Captain Cherrey has reflected great

credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

The Silver Star is the crowing achievement in an exemplary military career. Captain Cherrey received the Distinguished Flying Cross for stopping three convoys of armored vehicles while under fire in western Kosovo, also last year. He has also been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal (one oak leaf cluster), the Aerial Achievement Medal (nine oak leaf clusters), the Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster) and the Achievement Medal.

As a senior pilot with more than 2,250 hours of fighter experience, he has flown more than 150 contingency sorties over Korea, Kuwait and Bosnia, and more than 30 combat sorties over Serbia and Kosovo. He has served as a flight instructor and test pilot and is currently assistant director of operations at the 81st Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany. As such, his duties include supervising the intelligence, weapons and tactics, and mission-planning activities of the Air Force's only A/OA-10 squadron in Europe.

In recognition of his achievements, Captain Cherrey has been chosen for promotion to the rank of Major next month.

Leaders such as Captain Cherrey are trained and nurtured by the military, but the basis of their leadership ability is rooted in their families and upbringing. Captain Cherrey is the son of James Cherrey, a teacher, and the Rev. Heather Cherrey, pastor of St. Paul's Congregational Church in Nutley. The Rev. Cherrey follows politics, especially foreign affairs, closely, and has written to me regularly on subjects such as deployment of U.S. troops to Bosnia and Haiti. The Cherrey's clearly instilled a sense of patriotism and courage in their son, whose military accomplishments have made them justly proud.

Born in Englewood, Captain Cherrey was raised in Dumont and graduated from Dumont High School. He attended Stevens Institute of Technology on an ROTC scholarship, graduating with a bachelor's degree in engineering physics before starting active duty in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, retention of the best and brightest has become a serious problem in the military. These highly trained, highly talented experts excel in their fields and often love their military jobs—yet they know they could provide a more prosperous, more stable life for their families in the private sector. National heroes like Captain Cherrey are no exception.

While Captain Cherrey was in Washington for the State of the Union Address, his wife, Lisa, remained behind in Germany with their 4-year-old son, Andrew, and 9-month-old daughter, Jenna. Like many members of the military, deployments and temporary duty assignments have caused Captain Cherrey to endure long separations from his family, a situation particularly painful for those with young children at home. While these separations are a fact of military life, we in Congress must do all we can to ensure that military families are provided with decent housing, schools, services, and other amenities that help in a small way to make up for the absence of their loved ones. As John Milton said, "They also serve who * * * stand and wait."

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of the men and women of our armed forces and owe them our full support. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Captain John Cherrey and in pledging him and

his fellow airmen, sailors, soldiers and marines that support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call vote numbers 2 and 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H. Con. Res. 244, Permitting the Use of the Capitol Rotunda to Commemorate Victims of the Holocaust; and "yes" on H.R. 2130, the Hillary J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act of 1999. I would request that my statement be placed in the appropriate location in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL CHESTER
B. MCCOID OF MIDDLETOWN, CT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Colonel Chester B. McCoid of Middletown, CT. Colonel McCoid, who passed away on January 2, was a true American Hero, a veteran of three of the century's largest military conflicts and a patriot of the highest order.

Colonel McCoid began his 34 year military career by concealing his age to enlist in the Army in World War II. The Colonel became a member of the fabled 82nd Airborne Division and parachuted into Normandy on D-Day. Wounded by ground fire before even exiting the aircraft, Colonel McCoid nevertheless landed with his unit and moved to carry out its mission. Steve Ambrose has recently written a testament to the extraordinary efforts of the men who struggled ashore on Utah and Omaha beaches and parachuted into the Norman countryside on June 6, 1944. In assessing the success of the Allied campaign on D-Day, Mr. Ambrose concluded that ". . . in the end success or failure in Operation Overlord came down to a relatively small number of junior officers, noncoms, and privates or seamen in the American, British, and Canadian armies, navies, air forces, and coast guards." Colonel McCoid and other brave young men made the difference that day and laid the foundation for defeating the Nazis in Europe.

After recovering from his wound, Colonel McCoid returned to active duty and was again wounded in combat. Following the War, he received a commission in the Army. He went on to serve in Korea and in a number of positions in the Pentagon before beginning duty in Vietnam in 1966. Over the next eight years, Colonel McCoid would spend fifty-one months on active duty commanding the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and acting as Deputy Commander of the Independent 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Near the end of the American involvement in the conflict, Colonel McCoid headed the American Element of the Four Party Military Commission encompassing the City of Da Nang and three surrounding