

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HEROIC ACTS BY SAILORS OF THE USS JOHN S. MCCAIN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, during the USS *John S. McCain* recent visit to the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a sailor and his friends saved the lives of two women at the Grotto, a popular swimming and diving spot on the island.

A sunken pool located on Saipan's northern coast, the grotto is connected to the sea by an underwater passage. The strong current regularly flows turbulently up and around the rocks making it very dangerous when the tide comes in. As Firecontrolman Petty Officer 3rd Class Luke Ishizaki, and his friends Derek Hendricks and Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Baumgarten were swimming, they noticed tourists Hsieh Yi Fan and Shih Pei Chi swept off their feet by huge waves.

Ishizaki jumped in the water grabbing onto a safety rope attached to a large rock. Hendricks and Baumgarten also attempted to help but were unable due to the strong current. Locking his legs around the safety line, Ishizaki was able to grab one woman by the wrist and hold onto the other with his arms preventing them from being swept away by the current. Before settling down, the waves bashed Ishizaki and the tourists against the rocks several times. Had he failed to hold onto the rope, all three would have lost their lives.

Ishizaki and the women suffered cuts and bruises but were not seriously hurt. Upon being brought to safety, Baumgarten and Hendricks constantly attended to the women to prevent them from going into shock. Upon determining that they were well enough to leave, another sailor, Sonar Technician Petty Officer 3rd Class Jay Arnold drove the women to their hotel. The men were later to be informed that a diver was killed on this spot earlier that day.

Luke Ishizaki is from Guam and grew up in my neighborhood of Yona. He believes that the training he received from the United States Navy contributed to his quick and calculated response to this life-threatening situation. He also credits his experience as a swimmer in the reefs of Guam as well as his training and involvement in Martial Arts as key factors that led him to perform this selfless and heroic act.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride and pleasure in commending the acts of Luke Ishizaki and his friends. These men are the embodiment of what is excellent and admirable in our society. They are worthy role models for this and future generations. Si Yu'os Ma'ase pot todu i bidan-miyu!

TRIBUTE TO HEROES OF BROOKWOOD, ALABAMA

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, this is a time of heroes for America. The world has applauded the heroism and dedication of the rescue workers in New York and at the Pentagon. Now, sadly, Alabama has its own heroes deserving of our recognition and applause.

When three Alabama coal miners became trapped a mile underground last Sunday, ten of their colleagues—fully aware of the danger—rushed into the mine to rescue them. Tragically, all 13 miners died.

We stand in awe of such demonstrated bravery, valor and personal sacrifice. But on the other hand, none of us should really be surprised because, after all, they were coal miners. Those who died trying to rescue their fallen comrades were upholding a proud tradition of American coal miners. They put their own lives at risk to save each other from disaster. Those who rushed to the aid of their fellow miners were doing what coal miners have done for ages.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to their families. I am mindful of a James Michener quote contemplating American heroism—brave acts by Americans whose fate pulls them from ordinary lives and places them in extraordinary circumstances: "Where do we get such men?" Men at ground zero in New York, at the Pentagon, and in the mine in Alabama, grace us all by their response and sacrifice in times of peril.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy should give us renewed respect and appreciation for our nation's coal miners. They are true patriots. They literally provide the fuel for our economy and our strength. God bless them all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, due to an emergency in my district I unexpectedly missed two votes yesterday. If present I would have voted yea on rollcall vote Nos. 349 and 350.

TRIBUTE TO KGTF GENERAL MANAGER GERALDINE "GINGER" S. UNDERWOOD

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate a superb

and admirable woman, Geraldine "Ginger" Underwood, upon her retirement after 29 years of service to the people of Guam.

I can truly speak of Ginger's accomplishments for I have known her for many years. The daughter of Thomas Sapp and Marie Garcia, Ginger is a product of Guam's educational system. She attended Wettengel Elementary and Tamuning Elementary as well as St. Anthony School. She later attended Dededo Junior High and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. She went on to earn a degree from the University of Guam.

Ginger started out her career in government service with the Guam Telephone Authority. Having been employed at this agency from 1972 until 1983, Ginger held various positions namely as a telephone operator, claims adjuster, customer service representative, service office division manager, and directory manager.

Most noteworthy, however, was, her accomplishments at the Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation—the Guam Public Television, KGTF Channel 12. She started out in 1984 as a private secretary. Prior to serving as the television station's administrative officer, she was its acting general manager. In 1995, she gained the position she holds today by becoming KGTF's general manager.

Upon taking KGTF's top post, Ginger spearheaded office improvements and facilitated a more productive work environment. Under her direction, the station purchase and installed a digital ready (DTV) tower and antenna. Shelves to house thousands of tapes were made available for the Programming Department. An employee lounge room was constructed for employees and guests. Televisions were placed in every office department in order to familiarize employees with KGTF TV programs and services. The station facility was beautified by tree-planting and landscaping projects. Ginger also made sure that rusted shipping containers used as hiding places by students skipping school were removed from the KGTF yard.

As general manager, Ginger was given the opportunity to attend national conferences on public broadcasting. She also used her position at KGTF to gain involvement in a wide variety of community and fundraising activities. KGTF's major fundraisers include the annual KGTF/MWR Fourth of July Carnival, quarterly pledge drives, island-wide Read-a-Thons, golf tournaments and international wine, cheese and food tasting festivals. Her participation in community events such as the Annual Halloween Carnival, the Junior Achievement Fair, the Guma Mami Art Auction, and the Islandwide Easter Egg Hunt have made her a highly recognized community figure.

Under her leadership, PBS programming and activities gained wide popularity and acceptance on Guam. Ginger was responsible for implementing the Mister Rogers, Clothes for Kids Drive, the Reading Rainbow's Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, and having

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

popular children's programs costumes made available for awareness activities on Guam. Ginger was instrumental in bringing the actor who portrays Mr. McFeeley on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, Dave Newell, to Guam. This endeavor in which Mr. Newell was able to visit 17 Guam schools in a period of four days earned for KGTF this year the prestigious Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Trolley Award. Among the additional awards given to KGTF while under Ginger's direction was the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council Media Representative of the Year award for outstanding services and sensitivity to Guam's disabled community in 1997, the Micronesia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists award for outstanding community service to the people of Guam in 1999, in addition to the Program of the Year and Photo of Year awards of the Governor's Recognition Excel Program both of which were earned in the year 2000.

Ginger is happily married to my brother, Richard. Ginger and Richard have two daughters, Ursula and Amy, two sons, Richard and John Thomas, and an adorable granddaughter, Bellissima "Bailey" Underwood-Corso.

After over twenty-nine years of achievements and distinguished service, Ginger has chosen to retire and spend more time with her family. I share with my brother, Richard, nieces, nephews and family members the pride we have for Ginger's work and accomplishments. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Ginger on her well-earned retirement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY MAJOR
DWAYNE WILLIAMS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy that has befallen our nation is unspeakable. Thousands of lives tragically cut short, right here in our homeland. For each of those lost lives, thousands more are left behind—family, friends, colleagues—suffering and trying to cope.

One of those families is the Williams family. Army Major Dwayne Williams, originally from Jacksonville, Alabama, was killed as he performed his duty to his country at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Although I never had the honor of meeting Major Williams, I have come to know him through a heartfelt newspaper column written by one of his brothers, Birmingham News staff writer Roy L. Williams. With unanimous consent, I ask that this column be re-printed in the RECORD after my statement.

Mr. Speaker, Major Williams was unquestionably a noble patriot, an honorable son and a much beloved husband, father and brother. His life was robbed from him, and from us, because he was a living symbol of American greatness. Major Williams was not taken from us so tragically because he, as an individual, was hated, but because he represented our country's strength, determination and honor. We owe Major Dwayne Williams for paying

our price for freedom. We must forever honor his memory and keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

God bless Army Major Dwayne Williams. God bless his family, and God bless America.

[From the Birmingham News:]

TERRORIST ATTACK CAN'T DESTROY SPIRIT,
FAITH OF OUR FAMILY

(By Roy L. Williams)

Like millions of Americans, I was in a state of disbelief watching televised images Sept. 11 of airplanes striking the World Trade Center.

My heart sank as I thought of the pain and anguish relatives of those killed or missing must be experiencing.

Never did I imagine that my own family would be going through that same emotional turmoil less than an hour later when another jet struck the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., where my oldest brother, Army Maj. Dwayne Williams, worked.

I was sitting at my desk watching scenes of the World Trade Center towers on fire when I received a frantic phone call from my mother, Pearl Williams. She told me a plane had just struck the Pentagon and expressed worry about Dwayne.

I told her she was mistaken; the planes struck the World Trade Center, not the Pentagon, and assured her Dwayne was OK. After hanging up the phone, I looked up at the first televised images of the plane crash at the Pentagon.

I immediately called my mother and informed her I would check on Dwayne's status. The next few hours were mired by frustration as phone calls to Dwayne's office in the Pentagon and home wouldn't go through.

I finally reached Dwayne's home around noon and left a voice message for his wife, Tammy, to call me with word that my brother was OK. At 2 p.m., five hours after the Pentagon attack, I reached Tammy's mother and was told that she had spoken to her daughter, who was worried sick because Dwayne had not called.

That was unlike Dwayne: He would have called his wife and children.

WORST FEARS CONFIRMED

Shortly before midnight with still no word from Dwayne, I couldn't sleep and turned on the television for the latest news on the Pentagon. What I heard confirmed my worst fears: The jet had struck a section housing Army offices where Dwayne worked.

The next morning, I reported to work but wasn't able to concentrate. Tears flowed as I imagined the horrors my brother and other victims in the Pentagon and World Trade Center experienced.

The Army and Pentagon had my brother listed as missing and feared dead. Nine days went by with no official word on Dwayne's fate, and our pain got agonizing worse as time went by.

On Friday, Sept. 21, 10 days after the Pentagon attack, the news I had dreaded finally arrived: Dwayne had been declared dead.

The bad news came around 1:45 p.m. with a call from my sobbing mother: "It's official: Dwayne's been identified as among the dead," she said.

He had apparently been among the 150 unidentified dead victims lying at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

I didn't want to believe it, and hours later remain in a state of disbelief.

Yet at the same time, I'm glad the waiting is over and the Williams family can move on in our grief.

I will never be able to fully accept the fact that my brother's life was taken in such a

despicable manner, but I am at peace in knowing that Dwayne was a Christian and is at home with the Lord.

In my mind, I see God's angels descending upon the Pentagon and snatching Dwayne and the other innocent victims from the building just as the plane hit, carrying them home to that peaceful place we all want to go: heaven.

The hardest part about this whole ordeal was the wait. We wanted closure by receiving word that Dwayne has been found. Our prayer was that he would be found alive amidst the rubble.

Though chances of survival were slim, my family never gave up hope until receiving the final word of Dwayne's death. Our faith in God sustained the family throughout this living nightmare.

I've gone through a wave of emotions—anger and bitterness toward the terrorists; sadness and sorrow; disbelief and shock; denial and an unwillingness to accept the fact that Dwayne is dead.

But closure now allows the family to move into the grief process.

GOD'S ANGELS

Although I constantly worry about the fate of my missing brother, I am at peace in knowing Dwayne is a Christian and that God's angels are protecting him. Much of the grief my wife, Patrice, and I are experiencing has been lessened by the comforting words of my pastor, Jim Lowe of the Guiding Light Church in Roebuck.

For the past three months, Pastor Lowe has been preaching a sermon series on how to cope with trouble and strife. I didn't know those sermons would apply so deeply and personally in my own life.

I have a horrible aching pain in the pit of my stomach that grows worse day by day. Leaning on the Lord is the only thing that can sustain someone going through a traumatic event like this. The prayers of the Guiding Light church family, relatives and friends are enabling us to cope with this tragedy.

In this world that we live in, you are either going into a personal storm, in the midst of a storm or coming out of one. How you cope with the situation is determined by your faith in God. We must learn to look beyond the circumstances of this world to the powerful, comforting presence of God.

Patrice and I are not only suffering anguish in the possible loss of my brother, but also one of our best friends. Dwayne served as my best man in our wedding 10 years ago and we communicated with him and his wife, Tammy, almost weekly either via e-mail or telephone.

Patrice is expecting our second child in February and I am trying my best to keep her calm, but she feels and shares my pain. I thank God that our daughter, Naja, is just 2 and too young to fully comprehend what is going on.

I thank God, also, that Naja did get a chance to see her Uncle Dwayne again this past June when his family stopped by to visit us on the way to report to the Pentagon.

Dwayne and I, along with our wives, vacationed together to Cancun, Mexico, three years ago and while he was stationed in Egypt in 1997, we viewed the awesome wonder of the Great Pyramid and Sphinx together.

Even though the terrorists attack killed Dwayne, we still have comfort in knowing that God has called him home to heaven. A terrorist attack may be able to destroy this earthly body, but cannot destroy Dwayne's spirit, which is alive and well in all of his family members and friends.