

Our forces are, as they always have been throughout our history, Americans first, citizen soldiers, and great patriots. They have come from ordinary walks of life rising to do extraordinary things that shape our world and leave us forever awestruck. I again want to extend our collective and sincere thanks to all our members who serve, and I also want to recognize a particular group of truly unsung yet most deserving heroes—our U.S. Merchant Mariners.

Once again, our country has turned to its mariners to take the fight to the enemy, to project our force half a world away, to secure the precious freedom that now spreads to an Iraqi people free to choose their own destiny, to raise their families as they choose, and to renew the glories of one of the world's greatest civilizations. Our liberating force was decisive and it moved on the brawn, ingenuity, and dedication of our merchant marine. Not in 12 years have we moved such a force by sea, and we have done it better, against greater challenge than ever before.

We recently saw a line of ships spread from our east coast through the Straights of Gibraltar, through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, and into the Gulf of Oman—a “steel bridge” of resolve. A bridge as strong as those mariners who crew our enormous ships and who go on in harms way to deliver our force anyplace, anytime they are called.

Since the beginning of the War on Terrorism, over 6,800 U.S. merchant mariners and civil servant mariners have served and provided support to our global military operations. Currently serving on 211 vessels, our U.S. mariners face many of the same hazards confronting our uniformed military as they regularly transit and operate within potential targeted areas of chemical and biological weapons, waterborne mines, and terrorist activities. Truly, our country's merchant mariners have answered the call selflessly and brilliantly.

Our mariners activated and crewed 40 vessels of our ready reserve force, essential to the early movement of ammunition, tanks, aircraft, and military vehicles. These U.S. mariners crewed our vital prepositioned ships and our fast response surge sealift vessels, providing time-critical warfighting equipment and supplies to the battlefield. Over 4,000 civil servant mariners manned and supported the continuous worldwide operations of our ships supporting U.S. naval and coalition forces at sea. Around the clock, every day, across the globe, our mariners make it happen.

At this crucial time in history, our U.S. mariners stepped forward with skill, bravery, and an unrivaled legacy of service. They made all the difference. Our nation continues to rely on these warriors, and their impact is profound. Long after the fighting stops, our mariners will still be on the watch, returning the troops, sustaining the force, and providing for the needy as we renew a proud but shattered land.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our Congress and a grateful Nation, it is my humble honor to say thank you to all our U.S. Merchant Mariners. We wish them God Speed and a safe return. They are indeed a national treasure—long may they serve.

OMAR BRADLEY DAY

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Moberly, Missouri celebrated its annual Omar Bradley Day. This day is an opportunity for area residents to remember a great hero and reflect on General Bradley's role in preserving the freedoms we hold dear.

As such, I wish to enter the following article, “Who Is Omar Bradley and Why Should I Care?” into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Written by Moberly resident Sam Richardson, this item appeared in the Sunday, May 11, 2003 edition of the Moberly Monitor-Index. I believe the points it makes are a fitting tribute to General Bradley.

WHO IS OMAR BRADLEY AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Here's a good topic to toss around over your dinner tonight:

“Who is Omar Bradley and why should I care?”

It's a fair question around these parts, what with the annual General Omar Bradley Luncheon, Lecture and Symposium coming up Monday, May 12, at the Municipal Auditorium in Moberly.

“What did old Omar Bradley do to cause a whole lot of people to come to his hometown 22 years after he died?”

Another more than fair question.

The stock answer is that he is Missouri's most famous military figure, a member of the Missouri Hall of Fame, a guy with a 34-cent stamp with his picture on it, the fellow captured in bronze in the soaring statue in Rothwell Park, the “Bradley” who is the namesake for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle so prominent in last month's Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Moberly public schools, St. Pius X School, Moberly Area Community College, the University of Missouri, Truman State University and other educational institutions in Bradley's home state may teach young Missourians why Omar Bradley is important to them. And, indeed, he is important to them.

Of course, young and old alike should know Bradley went from Moberly High School to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and eventually commanded the largest American fighting force ever assembled, was our nation's last five-star general officer and first Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff.

At the 2002 Bradley Symposium, LTC Jay Carafano, then editor at the National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., told the audience one of the key reasons Bradley was not high on the public awareness screen was because of his low profile on the silver screen. Hollywood's big films about World War II didn't have much of a role for Bradley. LTC Carafano noted Bradley was on screen in “Patton,” “The Longest Day” and “Saving Private Ryan” only briefly, hardly a leading character.

At this year's Bradley Symposium, two of the Truman Presidential Library's leading historians will make the point that Bradley was a pillar of leadership in his time.

Tom Heuertz, associate education coordinator, and Ray Geselbracht, education and academic outreach coordinator, at the great Independence museum will try to explain how highly Bradley was esteemed by President Harry S. Truman. “Truman saw him as one of the world's greatest generals ever, in the same class with Hannibal and Napoleon,” Heuertz said yesterday.

Because of the positions he held, Bradley clearly was a favorite of at least three Presidents: Franklin Roosevelt, Truman and Dwight Eisenhower.

On a recent edition of “The Newshour with Jim Lehrer,” Lucian Truscott IV, a noted military history author, reflecting on American generals' leadership in Operation Iraqi Freedom, suggested the U.S. Central Command's Gen. Tommy Franks and others were nowhere near the class of “great generals like Patton, Bradley and Eisenhower.”

Monday, Colonel Jon H. Moilanen, dean of students and administration at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas, will describe how Bradley's military expertise still molds the careers of young officers who serve throughout the world today.

This is pretty heady stuff for a chap from our town. In a story about Bradley Day in The Washington Times recently, Moberly was referred to as “quaint” and “picturesque.”

For his part, Bradley was, indeed, quiet, modest and unselfish, along with very smart, a natural leader and an exceptional athlete. The kind of man you'd expect to come from a quaint and picturesque town like ours.

In the 1915 West Point class yearbook, it is reported Bradley was a sergeant, first sergeant and lieutenant; he was a sharpshooter; he was a member of the football team and track squad; and, perhaps most importantly to him at the time, he was the star of the Army baseball team all four years he was there.

The yearbook says, “His greatest passion is baseball, football and F Company. In baseball, many an opposing player has trifled once with Brad's throwing arm, but never twice. And a batting average of .383 is never to be sneezed at.”

“His most prominent characteristic is ‘getting there,’ and if he keeps up the clip he's started, some of us will some day be bragging to our grandchildren that, ‘sure, General Bradley was a classmate of mine,’” the yearbook says of our favorite son.

And, in the style of the day, the yearbook assigned each cadet a motto. Bradley's: “True merit is like a river, the deeper it is, the less noise it makes,” attributed to Anonymous.

How true that turned out.

Although his classmate Eisenhower became Supreme Allied Commander in World War II, and then President, Bradley was the first in his class to become a brigadier general.

One reporter wrote in May 1944, “Endowed with the mind of a mathematician and the body of an athlete, General Bradley is essentially American in ancestry, training and experience; he is slow spoken but sharp witted; he is polite and at times even diffident, but immensely certain of his own skill—the type of soldier who for 168 years has sustained the republic.”

And finally, this former captain of the Moberly High School baseball team, a boy worthy of his own shotgun at age 13, a young man who graduated 44th in a class of 164 at West Point, would tell a reporter about dinner at his humble home in Randolph County:

“We'd sit down at the supper table, my mother, my dad and I, and we'd talk things over. That's where I learned a lot about love of country and right from wrong.”

From a dinner table in Randolph County to the greatness of the world, that was the man who will be remembered Monday at the 2003 General Omar Bradley Luncheon, Lecture and Symposium.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL  
CORDOVA

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Bill Cordova of Grand Junction, Colorado, who has been a profound inspiration to all who have known him. Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of those in need for decades, and it is my honor to recognize his service here, before this body of Congress and this nation.

In his life, Bill has served his fellow neighbor in a number of capacities. Early on, Bill worked to provide adequate housing for migrant workers, which led to his working some years later for Colorado Housing Incorporated in order to provide homes for low-income families. Bill was instrumental in developing a community center in Montrose, and he has also had an enduring influence in the lives of local prisoners to whom he has ministered. Currently, Bill works six days a week at the Catholic Outreach Soup Kitchen, and serves on the board of Catholic Outreach as well.

Mr. Speaker, in his lifetime, Bill has touched the lives of many. His numerous good works are an example of the benevolence and perseverance that have contributed to the strength of this nation. I commend Bill for his dedication and commitment to the less fortunate, and it is an honor to pay tribute to his selfless work today.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REVI-  
TALIZING CITIES THROUGH  
PARKS ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, the "Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement Act," that would establish a \$10 million grant program for qualified, non-profit, community groups, allowing them to lease municipally-owned vacant lots and transform these areas into parks.

These vacant lots often are areas of heavy drug-trafficking. Parks and gardens created with the grants will not only provide safe places to gather, but will increase property values as well. The grants will be available from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to groups who have met standards of financial security, and who have histories of serving their communities. To further ensure that these grants are used to make lasting positive changes, land improved and made into open community space under this legislation must be available for use as open space from the local government for at least seven years.

WE CAN END HUNGER IN AMERICA

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2003*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

We have refrigeration systems to prevent food from spoiling.

We have pasteurization to prevent bacteria from poisoning our food.

And we have ways to fortify our foods with vitamins and nutrients to make the food we eat healthier.

Yet, with all these advances, people still go hungry in America.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political problem. But I believe it's a problem we can solve.

Thirty-seven years ago, Senator Bobby Kennedy traveled throughout America, and saw first-hand the hunger ravaging the most vulnerable in our Nation. As a result, we made a national commitment to do something about it.

Congress, under the leadership of Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, and with the support of President Nixon, created the school breakfast program, WIC, the elderly nutrition program, and the food stamp program.

Since then, we have made great strides. But we have a lot of work left to do. Indeed, many Americans don't realize that hunger still exists in their communities.

There are 33 million hungry people in the United States—11 million of them are children. In my district in Massachusetts, I talk to food bank directors who have noticed a sharp increase in the number of families who need help.

The food bank that serves my home town, the Worcester County Food Bank, helped feed over 80,000 people in 2001. Of the 3.7 million pounds of food, almost 38 percent went to kids under the age of 18. The food bank, run by Jean McMurray, donates food to more than 260 local shelters, food pantries, senior centers, and after school programs.

The Worcester County Food Bank is doing great work, and the people who work there do their best to provide for every single person who needs help. Unfortunately, it's not enough.

That is why I am proud to stand with my colleague Congressman FRANK WOLF in introducing a resolution to recognize June 5 as a National Hunger Awareness Day. This resolution encourages Americans to recognize the issue of hunger, and to work toward ending hunger—in their own home towns and across the nation.

I'm also honored to join Congressman WOLF in sponsoring the Congressional Food Drive. I hope that we have wide participation in this drive from the Capitol Hill community. The Members and staff who work here are very blessed. It's important that we try to share those blessings with others. There are drop-off bins all across the Hill, and I hope people will fill them with non-perishable food items.

But this is just a start. Clearly, more must be done.

With that sentiment in mind, I call on President Bush to convene a White House summit on hunger. Too long has the scourge of hunger plagued the people of this nation. There is

no reason why we should not focus our efforts on ending hunger in America, once and for all time.

President Nixon convened such a summit, and the result was landmark legislation to feed the hungry people in America.

A 21st Century Summit would bring fresh ideas to this problem, and help us to focus on the challenges that face the hungry in the 21st century.

Simply, Mr. Speaker, it's the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort.

We have the foot soldiers we need in this war against hunger. The people at America's Second Harvest and Bread for the World are already working around the country to fight hunger. The Food Research and Action Center and the Congressional Hunger Center are tireless advocates on behalf of the hungry. And the dedicated people who run the food banks in this country see first-hand the need for a reinvigorated effort to end hunger.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world. We have the resources to put an end to hunger once and for all. What we need—all we need—is the political will to do it.

HONORING LOUIS MARTINEZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a man who exemplifies the heart, determination, and enthusiastic spirit that makes up the backbone of this great nation. Louis Martinez, a 57-year-old man from Grand Junction, Colorado, is an elementary school counselor who takes pride in helping to motivate and encourage his young students.

The lessons in Louis's life started right away, as his parents showed him the determination it takes to succeed. Louis's father worked for the railroad laying track and his mother worked in a canning factory. They worked hard to provide for their children and instilled a similar work ethic in their son. Louis was responsible for duties all over the house, including cooking and cleaning. This work ethic led Louis down a path that he never dreamed he would take. Louis left high school his senior year and joined the Navy. He served three tours in Vietnam, traveling all over the Western Pacific. Louis returned to Grand Junction and a job at City Market in the bakery department.

In the spirit of contributing to his community, Louis set his sights on becoming a police officer. His hard work paid off and he became the first Hispanic officer on the force. While on the police force, Louis decided to go back to school, enrolling at the University of Northern Colorado. It was at this time that Louis was injured in a car accident and once again was presented with the opportunity to overcome adversity. Louis was paralyzed in the accident, forcing him to work even harder to receive his degree. He continued through school with the support of his family, and received his diploma.

With his degree in hand, Louis set off to help as many young people as possible. He