

Freedom. These service men and women join the ranks of those we remember this Memorial Day—those who have died defending America, who have “fallen in the cause of the free” since the founding of our Nation.

These heroes were lowly privates and bemedaled generals. They were green volunteers and gray veterans. They were minute men and Navy seals. But the men who died at Lexington and Concord are the same as the men who died at Kandahar and Fallujah—men of dauntless courage, united in their love of country and their supreme self-denial.

Uniforms and weapons change; valor does not.

The men and women who have died defending America have kept our homes and our liberties secure for the past 228 years. More than that, they have held out to the whole world the promise that a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the equality of all men can indeed endure. They have preserved the fire of liberty not just for America, but for all men. We owe them a debt we cannot hope to pay, least of all with mere words.

Memorial Day is set aside for us to remember. But this day should not just be a day of remembrance, but a day of resolve. The memory of their sacrifice should inspire in us a firm purpose to live our lives in a way that will honor the heroes who have died for us—to emulate their courage in defense of the right and their devotion to the cause of liberty. We cannot honor the memory of our heroes with words alone; rather, we must honor them with actions worthy of their memory.

Today we offer our gratitude to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who have fallen defending our nation. We thank them for protecting us, but most of all we thank them for reminding us, in the midst of a world torn by ugliness and war and pain, of the highest things—of duty, honor, courage, sacrifice, and love. We thank them for reminding us, even when “the machinations of tyranny” stare us in the face, “that a man can stand up.”

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2004, Charlotte, NC, lost a hero, Chris Hill. Chris was originally from California, but located to Charlotte in recent years. He had already served four years in the Army when he decided to re-enlist. His wife, Cheryl Hill, said Chris was determined to go to Iraq last year: “He just couldn’t stand the fact that this was going on and he wasn’t doing anything about it,” she said. “He wanted to help.”

Chris re-enlisted in April and went to Iraq in the fall. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division based in Ft. Riley, Kansas. Chris’ friends and family will remember a man who was outgoing and fun and loved to sing. He even had his own karaoke machine, and he never turned down a chance to imitate Elvis Presley.

After moving to North Carolina to be near his wife’s family, Chris was saved in a Baptist church. His brother-in-law, Rick Cope, a Christian songwriter, has written a song for his

niece called “Praying for You: Cierra’s Song.” Rick said, “(We) wanted his daughter to know that he’s there when she rides her bike. He’s there when she gets married. He’s there in spirit.”

Christopher Kenneth Hill was buried with full military honors. He was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for bravery. He was survived by his wife, and his daughter Cierra who is 14 months old.

Chris will be missed, but we will never forget his sacrifice for our freedoms.

TRIBUTE TO FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL'S SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Fayetteville-Manlius High School’s Science Olympiad Team which won first place in the national Science Olympiad Tournament.

The team won the regional and the New York State competitions to qualify for the national level where they competed against 53 other teams from the United States. At the tournament, there were 23 events related to science with medals given to the top five winners in each event. The Fayetteville-Manlius team brought home four Gold medals, five Silvers, one Bronze, one 4th place and two 5th places from the national competition, a truly exceptional accomplishment.

The Fayetteville-Manlius team is comprised of 15 members and coached by Jamie Cucinotta. Team captain Jeff Izant led Brian Bayes, Christine Chin, Mary Collins, Grayson Fahrner, Leyla Isik, David Marsh, Jordan Mandel, Samiksha Nayak, Shridha Nayak, Sarah Rahaman, Zaki Rahaman, Brian Stoeckel, Bianca Verma, and Nora Ward in representing Fayetteville-Manlius so successfully at the tournament.

I would like to express my congratulations to the team for such an outstanding achievement and wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman DAVIS and me concerning committee jurisdiction with regards to the bill H.R. 4060.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2004.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 31, 2004, the Committee on International Relations ordered reported H.R. 4060, the “Health, Safe-

ty, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004.” As you know, the Committee on Government Reform was granted an additional referral upon the bill’s introduction pursuant to the Committee’s jurisdiction under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of your willingness to consult with this Committee, and because of your desire to move this legislation expeditiously as an individual bill, I will waive consideration of the bill by this Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 4060. In addition, the Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request for conferees by the Committee on H.R. 4060 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, May 11, 2004.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR TOM: On March 31, 2004, the Committee on International Relations ordered reported legislation to promote the improved safety and security of Peace Corps volunteers.

H.R. 4060, the “Health, Safety and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004,” will make a number of important reforms related to volunteer safety and security through amendments to the Peace Corps Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2506) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.). As you are aware, amendments to the latter are under rule X of your Committee’s jurisdiction, X jurisdiction, and accordingly, H.R. 4060 was additionally referred to your Committee by the Speaker.

By this letter, I request you permit this legislation to go to the floor without the necessity of your Committee’s marking it up. I understand that by waiving your Committee’s consideration of H.R. 4060 in order to allow it to proceed to the floor vote without delay, you do not waive jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in the bill, and I will urge the Speaker to name Members of your Committee to any conference committee which may be convened on this legislation.

I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our Committees have worked on this matter.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAY LOFING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jay