

I would also like to thank the sponsors of the San Diego 24 Challenge Tournament: The San Diego Chargers; NBC 7/39; WestEd; SONY; Gen-Probe; and Greater San Diego Math Council.

These sponsors have recognized the need for students to build strong skills in problem solving, mental math and reasoning. The support of these sponsors is absolutely critical for helping San Diego's students to achieve by applying the skills that they learn in the classroom. I would like to offer a special "thank you" to Gen-Probe, a biotechnology company headquartered in my district, who sponsored the tournament for the first time this year. I would also like to thank Bob Sun and Nan Ronis for the tireless efforts to make these tournaments all across the country a success. In closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievement of the winners of the San Diego 24 Challenge Math Tournament, as well as the commitment of the sponsors who helped to make it possible.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED
KROEGER

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 Fred Kroeger and thank him for the remarkable civic contributions he has made to his Durango community and the State of Colorado. A lifelong resident of the Durango area, Fred was recently recognized by Club 20 for his service to Western Colorado with the prestigious Vanderhoof Award. It is with great satisfaction that I congratulate a good friend of mine for his significant contributions to the Durango Community.

Fred was born and raised in Durango where he graduated from Durango High School. He later attended Fort Lewis College for two years, and went on to receive a degree in Agronomy from Colorado State University. Using his degree, he managed his family's agriculture supply business. His natural leadership in the business arena aided in his election to the Board of the National Retail Hardware Association in 1965 where he went on to serve as the Association's President.

Fred has spent a lifetime supporting local civic matters, from the Fort Lewis College Foundation Board to the Board of the First National Bank of Durango. His most lasting contribution to Western Colorado however, will be the decades of leadership which he has contributed to Colorado's water arena. He served on the Colorado Water Conservation Board for twenty-one years, and the Southwest Water Conservation District Board since 1954 where he served the District as President. The District covers six counties and portions of three others in Southwest Colorado. Fred also dedicated countless hours over the years to secure the passage of the Animas La Plata water project, which gives the Ute Indian Tribe the water resources promised to them in an earlier treaty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Fred Kroeger before this body of Congress and this nation, and congratulate him on receiving the Vanderhoof Award from Club 20.

The award is a well-deserved testament to Fred's willingness to provide his time and experience to his fellow citizens. It is my privilege to extend to Fred my sincerest thanks for his years of dedicated service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE POEMS OF STUDENTS FROM RIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL, FOLSOM, PA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I had the great pleasure and honor to participate in the Ridley High School Memorial Day Program on May 28, 2004. I was presented with a very special compilation of poems composed by the students from Ridley High School's Advanced Placement American History/Honors English classes. The assignment was voluntary and those students, whose work is reflected here, searched their hearts for their feelings about America's military men and women. The result was a wonderful collection of poetry that expresses their pride and gratitude for those who make personal sacrifices to protect our freedoms and democracy.

I join with these students in their continued support and appreciation for our troops at home and abroad. I hope my colleagues find both inspiration and gratitude in their words so beautifully expressed.

WITH EVERY STEP

With every step through your daily life
Quietly, they whisper
Whisper courage to the young children
Playing under the warmth of the sun
Whisper sacrifice to all
Enjoying the freedom they provided.
From their peaceful rest they whisper
Going under with the honor of a nation
And their love of country
The willing force for freedom
Makes the land of the free
The home of the brave.
In kind words, we whisper
Do not forget the contributions
Of our fallen countrymen
In this time of terror
They protect us still.

Tabatha Sabatino

OUR SUNS

Running laps, chasing circles, rounding
wheels
inside a mind fall back in time now
answer questions, which before could change
a life.
Still inside is such a yearning once repressed
in idol lines.
Decisions made remain unchanged
once again it's no surprise.
Unending conflict risk of fears so unfair and
still not right
To rock the boat? To sink the boat? To loose
the boat?
To rise? As rise the sun and sons do rise
before the settling of the matter
What matters more won't make it right
Forget what is right to love the latter.

Sara Rothemel

ORDINARY PEOPLE

War is not a poem I can write,
There were men in marshes in Asia once
Swallowing a lump in their throat

and running through a steel, cold rain
and we couldn't understand why.

Peace is not an ideal blowing among the pollen
from the windswept daisies.
There were men trapped in foreign countries
once
battling for the freedom of oppressed people
and assuring that America remained most
free.

Justice is not found in the barrel of a gun
It is not found in a switch or an engine
It is not in the hand of the person in control
of any of those

It is in the name of intuition
and belief in a system

A whole

One nation

where most men have found freedom
found a pursuit

A man will step on the battlefield as a soldier

the hero of middle America

and return to his home

his job, and his life

like an ordinary man

our nation is watched over

by the vigilance, the gunshots,

the air patrol, the patience,

the dedication and discipline

of ordinary people.

Kim Leszak

THE SOLDIER

The American soldier emits an ineffable
presence

To represent our country and to be revered
He holds his duties with a profound dignity
And sacrifices his character to defend our
country

He witnesses battles, and scourges, and
deaths

And gambles himself to defend our freedom

His mission should be respected by all

As he aims to keep safety for our American
future.

Chris Gross

MY DADDY WAS A SAILOR

The little boy had found the trunk
Hidden beneath the bed
And when he opened the dusty lock
Old visions filled his head.

He saw his father's picture

He was dressed in starchy white

He saw the ship that carried him

And his eyes filled with fright

He picked up all the medals

As his eyes filled with tears

For his father had died long ago

And he had forgotten all these years

He admired his father's bravery

For he knew the story well

His father protected his honor

It is a story he loves to tell

"My daddy was a sailor

He wore his chevrons proud

And though he cannot tell you

He made us safe and sound

My daddy gave his life

Fighting for our country

And I think it's safe to say

His virtues are in me.

I want to serve my country

I want to stand up tall

I want to be like my daddy

I want that most of all."

The little boy grew up that day

He became a sailor too

He know the dangers facing him

But his honor was brave and true.

He will pass on the glory

That his father gave to him

He will fight for our country's honor

He will be there through thick and thin.