

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroic life of United States Army Staff Sergeant Joseph Garyantes who died May 19, 2004, while securing freedom for the people of Iraq. Staff Sergeant Garyantes was patrolling Muqadiyah, Iraq, just outside of Baghdad when his vehicle was attacked by sniper fire, ending the life of this dedicated soldier.

Staff Sergeant Garyantes was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and for most of his childhood called the Rehoboth Beach area home. He attended Epworth Christian School in Laurel, and at an early age contemplated a life in the Christian ministry. Eventually his selflessness and unwavering desire to help others drew him to military service. From what I have learned about this remarkable young man, it is apparent that Staff Sergeant Garyantes truly enjoyed helping others overcome the difficulties in their lives. For example, he wrote a letter to the editor while stationed in Germany, in response to a young soldier's complaint about the difficulties of Army life. His response was not negative or demeaning, he offered solutions and words of encouragement to this fellow soldier.

Staff Sergeant Garyantes, because of his inherent desire to lead and guide others to greatness, certainly would have found a way to inspire others in any career he chose, but he chose to join the U.S. Army. He chose to subject himself to the daily rigors of military service because he valued the well-being of others—ultimately at the cost of his own life. And although he will be missed tremendously by his wife and children, his family and friends, and his fellow soldiers, it is my hope that they can take comfort in his devotion to serving those in need, which will be his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have the opportunity to honor the life of a true hero and American patriot such as Staff Sergeant Joseph Garyantes. His devotion to his fellow man is truly amazing, and he deserves our utmost respect and admiration.

RECOGNIZING KRIS ANNE
VOGELPOHL FOR RECEIVING THE
GOLD LANTERN AWARD FROM
THE GALVESTON ISLAND RAIL-
ROAD MUSEUM AND TERMINAL

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the Galveston Island Railroad Museum and Terminal is one of Texas's most outstanding historic places, recognizing the importance of the railroads in building our great state. Galveston's success as a major American port was built on railroads, and the Museum celebrates that heritage.

In May the Museum gave its distinguished Gold Lantern Award to Mrs. Kris Anne

Vogelpohl of Galveston. Mrs. Vogelpohl personifies the mission of the Museum—to build a better community, illuminate the lives of Galvestonians, and teach thousands of visitors about its heritage.

Mrs. Vogelpohl is legendary in the gift of her time and energy to many local and national humanitarian organizations, including the Salvation Army and Prevent Blindness Texas.

Galveston has grown in greatness in recent years, and we have Mrs. Kris Anne Vogelpohl to thank for her tireless efforts toward making it a very special place.

FREEDOM FOR PEDRO PABLO
ALVAREZ RAMOS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Alvarez Ramos is a true leader for freedom, human rights, and worker rights for the Cuban people. He is President of the United Cuban Workers Council (CUTC), an organization dedicated to improving the condition and treatment of workers in totalitarian Cuba. As the President of CUTC, Mr. Alvarez Ramos has been a constant advocate for every Cuban worker currently toiling under the nightmare of repression called the Castro regime. Mr. Alvarez Ramos has bravely denounced the cruel policies of the tyrant and demanded that every Cuban laborer be allowed their inalienable human rights and worker rights.

Because Mr. Alvarez Ramos committed himself to achieving workers rights for every Cuban, he has been a constant target for the dictator's thugs. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Alvarez Ramos has been the subject of harassment and detention for his trade union activities since at least 1996. In October 2000, in connection with his work in preparing the first CUTC congress, Mr. Alvarez Ramos was thrown in the totalitarian gulag. Eventually, in November 2001, he was charged with resisting arrest and Mr. Alvarez Ramos was finally released from the horrors of the gulag in late January 2001.

On March 19, 2003, as part of the tyrant's brutal crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Alvarez Ramos's home was searched and his private library confiscated. He was subsequently sentenced by a sham court to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag because of his efforts for worker rights in Cuba.

Mr. Alvarez Ramos is languishing in the inhuman conditions of the totalitarian gulag, because he believes every Cuban worker should have rights, not repression. It is unconscionable that, at the dawn of the 21st century and just 90 miles from our shore, Mr. Alvarez Ramos is imprisoned in a gulag because he is attempting to achieve workers rights for the citizens of Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress convenes in a building that represents freedom to those languishing in the darkness of repression. It is incumbent on those of us who have the privilege of serving in this monument to liberty to demand freedom for all pro-democracy activists locked in infernal gulags. My Colleagues,

we must demand the immediate release of Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos, and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL STORY
IS CLASSIC AMERICAN DEMOC-
RACY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 29, the National World War II Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall here in Washington. This memorial honors the courage and sacrifice of the millions of men and women who served our Nation during one of the most critical times in history.

How this monument came about is a classic story of American democracy. The spark came from Roger Durbin of Berkey, Ohio, who made the request to his U.S. Representative, MARCY KAPTUR. With the help of America's veterans, Congresswoman KAPTUR led the effort to pass legislation that authorized the memorial. I commend my distinguished colleague and good friend for her deep commitment to all our Nation's veterans and her extraordinary work on behalf of those who served in WWII.

The story of this legislation was told in an article which appeared in a special section of The Washington Post Sunday Magazine on May 23. For the benefit of my colleagues, I present the full text of the article.

[From the Washington Post, May 23, 2004]

A DREAM REALIZED

(By Suzan Richmond)

"This is really an American story," Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Ohio) began. "It all started at a township trustees fish fry, in February 1987. I was standing in the middle of a very large room, holding my plate. And all of a sudden, this big booming voice shouted across the large room: 'Congresswoman Kaptur, why is there no World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.?'"

"I turned. I see this man, standing erect, shoulders squared.

The man was Roger Durbin, then age 67, a retired letter carrier from Berkey, Ohio, population 272, who once was a tank mechanic in the Battle of the Bulge. "He had everyone's attention," Kaptur recalled.

She replied: "There is one."

"Oh, yeah?," he said. "What is it?"

"Two Jima."

"Wrong," he shot back. "That memorial is to one service in one campaign.

"I'm telling you, there's no place. I wanted to bring my grandchildren to a memorial when I was in Washington to show them what had affected my life. It's not there."

Once back in Washington, Kaptur did some research.

"I was stunned to find we had no central place in the capital to pay tribute to this generation. Durbin was right. I thought, this kind of omission couldn't be possible.

"I had been a member of Congress for a few years by then, but I really understood what being a representative was about after I met Roger," Kaptur continued.

"After that, we entered a marathon effort to pass the legislation essential to placing a memorial to World War II in Washington. I thought it would be easy. Boy, was I wrong."

Indeed, from fish fry to legislation to site selection to design competition to winning design to construction to a World War II Memorial ready for dedication took 17 years.

Roger Durbin died in February 2000 without ever seeing the memorial he inspired. "In a sense," said his granddaughter, Melissa Growden, an art historian who has served on the WWII Memorial Advisory Board since 1994, "the torch has been passed to me." Just after the war, she said her grandfather "had the mindset of a lot of that generation. They went over there. They had a job to do. Then they went home and picked up life where they'd left it."

It was only years later, Growden said, that Durbin began to talk in detail about his time with the 10th Armored Division, the force led by the legendary Gen. George Patton that stormed across northern Europe and into Germany.

"He did a lot of public speaking then," Growden said. "And when he spoke he always cried." Over the years, she saw evidence of his wartime service. "I remember once seeing his scrapbooks and its photos of a concentration camp—people stacked eight deep."

"My brother and I were raised with this incredible sense of patriotism and gratitude. Our grandfather said to us, 'We fought so that you can enjoy the freedom and liberties that we have today. I never want you and your generation and the generations that follow to ever fight a war like the one we fought in.'"

"He usually closed his talks by saying, 'The World War II generation is an endangered species. Soon we'll be extinct.' With this memorial they won't be."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN KLOMP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Klomp and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a two-term Pueblo County Commissioner. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for his constituents. As John celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Pueblo County and the State of Colorado.

Before being elected county commissioner, John worked for thirty-four years in education, retiring in 1994 as Associate Superintendent of Pueblo School District 70. During his tenure as commissioner, John has worked hard on a vast array of issues, including welfare reform, county growth, educational and recreational programs for the county's youth, and law enforcement programs. A dedicated member of the community, John is also involved in several local organizations. He currently serves as the Chair for the Citizens' Advisory Commission for the Pueblo Chemical Dept for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments and for the Front-Range County Commissioners. He is also a board member of the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce, and Junior Achievement. In addition to his community involvement and work as commissioner, John is the Outdoor Editor for the Pueblo Chieftain Newspaper for which he writes a bi-monthly article.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that County Commissioner John Klomp has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his county and the people of Colorado as a County Commissioner for Pueblo County. I am honored to

bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service John and I wish you and your wife Pat all the best in your future endeavors.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private 1st Class Andrew D. Stevens of Stratham, New Hampshire. He bravely served the Army's 10th Mountain Division supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and earned his Expert Infantry Badge. Pfc. Stevens made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country when the Blackhawk helicopter he was riding in tragically crashed during a training accident at the Fort Drum, New York on March 11, 2003.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Private 1st Class Andrew D. Stevens and our other servicemen and women who have courageously given their own lives in order to protect and defend the democracy we enjoy in America and to extend the freedoms that come with democracy to those who live in fear and oppression worldwide.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Sgt. Brian McGinnis of the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on March 30, 2004 in southern Iraq. In the words of his fellow Marines, Sgt. McGinnis was a trusted mentor, a brother, and a hero.

Sgt. McGinnis, a graduate of William Penn High School and native of St. Georges, Delaware joined the Marine Corps because as he stated, he, "wanted to be a part of the best." As a member of the United States Armed Services, Sgt. McGinnis had fulfilled his goal of becoming a part of the best fighting force in the world. Sgt. McGinnis had the opportunity to take part in activities he loved in the Marine Corps and had received his crew wings the day before he met with tragedy in southern Iraq. The most important aspect of Sgt. McGinnis' service in Iraq was the sense of pride he felt knowing that he was serving his country.

Mr. Speaker, it is not possible to quantify the sense of loss our great nation feels when faced with the loss of life of our men and women in the United States Armed Services. Nonetheless, I will say that Sgt. Brian McGinnis will be deeply missed by his family, his friends, the Marine Corps, and by his nation. His service for our nation and the service of countless men and women before and after him will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING OSF SAINT FRANCIS ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFE FLIGHT

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, based in Peoria, Illinois, for the 20th Anniversary of their Life Flight program. The OSF Life Flight program is the largest of its kind in Illinois. Due to the central location of Peoria, the Life Flight helicopter travels great distances to ensure my constituents, and others in surrounding areas, access to lifesaving medical technology at their innovative medical center.

In 1984, OSF Saint Francis initiated the Life Flight air transport service to serve 18 Central Illinois counties and 26 area hospitals. Since its inception, 20,000 critically-ill patients have been successfully transported by Life Flight, making it the busiest such service in Illinois. The flawless safety record and level of medical care maintained by Life Flight is a testament to the professionalism of the pilots, mechanics, nurses, communication specialists, and physicians involved in every voyage. With the addition of a second helicopter in 2002, OSF St. Francis now has the unique honor of being the only hospital-based, two helicopter program in Illinois.

It is with great pride that I recognize OSF Saint Francis on the 20th Anniversary of their Life Flight program and thank them for the past two decades of outstanding service to Central Illinois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, June 1, 2004, the House had votes on H. Con. Res. 295, H. Res. 612, and H. Con. Res. 417. On these House rollcall votes—#210, #211 and #212—I was unavoidably detained at the airport while in transit. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each.

INTRODUCING THE LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) ACT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to the Long-term Care (LTC) Act. This act, which was introduced today by myself and nine bi-partisan cosponsors, would allow individuals to use their IRAs, 401(k), and 403(b) plans to purchase long-term care insurance with pretax dollars at any age and without early withdrawal penalty. Under the LTC Act, the consumer has the option to purchase LTC insurance at the most appropriate amounts for their needs for themselves and their spouses.