

Many veterans are thankful for his generosity and kindness. Without his guidance and the assistance that the many veterans' organizations provide, many of our American Heroes would be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute to an outstanding veteran, Mr. Ken Hamlin, for his past service to our Nation and his continued commitment to assisting veterans.

NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS
COMMEMORATION ACT OF
2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in enthusiastic support of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003, and I want to thank my distinguished colleagues from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, for their leadership on this legislation.

The bill before the House, S. 1233, provides key funding for an important Baltimore institution. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum will help preserve our nation's history. Located in East Baltimore, the Museum features nearly 200 exhibits and commemorates Black Americans in the fields of government, law, military service, science and religion. More than 300,000 visitors each year view its exhibits and participate in its programs. I have visited the museum several times, most recently for the unveiling of the image of our friend and former House colleague, Kweisi Mfume.

In the words of noted historian Carter G. Woodson, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." If Dr. Woodson were alive today, he would applaud the work of Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin. Back in 1983, these two pioneers recognized the importance of going beyond textbooks to expand the horizons of young minds, to stimulate their imaginations, to bring historical figures to life. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum has helped preserve and celebrate the legacy of Black America, which I would emphasize is important for all Americans, including nascent immigrant communities.

Enactment of this bill will also expand the educational opportunities provided by the Museum, which works in coordination with religious and art groups to offer after-school and community activities in East Baltimore. This bill also authorizes \$15 million for expansion of the Museum's existing facilities through a grant from the Department of Justice, and it will establish the Justice Learning Center.

This bill has passed the Senate unanimously and I look forward to its passage in the House and enactment. I urge my colleagues to visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, to recommend it to their constituents, and to vote in favor of S. 1233.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL W. DAVIS'S
DEDICATION TO THE BURBANK
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Davis for 35 years of dedicated service to the Burbank Fire Department.

Mike Davis joined the Burbank Fire Department as a probationary firefighter in 1969. He promoted through the ranks of the Fire Department and has served as Fire Chief for the past 14 years. He has held positions including Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Fire Battalion Chief and finally Fire Chief. He has worked in all divisions of the department including Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, Fire Training, Emergency Medical Services, Disaster Preparedness and Fire Administration.

His education includes an A.A. Degree in Fire Science from Los Angeles Valley College, and a B.S. Degree in Fire Protection Administration and Technology from California State University Los Angeles. His background also includes seven years of experience as a football player while at L.A.V.C. and Utah State University. He played professionally with the Toronto "Rifles" of the now-defunct Continental Football League as well as the New York "Jets" organization of the American Football League.

Chief Davis is a proud member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs where he serves on the Elections Committee. He is a member of the Western Fire Chiefs' Association and has faithfully served on the board of directors for the California Fire Chiefs' Association for 11 years. In addition, he maintains a membership in the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs' Association where he serves on several subcommittees, the Foothill Fire Chiefs' Association, and the Burbank Chapter of Rotary International. Michael Davis is one of Burbank's shining role models and outstanding citizens. He has brought prestige to the Burbank Fire Department's past, present, and future.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Michael Davis for an exemplary professional and public service career, and for his immense commitment to the City of Burbank and its residents.

HONORING U.S. ARMY
LIEUTENANT KEN BALLARD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Lieutenant Ken Ballard who was tragically killed on Sunday, May 30th in Najaf, Iraq. Lt. Ballard served as a platoon leader in the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

Lt. Ballard grew up in the Bay Area of California. After graduating from Mountain View High School in 1995, he joined the Army where he served in Germany, Bosnia, and Macedonia. He won an ROTC scholarship to

Middle Tennessee State University and earned a bachelors degree in international relations prior to his deployment to Iraq.

Lt. Ken Ballard comes from a proud tradition of military service. He is the fourth generation on both sides of his family to serve our country in uniform going back to World War I. Lt. Ballard served courageously and with honor through unimaginable circumstances, acting bravely to protect the lives of those with whom he served.

Ken Ballard gave his life at the age of 26 with a bright and promising future ahead of him. It is with both sorrow and pride that we remember Lt. Ballard. As many in his hometown of Mountain View and across the Bay Area gather to mourn his loss, we honor Lt. Ballard's leadership, selfless sacrifice, and courageous service to our nation. Lt. Ballard was an outstanding American and a great Californian.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his mother Karen Meredith and father Tom Ballard and all his family.

RECOGNIZING 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ALLIED LANDING AT NOR-
MANDY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II by American, British, Canadian and other Allied troops. Our nation's enduring gratitude goes out to the courageous veterans whose foresight and sacrifice brought the Allied forces perhaps the most crucial victory of World War II.

The 60th anniversary of D-Day commemorates a pivotal point in the war and a unique moment in time when coordination and valor forged unprecedented advancement of the Allied forces against the Nazis and their Axis powers. Operation Overlord, the most extensive amphibious operation ever to occur involved 153,000 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force who stormed five separate beaches at Normandy. It was a battle labeled 'The Great Crusade in Europe' by Allied Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower. Facing exceptional danger, 800 planes, full of airborne paratroopers carrying ninety to one hundred twenty pounds of extra weight on their back, invaded occupied Normandy with a mission to secure crucial high grounds, roads and bridges. In close succession, 30,000 vehicles charged the five separate beaches at Normandy, carrying soldiers who became the first to cross the formidable English Channel since 1688.

Poised to attack the disciplined German Army and seized with the loss of most of their radios and 60% of their supplies during landing, the men at D-Day could not rely on superior technology. In one of history's defining moments, the liberation of occupied France depended on human skill and will power, on anticipating the enemy and charging courageously forward. Ultimately, on D-Day, bravery in combat changed history. The soldiers of six valiant divisions met the most uncertain of