

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say that these individuals, and many others throughout the world, are doing the hard and often unrecognized work that is required to keep our homeland safe. I also know that these fine agents and specialists serve as role models for others throughout the United States. Protecting our citizens and our freedoms is vitally important to our future security, and these men and women have proven with their actions that they are up to the task.

For their outstanding work throughout the investigation, I would like to individually recognize the following people:

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HONORING BRUCE RODEWALD

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, over 33 years ago, Bruce Rodewald joined the Arlington Heights Fire Department located in my Congressional District. Thirteen years later he accepted the title of Fire Chief and for the last 20 years he has led the department with the highest distinction and honor.

Chief Rodewald comes from a long lineage of firefighters and community leaders. Both his father and grandfather served in the Arlington Heights Fire Department. His son also serves as a firefighter and paramedic in a neighboring town.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, the village of Arlington Heights' Class III Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating was upgraded to an ISO I rating. This is the highest ranking given for a municipality's fire protection services. Arlington Heights is one of only about 40 fire departments in the county to have received this outstanding distinction.

Mr. Rodewald's dedication to his department and the village of Arlington Heights is unequalled. He had originally planned on retiring from the department in 2001. However, after the September 11th attacks, Chief Rodewald decided to forgo his retirement and continue his service. For the last 3 years he has dedicated himself to the reorganization of the Arlington Heights Fire Department to reflect the heightened levels of awareness and preparedness necessary in the post 9/11 world.

In his years of service, Fire Chief Bruce Rodewald has led the Arlington Heights Fire Department with the professionalism and dedication required of a community leader. The Department he leaves behind is one of the most well-prepared and trained in the Nation. Chief Rodewald's tenure in the Arlington Heights Fire Department is worthy of the highest commendation. I wish him much happiness in retirement and offer him and his family my sincerest thanks and appreciation. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing this extraordinary individual.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL BARKEY

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, with great sorrow I rise today to recognize Michael Barkey, a constituent from the 16th District of Ohio,

who gave his life fighting for our country. National Guard Sgt. Barkey died in an accident while serving with the 1484th transportation company in Iraq.

A football standout at Northwest High School in Canal Fulton Ohio, Barkey was known as a leader on and off the field. Family, friends, and coaches all recognized this young man's strong values and commitment to honor and integrity. He began his career with the National Guard to help pay his way through the University of Akron and was carrying on a long family tradition of military service.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. Without people of his moral fortitude, our Nation would not stand. Sgt. Barkey carried a medallion with the inscription "With God all things are possible." We must trust that the dedication of men and women like Sgt. Barkey will create a safer America.

Sergeant Barkey and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

U.S.-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, domestic healthcare policy should not be decided in trade agreements. That is why I rise in opposition to the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

I strongly support the opportunity for increased trade with Australia, our closest ally and strongest economic partner in the Pacific rim. I support the agreement's strong protections for digital copyright, the elimination of tariffs on entertainment and media products, and improved market access for U.S. films and television via cable, satellite, and the Internet. I am deeply concerned, however, that this agreement also involves a deliberate effort to drive up drug prices in Australia and set precedents that could be used to undermine efforts to lower drug prices here in the United States.

It is wrong for us to interfere with another country's domestic health policy, particularly when it comes to the affordability of medicine which is an equally sensitive issue here in the United States. I staunchly oppose provisions in this agreement that make it easier for pharmaceutical companies to challenge decisions made by the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, or PBS, a formulary system used by the Australian government to negotiate prices on behalf of its citizens and keep down drug costs. I am also concerned that the Bush Administration has set an irresponsible precedent that could bring scrutiny upon our own federally sponsored health programs like Medicare and the VA formulary system, which we rely upon to reduce drug prices for seniors, veterans, and the military.

This is special interest policymaking at its worst. The Bush Administration is letting the pharmaceutical industry use trade agreements to manipulate the drug laws of the United