

season and all deserve recognition for their exceptional achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the St. Mary's High School girls' lacrosse team on its exceptional season and 2005 IAAM A1 Conference Championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE
LANCE CORPORAL TAYLOR B.
PRAZYNSKI

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Marine Lance Corporal Taylor B. Prazynski. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Lance Corporal Prazynski leaves behind a legacy of honor, service, and inspiration to his family, to his friends, and to men and women who never had a chance to know him. His family and friends remember him as a jovial and compassionate man who was committed to bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people and security to the American people.

Lance Corporal Prazynski also leaves behind a legacy of compassion from his work with his handicapped classmates while attending Fairfield High School. His interest in becoming a special education teacher illustrates his strength of character, and based on his reputation for being hard-working and dedicated to accomplishing his goals, I have no doubt he would have been an effective teacher and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Lance Corporal Prazynski's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Taylor, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIL WAR VETERAN
ELISHA JOHNS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Civil War Veteran Elisha Johns, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and valor as a Corporal

during the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi. This Saturday, May 28th, the Porter Township Board and the folks of Union, Michigan will honor Mr. Johns during a ceremony at his gravesite in Plum Grove Cemetery.

Elisha enlisted with the Union Army on August 9th, 1862, with whom he served until his discharge on June 6, 1865. After his enlistment, his leadership and courage was recognized by his superiors as he was made Corporal and promoted to Sergeant soon thereafter. His true valor was demonstrated on May 22, 1863, the date he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.

It was the beginning of the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi and there was a call for volunteers to bridge a dike that was essential for a Union victory. Corporal Johns was one of 150 men that felt called to duty and valiantly set out to construct the bridge. Before they succeeded in bridging the dike, two-thirds of Elisha's fellow soldiers were shot and unable to go on. However, Corporal Johns and his peers boldly continued, while under intense Confederate fire, only to find his supporting soldiers had retreated. As it was early in the day, and military support lacking, Elisha was forced to hide along the base of the dike until darkness fell, when he was able to successfully get back to the Union lines. Forty years after his brave act, Corporal Johns was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As we come together as a Nation this Memorial Day, we honor the heroes of yesterday like Elisha Johns, who gave so much to our great Nation, and to honor those brave men and women of our armed forces who are on the front lines today, sacrificing so much in the name of freedom.

I commend all the folks of Union, Michigan, who are committed to preserving the history of our veterans, such as Corporal Johns, so generations to come will remember the sacrifices of their forefathers that played such a vital role in making our great Nation.

THE TRAGIC PASSING OF NEALE
CHANEY SLATER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, late last month—on April 25, 2005—the family and friends of Neale Chaney Slater, the community of Mechanicsville, and the State of Maryland suffered a devastating loss when this caring and accomplished young man was struck down just as he was preparing to enter the prime of his life.

While driving out to help a local farmer, Neale, 20 years old, was killed in a tragic two-vehicle accident on Route 5 in Hughesville.

Yet, in such a short period of time, Neale gave so much to so many others.

At the age of 16, Neale joined the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, and had held the office of assistant secretary and treasurer.

Neale was a Firefighter II and certified emergency medical technician, and was recognized by his peers with the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department as "Rookie of the Year" in 2001. He also was awarded Fire Prevention Awards in 2001 and 2002.

"He told me he was following the family tradition," said Willie Wilkerson, president of the department, noting that Neale's grandfather and uncle had also been members of the department. "For such a short life, he got a lot accomplished."

That, in fact, is an understatement.

Neale was a 2003 honors graduate of the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy in Leonardstown, where he achieved the rank of Battalion Commander in his junior and senior years.

He also was awarded Midshipman of the Year in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and was also awarded the Military Excellence, Headmaster's and Loyalty Awards at graduation.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, this was an exceptional young man—a young man who envisioned a career in public service early on.

At the time of his passing, Neale was a Cadet in the Maryland State Police, which he joined in 2003. This coming fall, he was set to join the State Police Academy.

Without question, Neale embodied the best this country has to offer through his dedicated public service, his educational achievements, and the respect he had earned from all who knew him.

Neale was held in high regards by the community he served, and rightly so. Colonel Thomas E. Hutchins, Secretary of the Department of State Police, said that Neale was "a young man with a strong work ethic who was committed to doing his best in every mission he undertook."

Mr. Speaker, the passing of one's child, particularly one with so much to contribute to his community, his State and his Nation is as painful as it is incomprehensible.

Today, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Neale's parents, Eleanor Fowler Slater and Austin Joseph Slater, Sr., as well as all of his family members and friends.

I realize that these words are small solace. But I hope the Slaters, in time, find some comfort in the fact that they raised a truly fine young man who will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

The Slaters have established the Neale Slater Memorial Fund in his honor at the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy for a graduating senior intending to enter law enforcement.

I know the recipients of this scholarship will always be inspired by the example set by Neale, and the extraordinarily positive impact he had on his community will be felt for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO HEROES OF THE OREGON
MOUNTAIN RIVER CHAPTER
OF THE RED CROSS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous men and women being honored on June 1, 2005 by the Oregon Mountain River Chapter of the Red Cross's inaugural Real Heroes ceremony in Bend, Oregon, which I will be honored to be part of. These men and women set themselves apart through selfless acts of heroism and kindness toward others. I would like to