

of treatment so that the quality of life for the patient can be improved. Their efforts have been clearly recognized by the community through the approximately \$3 million in donations that have been made to VNACJ.

In addition to the nearly 1,200 patients annually in their care, the VNACJ hospice staff provided counseling services to community members after the September 11, 2001 attacks. In May of 2005, these highly dedicated men and women were recognized by the ExcellRx Institute and its Hospice Pharmacia division for their expertise in pain management.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to praise the hard work and efforts of this organization. They represent a true spirit of selflessness and kindness. Therefore, I rise today to honor and recognize this group of individuals who, for twenty-five years, have served the central New Jersey community with pride and dignity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note for the record that I was unable to be present for rollcall number 360, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Chinese state-owned energy company exercising control of critical United States energy infrastructure and energy production capacity could threaten to impair the national security of the United States. If I had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Over the last decade, the Chinese government has enacted several unfair trade practices, including the artificial devaluation of the Yuen in order to maintain a massive trade surplus. They have used this extra revenue to modernize their military capabilities, and with today's concerns of an impending energy crisis, we cannot allow a U.S. energy company to become a subsidiary of the Chinese government. We must remain vigilant in our efforts.

I would also like to note that that I was unable to be present for rollcall number 361, ex-

pressing the grave disapproval of the House of Representatives regarding the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of *Kelo et al. v. City of New London et al.* that nullifies the protections afforded private property owners in the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

As an original cosponsor of this common sense resolution, I am strongly opposed to the Supreme Court's ruling in this case. This Supreme Court decision overrules more than two centuries of legal precedent and tradition through the nullification of the important public use provision of Fifth Amendment's Taking Clause. With this decision, state and local governments can now use eminent domain to take away the real property of any individual for any reason—including for the benefit of another private individual or corporation.

I consider both these issues to be of the utmost importance to myself, the United States Congress and the American people.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER WIN- CHESTER OF FLOMATON, ALA- BAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Corporal Christopher Winchester, a native of Flomaton, Alabama, was a 2002 graduate of Flomaton High School and attended Reid State Technical College. He first joined the United States Marine Corps in February, 2003, and since March, 2005, had been on duty on Iraq as a member of Regimental Combat Team 2, of the 2nd Marine Division. It was there that on July 14, 2005, he and one of his comrades were killed by an exploding roadside bomb while on patrol near the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

Christopher set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. He had initially joined the Marine Corps as a result of his desire to both better himself personally and secure a better future. However, as a result of his deployment to Iraq and his interaction with the citizens of that newly freed nation, he grew to realize his importance as one of thousands of young Americans who are working to protect the lives and liberty of millions of men, women, and children who for the first time could enjoy a life free of torture chambers, torment, and terror.

Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine, Flomaton and the neighboring community of Brewton are truly mourning the loss of this fine young man. I feel certain his many friends in Escambia County, as well as his colleagues in the Marine Corps, while mourning his loss, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments during his brief 24 years, and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Corporal Christopher Winchester and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infancy of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his parents, Gail and Greg Williams and Al Winchester; his brother and sister; his grandparents, Leo and Janell Winchester, Wandy Darby, and Arnie and Pat Williams; and his five nieces and nephews. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her, life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, young Christopher Winchester was not only a dedicated Marine who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.