

RECOGNIZING MR. ADAM BROWN
OF BOILING SPRINGS, PENNSYL-
VANIA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the patriotic essay on military service by one of my young constituents, Mr. Adam Brown of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania.

Adam's essay entitled, "Narratives of Soldierly," was submitted for publication by Mr. Larry Babbitts, a twice-wounded, two-war combat veteran and commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Capitol City—West Shore Chapter 11, Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. In his essay, Adam pays tribute to the courageous service and sacrifice of those men and women in uniform who selflessly guard our individual freedoms and liberties here at home and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit ADAM's essay for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, at Mr. Babbitts' request. Adam's essay reminds all Americans that it is our solemn national duty to support our fellow citizens who volunteer to forfeit their own security to defend and preserve the rights and liberties that make our Nation the world's pinnacle of freedom. In Adam's words, "there is no greater gift than serving your country."

NARRATIVES OF SOLDIERLY

(By Adam Brown)

Hang your head in shame, those who think themselves too good for service, for there is no man who may say it with truth. Those who find themselves in wealth's company and belittle the soldier, hold your self-righteous tongues in the presence of men greater than yourselves. Before your mercurial words lash on the backs of the men who fight, remember this; the dream that you live was delivered by those men whom you belittled. For a rich man who thinks himself too valuable for soldiery is worth less than the vagabond who answers his nation's call.

All men of a free nation are indebted to nation that grants them that freedom. And the soldier, violent so as his acts may be, is the vessel with which those freedoms are delivered. Go Curser of the warrior, exercise your freedoms; speak what you will, worship what you will, and congregate where you will, but rest your head at night with an uneasy conscience. For when your nation looked for your service in time of war, you lowered your head, so as not to be recognized, so let your head stay lowered in dishonor. Wise is the common man who recognizes his debt, and pays it with his service, for there is no greater gift than serving your country.

Common man, you may walk the roads of your country knowing one absolute truth, every time you fought on our behalf, every time you killed out of orders, and every time you held a dying brother, you earned your rights. Every American gets them, but you, oh noble veteran, have earned them in a way the nay-sayer will never. And his riches can never buy what you have earned. Keep this knowledge sacred, that in paying the debt to your country, all others now owe that debt to you. You now owe no man, only God.

Common man of soldiery, what you have done will be forever with you, both your valiance and your nightmares. For every soldier remembers, be it right or wrong, taking life. So when you wake in your bed with cold sweat, find comfort; find comfort in the fact that the actions that give you nightmares,

have also brought you honor. And search for a small measure of peace. In a world that was fair, no one would ask you to be strong again, because you have shown enough strength for your entire lifetime. But, alas, this world lacks perfection, and you are never rid of what is asked of you.

Though it isn't fair, still you must be strong, strong for your family, and your community. Do not search for recognition for what you have done; it will come of itself. It seems impossible to find enough toughness in oneself to remain the pillar of strength for so many, but you can do it, and you must do it. People will look to you as the military, be it invited or not. So your actions reflect on the military, the entire military, regardless of your branch, it is for this reason you must still be strong. Though you may not think it, you will find inner strength to hold up all that you need to.

You who retreats from honor's light, again you are addressed. When a soldier enters your presence, dare you not to criticize or even meet eyes with him. For you did cower, and no self-justification will nullify that fact. You have the luxury of speaking ill of the nation, and its leader. Carry with you any politics you may, speak ill of your government if you see fit, for that is the first liberty we took upon creating our country, but see the line between the government, and the soldier. For that line is a canyon for which there is no compare. And if you truly think ill of your government, do not impose upon a soldier, your dissatisfaction. For if not for him you would hail: a British crown, a Mexican president, a slave holder, a German Furher, a Japanese Emperor, a Korean Dictator, a Russian Czar, or an Arab Sheik. This list is long and the common soldier did fight and prevail over all these. So you have no place to quarrel with such a noble man. Keep in mind, the soldier is merely the sword of his people, to do what they wish. One does not blame the sword for who it cuts down, or why it cuts, the sword only does what its wielder commands. Yet forget not your duty, to speak against the government if it should become tyrannical, because you are bound by honor to see the sword not abused.

Some men measure success in gold and things of beauty; I pity these men. Some measure success in popularity, these men too, I pity. For success is nothing more than accomplishing something correctly, every man has done this, and every man has failed at this. Men place too much importance on success, and in doing so have neglected the most important of all virtues, honor. But what is honor? Honor cannot be tasted, seen, or heard, but felt; not just by he who is honorable, but everyone around him as well. Honor is standing defiantly in the face of that which is wrong and stating with a stem voice and clenched fists, "This is not right, and I will not let this stand." Those words will emanate to the heavens and rally the angels' cheers. Those words will shake hell to hysteria and send demons fleeing in fear.

Take a moment, Common Man of the Soldier, and find simple comfort in the fact that not all turn a blind eye to what you have done. For what you carry with you; you are honored.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JO ELLE
HURNS OF THE LAUGHLIN CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jo Elle Hurns, an outstanding individual

who has given nine years of invaluable service to the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce.

Before joining the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, Jo Elle Hurns worked for twenty years in the Colorado River Communities, her first five years as a reporter. In 1990, she went to work as Marketing Director for Don Laughlin.

In 1997, Jo Elle Hurns became the Executive Director of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce. In this position, she began by assisting the community with economic development plans for the region, including creating a consensus among nine different jurisdictions to fund the \$28 million reconstruction of Needles Highway. Her efforts in lobbying at local, state and federal levels for major infrastructure improvements in Laughlin included trails, successful multi-million dollar grant attainment and the sale of federal lands for further residential and commercial growth. Due to her heartfelt commitment to raise funds and develop programs for dozens of social service agencies including the Colorado River United Way, she greatly influenced the effectiveness of many organizations in giving service to the area.

Jo Elle Hurns was also very involved in serving the community. From 1995 to 2000 she was on the Laughlin Town Board, and in 2005 and 2006 she was a member of the Nevada Alliance for the Boys and Girls Club. She received the Spirit of the Colorado River Award in 2001, and for the past six years has been the Distinguished Woman of Southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor Jo Elle Hurns for her service to Laughlin and the State of Nevada.

H.R. 4744, TO DESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN TULSA OKLAHOMA AS THE ERNEST CHILDERS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I introduced H.R. 4744, legislation to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma as the Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic to honor one of our nation's finest military heroes.

Ernest Childers holds the distinction of being the first Native American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action in 1943 at the battle of Oliveto, Italy, when he charged German machine gun nests against machine gun fire. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up a hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests and capturing an enemy mortar observer. His courageous action helped American troops win the battle and save the lives of American soldiers. Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

Born in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Childers, enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the