

who broke with protocol to meet them at the airport.

Polls show that the vast majority of the Indian people welcome what Prime Minister Singh described as "an act of historic reconciliation." This visit is already being compared to Richard Nixon's breakthrough journey to Communist China. By forging a new era in United States relations with South Asia, the president continues to build a foreign policy legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE
LANCE CPL. JOHN JOSHUA
THORNTON, KILLED WHILE
SERVING HIS COUNTRY IN IRAQ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Lance Cpl. John Joshua Thornton, who was killed on Saturday, February 25, 2006, at the age of 22, while serving in Iraq. I recognize him today for his dedicated service to this country for the cause of freedom in a global community.

Throughout his life, Josh did everything 100 percent. As a child, he took over the role as head of the household, after his father, Robert, died in a work-related accident. He was always a great son, but became a man overnight. Josh always enjoyed weightlifting and martial arts, and by the age of 7, he received his first black belt. He loved to help people, and he taught at an after-school program for underprivileged youth. Josh was always very outgoing and brought joy to those who knew him.

It was Josh's dream to be a Marine since he was very little. In November 2004, he joined the Marine Corp, 2 years after graduating in the top of his class at Tolleson Union High School. Josh was assigned as a rifleman to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and deployed to Iraq in September. As a Marine, he received the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Tragically, on Saturday, February 25, he died of wounds received during an enemy mortar attack while serving in Ramadi, Iraq.

Joshua is survived by his mother, Rachel, brother, Kyle, and sister, Brianna.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity I have today, to recognize and honor Lance Cpl. John Joshua Thornton in front of my colleagues on the floor of the House of Representatives. I have been a longtime friend with his great, great grandmother Nita Andrews and her recently deceased husband, Ed Andrews.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY
OF MR. AND MRS. BEN H. CARPENTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Ben H. Car-

penter. Their lifelong dedication to improving lives and communities in North Texas will be sorely missed. Ben Carpenter passed last Friday, March 3, at his home in Dallas. His wife, Betty Dupree, followed him in death on Sunday, March 5.

Mr. Carpenter's vision and astuteness as a business leader helped shepherd Dallas into a new role as an international city in the latter part of the 20th century. He ran one of the country's largest insurance companies, Southland Life Insurance, which was founded by his father, John Carpenter and later became Southland Financial Corp., for 30 years. In 1959, he built the city's tallest skyscraper, the Southland Center, which is now the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Mr. Carpenter's greatest legacy is Los Colinas, one of the most successful real estate developments in the United States. In the early 1970s he launched a plan to turn his family ranch into a world class residential and commercial community. Las Colinas now houses some 12,000 acres of apartments, homes, hotels, shopping centers, and company headquarters. The community is home to 40 Fortune 500 Companies today, including ExxonMobil, Nokia, Microsoft, and Kimberly Clark.

Mr. Carpenter served his country during World War II as a volunteer in the Army. He was awarded a Silver Star for his heroics in the China-Burma-India theater. Upon his graduation from the University of Texas at Austin in 1948, he married this lifelong love, Betty Ann Dupree.

Mrs. Carpenter will also be remembered for her commitment to service and giving spirit. She served as an officer and board member in several charitable organizations, including the Child Guidance Center of Dallas and the Irving Community Hospital. An active Presbyterian, she and her husband donated land for the creation of two new Presbyterian churches in the Dallas area. They also funded the construction of the Carpenter Chapel at the Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

Betty and Ben Carpenter were charitable contributors to multiple causes in North Texas. They provided land for the establishment of the Irving Arts Center and the Irving Community Hospital. Their generous gifts founded the Carpenter Family MBA Leadership Center and Carpenter Family MBA Leadership Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Ben H. and Betty Dupree Carpenter Endowment for Cardiovascular Research at the Heart, Lung, and Vascular Clinical Center of Excellence at St. Paul Hospital of Dallas.

Ben and Betty Carpenter's endeavors in both the business and service worlds have left an indelible mark on the city of Dallas and the state of Texas. I honor their lives and their legacy; North Texas would not be what it is today without their contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TED HODGES OF SALLINA, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of

Ted Hodges, a high school student from Sallina, Kansas, who recently won the Kansas Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition. Ted's speech illustrates that our everyday activities are freedoms that should not be taken for granted. I would like to submit the text of his speech for the record to encourage the citizens of our Nation to cherish their freedoms.

HOW I DEMONSTRATE MY FREEDOM

I wake up, take a shower, get dressed, eat breakfast go to school I practice football, do my homework, talk with my family and friends, then go to bed. I go read the paper, go to church, watch TV. Each one of these simple, ordinary actions in itself seems mundane, but is actually a concrete expression of freedom that I enjoy daily. Going to school an indulgence? Attending church a privilege? Writing an essay a luxury? C'mon. Those are all things that we take for granted, right? They are things that I have to do!

In an address to Congress in 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enumerated four freedoms that every American should expect and protect: freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from fear, and freedom from want. To me, this is a tremendous ideal that America has been defined by throughout the years. I am the everyday beneficiary of these four freedoms.

Firstly, I express my freedom of speech by doing things such as writing letters to the editor of my local newspaper, posting web logs on the internet, and also encouraging school board members to change various policies. All of these things I can do without fear of retribution. I can peacefully demonstrate or agitate for change on any subject. I can read articles in newspapers, magazines, and websites that represent every viewpoint of the political spectrum. I can make my own contributions, find my own voice.

The next freedom mentioned by President Roosevelt—freedom of religion—also is present in my life. Every day I see different religions. Christianity or Judaism, Muslim or Hindu: each of these has a place in this great nation. Some larger, some smaller, all tolerated. And not promoted or encouraged by the state or in our schools. I am free to offer a prayer to the God that I worship at any time, anywhere. Whether it's being a crucifer for the last eight years during my church's Sunday services or leading the team prayer after a hard-fought football game, I have that freedom.

Another freedom, freedom from fear, is too found in our society. Personally, I have the freedom to sleep well at night knowing that our troops are working diligently not only to preserve our way of life, but to also bring that opportunity to many others. A day does not go by that we should not be extremely appreciative to those who have stepped into the line of fire to keep our nation free from fear. Laws that will govern and protect me and my family whether we are black or white, male or female, young or old.

Freedom from want: Where do I start? I have all the privileges that the wealthiest nation on earth can give me. A strong school, competent teachers, good roads, and reliable energy. A hot shower. Food that's safe. Freedom from want is something that we as Americans utilize every second of every day.

As I look back on Franklin D. Roosevelt's four freedoms I begin to wonder, "How can I show my appreciation and demonstrate my own commitment to freedom?" The answer is shown in many of my every day actions.

By taking advantage of every opportunity bestowed upon me: working diligently at school so that I can become a better informed citizen. By exercising my religious