

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF LUCILLE COCHRAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today for a constituent of mine—Mrs. Lucille Cochran's 100th birthday. Mrs. Cochran will gather with her friends and family to mark the occasion on February 9, 2007.

Lucille "Mama Cill" Cochran was born in Lee County, Alabama, where she resides today with her loving family and church community. "Mama Cill" credits long life to her faith and trust in God. This mother of 9, grandmother of 35, and great grandmother of 77, enjoys entertaining her family in her kitchen where she serves her Alabama nugget baked sweet potatoes and coffee.

Mrs. Cochran's vibrant personality and active life make her an important part of her community. In her own special way, she serves as a shining example for us all. On this special occasion, I salute this remarkable woman for her long life, and her dedication to family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL
MARCUS ESSER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Marcus Esser for work on behalf of the Boulder City Community.

Phil is a very accomplished folk singer and musical producer and has been a resident of Boulder City Nevada for the past six years. Since moving to Boulder City, Phil has immersed himself in charitable and community orientated projects, most notably as the choir director for St. Andrew's Church.

Most recently, Phil performed at the Boulder City American Legion Hall, raising over \$4000 for Emergency Aid of Boulder City. This show was the first in a series of four such performances intending to support a local cause.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Phil Marcus Esser. His work on behalf of the local community is admirable and I applaud his efforts.

RECOGNIZING TAVIA MAREZ AS
OKALOOSA COUNTY'S TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Tavia Marez as Okaloosa County's Teacher of the Year.

On January 30, 2007, Tavia Marez was announced Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Marez joined the school district administration in

1997 with an educational background in Genetics and Developmental Biology and as a former researcher at Johns Hopkins University. Over the past 10 years, Mrs. Marez has proudly served the school district, and Okaloosa County is honored to have her as one of their own.

Tavia Marez currently teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry at Fort Walton Beach High School in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Mrs. Marez is aware that if her students are anything like she once was, she must make Chemistry enjoyable. To get her students interested, Tavia Marez incorporates creative techniques, such as: songs, dances, and mnemonic devices.

At the same time, to ensure that she is giving her students the best preparation needed to succeed, Mrs. Marez keeps in constant communication with the AP College Board and college chemistry professors. Ten weeks prior to the AP Chemistry exam, you can find Mrs. Marez on Saturdays offering extra help to her students, who in turn mentor elementary school students from Edwins Elementary School. Since Mrs. Marez began teaching AP Chemistry, the percentage of students who pass the AP exam drastically increased from around 0 percent to 70 and the number of students taking the course from 12 to 75.

To be honored as Teacher of the Year, the proof of greatness lies well beyond the title—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. While Mrs. Marez humbly credits her fellow colleagues with helping her get to where she is today, it is her spirit, dedication and passion for teaching, which she has developed over the past 10 years that has won her the honor of this distinguished award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Marez for her great achievement as Teacher of the Year and her continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School and in the Okaloosa County School District.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
ALEXANDER HENRY FULLER

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the life and service of one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Alexander Henry Fuller, who gave his life to his country while serving in Iraq. I rise so that the House of Representatives can join me in conveying our deepest condolences to his wonderful wife Stacey and to his entire family.

Alex died on January 25 at the age of twenty one, while serving in Iraq. He came from New Bedford and was raised on Cape Cod. He soon fell in love with Stacey and together they were married. Today Stacey is expecting their child. Alex had dreams of someday owning a house on Cape Cod, working as a police officer and raising a family.

But he was a young man with a mission. He had another priority in his life, to answer the call of service to his country. He loved his

country and he loved serving in the Army, and in the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division based in Fort Carson Colorado. Each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude. The courage he demonstrated through his service will always be remembered.

I wish to join with my colleagues in expressing our condolences to his family and friends. We hope and pray that they find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Sean Gonsalves, a reporter from the Cape Cod Times wrote a moving tribute that I wish to share with you.

'WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER'

(By Sean Gonsalves)

One had a Bible in his hand.

The other Army officer carried the news Anastacia "Stacey" Fuller and her husband's adopted family had been losing sleep over—wondering if their hero, Army Sgt. Alexander Henry Fuller, was alive.

He was not, they were informed late Thursday night.

Yesterday, Sgt. Fuller's 19-year-old widow still seemed disoriented, as if the repercussions from the improvised explosive device that killed Fuller and another member of his convoy in Baghdad had reverberated across the Atlantic Ocean, all the way to the Centerville home the 21-year-old soldier had shared with his wife and in-laws.

Pfc. Michael C. Balsley, 23, of Hayward, Calif., was also killed in Thursday's explosion, according to the Department of Defense.

Stacey Fuller wasn't sure if her husband's remains were in Maryland or Delaware. She wasn't sure when his casket would be brought home to Cape, or when the funeral and burial would be held.

All she knew was that the father of her yet-unborn daughter was "fearless" and had "a huge heart."

Sitting in the showroom of her family's used-car dealership on Yarmouth Road in Hyannis, Stacey Fuller rested her hands on her bulging belly as the small flags lining the awning outside flapped in the winter wind.

"He was very determined. He always said, 'I need to help my Joes,'" she recalled, explaining the love he had for the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

"We tried to talk him out of going because of how dangerous it is, but we couldn't," said Fuller's mother-in-law, Irena Zinov.

Fuller, who was born in New Bedford and raised in Centerville, saw the Army as the best way to prepare for becoming a police officer.

Fuller's legacy was his concern for others, his uncle Robert Mogavero of Millis said in a phone interview yesterday.

"At the same time, he had a great zest for life. Some kids have plans that are a little far-fetched, but his head was screwed on straight. His plans were not beyond his reach," he said.

Mogavero described Fuller as a soldier "dedicated to God and country." "As a soldier he was exemplary, and we couldn't be prouder of him as a family."

Zach Hallet of Osterville remembered his best friend as the toughest, funniest person he's known.

"And he believed in what he was doing. He was proud of being a sergeant and he was proud of being a leader."

Hallet also described his fallen friend as "fearless"—a trait his wife said she'll call on in the months ahead as she prepares to give birth in April.

Besides his wife and unborn daughter, Fuller is survived by his mother, Linda; a sister, Katie, and two brothers, Christopher and Sean.

The family has set up a memorial fund for the benefit of his daughter.

TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2007 theme—From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas. As we recall the many struggles and reflect on the immense impact African-Americans have had on this country, we are reminded that, though we have made great strides, we must continue the fight for a society that is truly equal.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas, is a reminder that in striving for equality, we must examine the past. We remember those brought to America against their will, forced into slavery, working under the most inhumane conditions. From this, however, we are reminded of those who recognized this atrocity and made the decision to fight for their freedom. We pay special tribute to those who were persecuted, and in many cases murdered, for their impassioned struggle for what was right. From the earliest men and women forced into slavery to the brave soldiers, both free and enslaved, who joined forces to eventually defeat the Confederacy, thus establishing their own freedom, all are to be commended with the highest admiration and praise. Without these struggles, President Abraham Lincoln's reminder of our founding fathers' goal, the establishment of a new Nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, would not be possible.

It is the efforts of these brave individuals that would inspire the great leaders of the civil rights movement, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, to persevere and make great strides toward this goal. Some of these leaders, like many before them, would face similar persecution. Some, like Dr. King, would pay the ultimate price in hopes that one day all Americans would be seen as equals. We are aware, however, that as a united society, we must continue to make strides like those generations who came before us. From the days of slavery to the days of segregation, we must continue to work toward a society that is truly equal, a society with equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the brave men and women who have led us in the ongoing fight for justice and equality. Let us take this opportunity to honor the sacrifices and contributions of all Americans who have fought for their freedom and the freedom of others. This commitment to equality, opportunity, and an end to discrimination is to be admired.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANCE
CORPORAL BUDD M. COTE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lance Corporal Budd M. Cote, who died Monday December 11, 2006, of injuries sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lance Corporal Cote was killed by an explosive device in al-Anbar province during combat operations. He was assigned to the Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 stationed out of the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, CA.

Lance Corporal Budd Cote was born in Corona, CA, on June 27, 1985. He spent his childhood in the Las Vegas valley before moving to Tucson, AZ, where he attended high school.

Lance Corporal Cote was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps to serve his country in the Global War on Terror. He will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was. His warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife, Zoraida, his parents, Marcella and Roland Cote and siblings, Alex, Christopher and Tiffany.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Lance Corporal Budd M. Cote. Lance Corporal Budd M. Cote made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Terror and defending democracy and freedom.

TRIBUTE TO PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT ROGER WILLIAM POWELL OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger William Powell, a native of Montrose, MI who volunteered for the U.S. Army on January 22, 1969. Assigned as a mechanic, Mr. Powell was sent to Vietnam on June 22, 1969, with an armor recon specialty where he became a part time scout driver and machine gun operator. Assigned to E Troop, 1st Calvary Regiment, 11th Infantry Brigade, his base camp was Chu Lie.

On August 8, 1969, his troop was in the field in Quang Ngai when they came under hostile fire from Viet Cong forces. Rocket propelled grenades landed amongst the troops, with Mr. Powell sustaining shrapnel wounds in his right eye, both hands and arms and a perforated eardrum. transferred by Medivac helicopter to an evacuation hospital in Japan, he remained under medical care for three months. A purple heart was noted on his record but not awarded, as Mr. Powell was not at that facility a sufficient time for the paperwork to be processed.

Following his recovery from his injuries, he was reassigned stateside to Ft. Knox, KY. Mr. Powell then volunteered for duty in Germany

where he remained until his discharge on January 14, 1971.

Currently residing in Zephyrhills, Florida, Mr. Powell and his wife, Tansy, have three grown children; 32-year-old Scott, 30-year-old Shalynnee and 26-year-old Shelby, all of whom reside in Michigan.

After almost 38 years, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present Mr. Powell with his long-awaited Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Roger William Powell should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Powell with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

HONORING BORDEN BYRD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Borden Byrd for his heroic effort to save a possible collision between two jets on August 24, 2006.

Mr. Byrd is the air traffic controller at DFW TRACON (DIO), one of the control towers for the Dallas-Fort Worth International airport. As DFW is among the top three busiest airports in the Nation, the controllers must be focused and attentive at all times to ensure safe and smooth air traffic. If it were not for Mr. Byrd's immediate reaction and sharp eye, two jets, an American Airlines MD80 and a United Express regional jet, might have collided last August.

That day, the regional jet's pilots had entered an incorrect runway into the Flight Management System, which put the jet directly into the path of the MD80. Luckily, Mr. Byrd noticed the anticipated trajectory paths for the jets and directed the regional jet immediately to the west, out of the path of the MD80. His careful watch and proactive character saved numerous lives that day.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Borden Byrd for his exceptional service not only to Dallas-Fort Worth International airport, but also to our community. His knowledge and dedication to air safety prevented a great tragedy from occurring, and I join his family and friends in congratulating him on this heroic affair.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BONNIE
SCHOFIELD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I honor Mrs. Bonnie Schofield for her dedication to the community and families she served.

Bonnie has been serving 79 families in Hiko, NV, as a postmaster since 1973, 6 hours a day, 6 days a week. Bonnie's families picked their mail up at the Post Office in front of her house in an old-fashioned way. Instead of using the modern-day post office boxes, the mail was sorted into old-fashioned sacks