

of savage attacks while inflicting heavy casualties on a determined and numerically superior enemy force. By his outstanding leadership, resolute determination and unflinching devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, Sergeant Getherall upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

This bill I am introducing today will waive the time limitations that require the award to be made within 5 years of the act. This is needed because the original award recommendation by Gary Loveridge, the platoon commander at the time, was lost by the Marine Corps. Additionally, six of Sergeant Getherall's squad members and his commanding officer have recently submitted sworn affidavits attesting to his heroic actions.

Madam Speaker, Joe Getherall is a great man who performed an amazing feat to defend his country and his squadron. He deserves the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING
OF EAST MILLINOCKET

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who 100 years ago, drawn by the promise of employment at Great Northern Paper Company's new 4-machine mill on the banks of the Penobscot River, founded the town of East Millinocket in northern Maine.

Working together for the benefit of their new community, the people of East Millinocket quickly established a school, water and sewer system, and volunteer fire department. They also established a proud way of life. Today, equipped with the same community spirit and sense of common purpose, the people of East Millinocket continue to embrace the challenges and opportunities of living and working at the gateway to Maine's North Woods.

Like my father and my grandfather before me, I joined these hardworking individuals as we all worked together to provide for ourselves and our families at the Great Northern Paper Company mill in East Millinocket. I am happy to have grown up and worked alongside these proud people, and it is these individuals and families along with the many other hardworking people of Maine that I remember every time I cast a vote here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of East Millinocket and I am happy to have this opportunity to help this community, the "town that paper made," celebrate its 100th anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE
CLARENCE T. SPENCER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the peo-

ple of north Texas in the death of PVT Clarence T. Spencer, 24, who died defending our country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on February 4, 2007.

Mr. Clarence Spencer was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. While serving the U.S. Army, he put forth continuous dedication and bravery in protecting our Nation. His compassion and faithfulness in serving our country will forever be remembered, and his loss is greatly felt by all.

Mr. Spencer is survived by his wife in Killeen, Texas, and his mother and father in Fort Worth, Texas. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and my thoughts and prayers are with them. Mr. Spencer's courage and dedication brought hope of a safer country. He will be remembered as a husband, a son, and a hero.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last month, the world lost a powerful voice for free speech when journalist Hrant Dink was tragically killed for expressing his views on the Armenian Genocide. His death should serve as a watershed moment for Turkish-Armenian relations.

While Turkish officials have rightly condemned the killing, Turkey should honor the memory of Hrant Dink by using this opportunity to begin an open dialogue between Turkish citizens and their neighbors of Armenian descent. Laws that criminalize free speech and serious discussion of difficult issues are counterproductive to true democratic reform, which the Turkish government has called a priority. Taking steps to finally reconcile its past with its future by recognizing the Armenian Genocide are the foundations for real progress for Turkey.

In the wake of this tragedy, we must not allow an assassin's bullet to silence such a dynamic voice for change, but rather, continue to encourage Turkey to make positive changes with the same resolve Hrant Dink showed throughout his life as a champion of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GARY KURPIUS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great Alaskan, Mr. Gary Kurpius, who was recently elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Nation's largest association of combat veterans. Gary Kurpius was elected to his position on August 31, 2006, at the VFW's 10th National Convention, in Reno, Nevada. Gary Kurpius is the first Alaskan to hold this tremendously important position.

During the Vietnam War Gary Kurpius served with the Army's 541st Transportation Company providing vital convoy security

throughout the central highlands, an extremely treacherous area. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, for his endeavors during the conflict. In addition to the medals received during Vietnam, Gary Kurpius was selected Vietnam Veteran of the Year for St. Louis County, Minnesota by President Jimmy Carter.

After the war, Gary Kurpius continued his unremitting passion for public service. This led him to join VFW Post 1539 in Babbitt, Minnesota in 1970, where he became a life member. He earned the title of All American Post Commander in 1977 and in 1983 was named All American District Commander. Gary then transferred to VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, Alaska in 1985. Currently Gary is a Life Member of VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla, Alaska, near to where he currently resides with his wife Nancy, in the beautiful city of Anchorage.

Gary has served diligently in the Department of Alaska service office for the last 19 years and as Department Adjutant for the past 17 years. Then in 2001, Gary was elected Department Commander and earned All-American Department Commander status. Most recently Gary completed a two-year term as Governor Tony Knowles' appointee to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gary Kurpius, is also a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. In 1999, he received the Alaska Community Service Medal. Few men have had such a dedicated and lengthy history of service and I know that Gary Kurpius will continue to serve with the same dedication and fortitude, meeting all the challenges he is presented with.

On behalf of The United States of America, I extend my thanks and appreciation to Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius, for his dedication and service to American Servicemen, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to the people of the Great State of Alaska.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM A.
LUCKING, JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Lucking, who died at home earlier this week at the age of 89, surrounded by generations of family.

There are not enough pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to do justice to the life of William A. Lucking Jr. He was a decorated World War II combat veteran, a horseman, a rancher, a hunter, a world traveler, an attorney, a community volunteer, and an outdoorsman as comfortable on land as he was on or below the water. Bill also was active in Republican politics, including being a delegate to the Republican Convention that nominated Richard Nixon in 1960, much to the chagrin of his Democratic father.

Bill Lucking would say that he worked hard and played hard. Raised in the Ventura County, California, community of Ojai, he bought more than 200 acres of rugged land there in 1956—6 years after he passed the California