

Major Keith Townsend, Captain Leon McGuire, Captain Bryan Habas, Captain Victoria Habas, Senior Master Sergeant Robert Birman, Senior Master Sergeant Ralph Lehman, Senior Master Sergeant Leslie Wright, Master Sergeant William Baer, Master Sergeant Randy Dickenson, Master Sergeant Donald Hillgaertner, Master Sergeant Gary Gudge, Master Sergeant Cory Jackson, Master Sergeant Albert Luquette, Master Sergeant Adam Melerski, Master Sergeant Troy Mitchell, Master Sergeant Richard Murren, Technical Sergeant Ann Chancey, Technical Sergeant Edwin Corcoran, Technical Sergeant Carl Domingo, Technical Sergeant Robert Foreman, Technical Sergeant Bryan Garret, Technical Sergeant Matthew Gudge, Technical Sergeant George McMahan, Staff Sergeant Michelle Nelson, and Staff Sergeant Laurence Rose raised their hands, willingly accepted duties in wartorn Afghanistan, and served us with honor.

These airmen worked with our allies in the region to provide command and control that sustained complex, time critical air sovereignty missions in support of International Stabilization Assistance Force (ISAF) priorities. Their contributions cannot be overstated, nor in truth measured.

As a Congresswoman from Oregon, I am proud of what these citizen-airmen accomplished, and humbled by their continued willingness to answer the call of a nation that is in need far more often than anyone expected.

I ask this chamber to recognize and applaud these airmen who like hundreds of thousands of their peers ask for little, give everything they can, and believe our America is worth the sacrifice.

Thank you for standing a post that few even know exists.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Georgia Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD and his lifetime of dedication to the people of Georgia and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away earlier this week. We have not only lost a wonderful friend, but an individual who during his lifetime made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation.

CHARLIE, a native of Valdosta, Georgia, began his career of service by volunteering for the U.S. Army, serving as captain in the Dental Corps. He served in Vietnam, where he distinguished himself under combat conditions, and he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars. Immediately after his discharge, CHARLIE opened his dental practice in Augusta. He was highly involved in many professional organizations, serving as president of both the Eastern District Dental Society and the Georgia Dental Association.

In 1994, CHARLIE was elected to represent the 10th District of Georgia in the United

States House of Representatives. Throughout his six terms, CHARLIE was a champion of patients' rights, introducing his Patient's Bill of Rights. He also fought for health care reform for military retirees and veterans. CHARLIE also served with distinction as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. CHARLIE will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated statesman. Dr. NORWOOD will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Gloria Wilkinson Norwood, and his sons, Charles Norwood and Carlton Norwood—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

JUSTICE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICERS ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, on January 9, 2007, Armando Garcia, the primary suspect in the murder of Los Angeles County Sheriffs Deputy David March, was extradited to the United States. It was four years, eight months, and ten days that the family and colleagues of Deputy March were forced to wait for his killer to face extradition.

We know that when our public safety officers perform their duties every day, whether patrolling their neighborhoods, protecting the courts, riding in an ambulance, or fighting a fire, they are working to ensure the protection of all of us. Because they are constantly putting their lives on the line, we must do everything we can to ensure that criminals who harm or threaten those who protect the public receive a punishment that matches the seriousness of the crimes they commit.

Madam Speaker, it is with these dedicated public safety officers in mind that I am proud to introduce the Justice for Public Safety Officers Act with my friend from Pasadena, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF. This bill, which is based upon legislation that Mr. SCHIFF and I introduced in the last Congress, sends a clear message that justice will no longer be abused by fleeing murderers.

As we know, under Federal law, it is a crime to kill a Federal, State, or local public safety officer if they are engaged in a Federal investigation. It is also a Federal crime to flee to another country to avoid prosecution. However, the crime of fleeing is punishable by no more than five years in prison, and as little as merely paying a fine. The Justice for Public Safety Officers Act takes an important step toward establishing stiffer penalties by imposing a mandatory minimum of 30 years in prison for murdering a public safety officer and an additional mandatory minimum of 10 years for traveling between States or countries with the intent to avoid prosecution.

When Deputy March was brutally slain execution-style during a routine traffic stop, Armando Garcia, an illegal immigrant, fled to Mexico within hours of Deputy March's murder to avoid prosecution by U.S. authorities.

At the time of the murder, Mexico refused to extradite individuals who may face the death penalty or life imprisonment, therefore hindering efforts to bring Armando Garcia back to the United States to face prosecution for his crime. The same border that Garcia illegally crossed to enter our country served as a wall of protection for almost 5 years.

I joined many of my colleagues and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca in efforts to see that Armando Garcia and other fugitives accused in killings on our soil are returned to the United States to face justice. We met with officials from the Department of Justice and the State Department. We urged President Bush to call for aggressive action to change Mexico's extradition policy. I met with then President Vicente Fox and other high officials of the Mexican government, including their Supreme Court, in an effort to impress upon our neighbor that its extradition policy is intolerable.

We reached a critical turning point in 2005 when the Mexican Supreme Court issued a decision that allowed consecutive prison terms for certain murders. This decision ultimately paved the way for Armando Garcia's arrest in Tonalá, Jalisco, Mexico, on February 23, 2006 and his extradition to the United States on January 9.

For those of us who were involved with this case, January 9 will always have conflicting emotions. On the one hand, we know that this day marked a victory for the rule of law, sending a clear message that no one should be allowed to commit an act of murder and flee to another country to avoid prosecution. And yet, it also stands as a painful reminder of the loss of Deputy March and the danger that all public safety officers face on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker, the handcuffs that hung from Deputy March's belt the day he was killed were shackled to Armando Garcia as he was brought into U.S. custody last month. I am encouraged that Deputy March's killer has finally been extradited to the United States. But we must continue to work to ensure that the service performed by this Nation's public safety officers is honored by making certain that those who wish to do them harm face stiff penalties for their actions. Passage of this bill will guarantee that perpetrators of heinous crimes against public safety officers will be brought to justice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SWIFT
APPROVAL, FULL EVALUATION
(SAFE) DRUG ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation, SAFE, Drug Act. This bill is designed to ensure that the FDA can balance the need to get important life-saving drugs to the market quickly while ensuring the drugs get the full evaluation they need to ensure the safety of those products.

Earlier this week the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce held its very first oversight hearing of the 110th Congress on drug safety. At the hearing several FDA whistleblowers testified

about the truly frightening problems at the FDA including: 1. a culture of suppression and intimidation, 2. a lack of transparency into the review process, 3. the inaction of FDA management in response to serious drug risks, 4. a lack of scientific freedom and the inability of FDA reviewers to have their concerns heard by senior management, FDA advisory committees, and the public.

Their powerful testimonies add to the concerns raised in the Institute of Medicine report, the GAO Report, and the Inspector General of HHS report that the FDA's system to ensure that postmarketing studies are conducted and completed is broken and the FDA has not made reform a priority.

It is clear from the whistleblowers' testimonies and these three major reports that the FDA is a deeply troubled agency that has failed time and time again to act in the best interest of the public. The failures of the FDA to protect the public have been widely reported by the media and the public is losing confidence in the FDA's ability to keep us safe.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive poll, 80 percent of adults say they are concerned about the FDA's ability to make independent decisions that will ensure that patients have access to safe and effective medicines.

We need the FDA to be a watchdog for public health, not a lapdog for the industry. We need to bring back transparency, accountability and scientific integrity to the FDA.

That is why today I am reintroducing the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation, SAFE, Drug Act to provide greater transparency into the approval process and a stronger postmarket safety system.

The SAFE Drug Act will:

1. Increase FDA authority with respect to postmarket safety, including giving the FDA the ability to mandate labeling and require postmarket studies.

2. Provide FDA greater authority with respect to the Accelerated Approval process, by ensuring postmarket study plans are reviewed prior to approval; requiring proper labeling until drugs are fully approved; and restricting advertising for accelerated approved drugs or biologics until full approval.

3. Provide enhanced whistleblower protections to FDA employees.

4. Preserve scientific integrity at FDA by prohibiting FDA employees from directing other FDA employees to censor or suppress scientific research, analysis, opinions or recommendations or directing employees to disseminate scientific information that is known to be false or misleading.

5. Require the FDA to provide Advisory Committees with complete information.

6. Ensure scientific freedom at FDA, by guaranteeing FDA and FDA-sponsored authors the right to publish or present their work.

7. Increase FDA transparency, by requiring a biennial report to Congress on noninferiority studies and a biannual report to Congress on postmarket studies system.

The time to act is now. I look forward to working with my colleagues to stop the erosion of public confidence in the FDA, provide greater transparency into the approval process, reform the system of postmarketing studies, and ensure that FDA balances the desire to speed drugs to market with its critical role as the watchdog of public health.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES AND
JEANETTE HENDERSON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the community contributions of Charles and Jeannette Henderson to Northwest Florida.

Nearly 20 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson began researching their family genealogy, and published two books, "The Track of the Jackson" and "The Trail of the Griffith." Their passion for collecting and preserving their own history later prompted the founding of the North Okaloosa Historical Association in 1992. With grants and fundraising, this body purchased the old General Store in Baker, Florida, and transformed the 1908 landmark into the Baker Block Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have been the devoted caretakers of this museum since its inception. They have been instrumental in creating one of the largest genealogical libraries in Okaloosa County and continue to oversee the restoration and preservation of historical artifacts.

To honor the Henderson's inspiration and dedication to their community, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to proclaim a local park to be named "The Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park." The Henderson's dedication and vision will forever be appreciated and treasured for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Charles and Jeanette Henderson for their contributions to the preservation of their community heritage.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVE- MENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives BARBARA LEE, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, ZOE LOFGREN, LYNN WOOLSEY, and GEORGE MILLER, I am reintroducing the "Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act" which will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their areas and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In States with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-

based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of *all* hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT AND FORMER AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to the current and former African-American Members of Congress with Chairwoman KILPATRICK and my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Our Nation can feel proud today that a record number of 43 black or African-American Members serve in the 110th Congress; 42 in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate. In total, there have been 119 black Members of Congress: 114 elected to the House and five to the Senate. Of those, 110 have been members with full voting rights in the House, a number that corresponds with the number of Congresses convened since our Nation's independence.

Voters sent the first black member to Congress during reconstruction. His name was Hiram Rhodes Revels (R-MS) and he served in the Senate in the 41st Congress (1870). His first black counterpart in the House, Joseph H. Rainey (R-SC), came during that same session.

Since then, African Americans have extended the honor roll of "firsts" and "greatest," "largests" and "most actives" in both chambers. The 103rd Congress saw the largest class of black freshmen ever elected. Today, in the 110th Congress, we have five African-American full committee chairmen and 17 subcommittee chairs. Such a concentration of leadership is unprecedented. In addition to our constituents, we have our predecessors to thank.

Each current and former member of this august body owes a debt of gratitude to the members emeritus who came before them. Each African-American child who dreams of ascending to elected office has more than 100 trailblazers to light his or her way. It is this progress toward equal opportunity and representation that we celebrate today, during this month when we draw inspiration from an illustrious past to create a brighter future. On behalf of each current African-American member of the 110th Congress, I extend the deepest respect and gratitude to all those who preceded us.

TRIBUTE TO LIVING WATER

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Malcolm S. Morris, a constituent from Houston, who is dedicating his