

Springfield, Ohio. Jeremy is remembered as being the adventurous type, always enjoying activities like rock climbing and rappelling. Based on his desire to participate in exciting activities, even as a child, it came as no surprise that he would eventually choose to join the military. In 2004, Jeremy enlisted in the United States Army and began his next adventure.

Corporal Greene felt tremendous pride for his country, and it will never be forgotten that he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Corporal Greene enlisted in the United States Army being fully aware that danger could arise in any situation. He accepted this so the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by men, women, and children around the world.

For his efforts, Corporal Greene was awarded several military medals and honors, including: the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, to name a few. In addition, to further exemplify his dedication and patriotism, Corporal Greene was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Jeremy treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his father, Richard Greene, of Springfield, Ohio, his mother, Cindy Greene (Mike White), of Oxford, Indiana, and two brothers, Mickey and Christopher Webster, as well as his loving nieces, Zoe, Sierra, and Jordan, whom Jeremy adored. Jeremy also leaves to cherish his memory many other friends and family members whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

THE RESERVISTS AND GUARDSMEN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reservists and Guardsmen Tax Relief Act of 2007. As Reservists and Guardsmen are activated, this can cause financial strains on many of them, and my legislation is meant to help provide some financial relief during the time in which they are called to active duty.

My bill would extend the penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts for Reservists and Guardsmen who are called to active duty for more than 179 days. This benefit is set to expire on December 31, 2007. My bill extends this benefit through December 31, 2008.

Under this tax benefit, Guardsmen and Reservists called to active duty can receive pay-

ments from their individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans and 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities, without having to pay the 10 percent early-distribution surtax. Some Reservists and Guardsmen have already taken advantage of this benefit. While premature withdrawals from retirement accounts should be very carefully considered by anyone who has a retirement account, this proposal may assist in dealing with economic difficulties that may occur when a self-employed reservist, or any Reservist or Guardsman, is called to active duty service. This would be one way to allow them increased access to their money at a time when they are defending our liberties.

Some Reservists and Guardsmen, including small business owners and employees of small businesses, experience loss of income when they are called to active duty. The drop in income is real for many Reservists and Guardsmen. Removal of the early withdrawal penalty would be one way to help alleviate some of the income loss that a Reservist or Guardsman's family might suffer as a result of activation.

Our Reservists and Guardsmen should have access to their own money in order to help them make ends meet while activated. This is a small step to help out those who are serving in defense of our Nation. As a former active duty and reserve Army officer, I am committed to doing what I can to make active duty service easier for all of our servicemembers, both active and reserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BUX-MONT KATRINA RELIEF PROJECT

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and personal gratitude that I recognize their remarkable work of the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project (BMKP), whose organizers took bold initiative to provide much needed disaster relief services to Hancock County, Mississippi in the aftermath of Katrina Hurricane.

In partnership with the Salvation Army, the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project developed a community-to-community disaster response model. By creating a partnership between Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania and Hancock County in Mississippi, a \$1.25 million child care center was created. Furthermore, homes were rebuilt, schools were repaired and community projects were aided. In addition, the University of Pennsylvania School of Society Policy and Practice is partnering with the BMKP to help fix the Hancock County human services system. Funding for these projects came solely from private and corporate donations and in-kind services.

Through outstanding effort and vision, this project brought hope to the Gulf Coast community by establishing a proactive disaster relief program. Madam Speaker, the experience gained by BMKP and its partner organizations has inspired them to present their program as a national disaster relief model designed to bring together the military, governmental agencies, regional groups and national organizations.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the victims of Hurricane Katrina have been slow to re-

ceive the necessary and promised support from our government. The Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project has successfully provided private support to one community. Their disaster relief model, if promoted nationally, will expand on that success and greatly improve our Nation's ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of the COPS Improvement Act.

Created by President Clinton, COPS grants have successfully put 117,000 police officers in our neighborhoods. The formula is simple—more cops means safer streets and more secure neighborhoods.

As a result of this tough-on-crime policy, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates throughout the 1990s. Unfortunately, last year the Republican-led Congress completely eliminated funding for this highly successful initiative.

It is no coincidence that when federal funds for COPS grants dried up, violent crime rates escalated. For example, last year the City of Philadelphia experienced a nine-year high in homicides, claiming 406 lives. This shamefully high number of homicides included my constituent, Police Officer Gary Skerski, who was shot while responding to a robbery.

Last week was the one-year anniversary of Officer Skerski's death, and we must not forget the sacrifices that he and the other officers have made to protect their communities.

That is why I am pleased that the Democratic Majority is taking steps to restore funding for COPS grants. As a result of this bill, we will put 50,000 new officers on our nation's streets, provide local law enforcement with additional tools and resources to combat crime, and better ensure that criminals are put behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Sheriffs' Association. These men and women serve our constituents every day, and they rely on us to support them with necessary equipment and resources for essential personnel.

I thank my colleagues for protecting our citizens by voting "yes" on this important bill.

C.O.P.S IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 1700, The C.O.P.S Improvement Act. This legislation helps to put 50,000 more police officers on America's streets. This bill will add hundreds of new