

Greene, Jake Grubman, Ray Gu, Robbie Gustafson, Patrick Hamann, Ryan Hamilton, Jacob Hanson, Brad Heinz, Adam Herbert, Jordan Heyman, David Isaacson, Joshua Jackson, Rachel Jackson, Lauren Jensen, Ari Kasper, Ruth Kee, Courtney Kennedy, Jacob Klein, Julia Kohn, Noah Kraff, Noam Kupfer, Geno Kurolapnak, Jake Lapping, Alex Lazakis, Austin Lin, Tyler Litke, Thomas Lovinger, John Maigler, Lauren McCall, Michael McCall, Monte Monaco, Neal Muller, Brooke-Lynn Navarro, Ariel Olswanger, Lauren Olswanger, Aaron Parker, Ami Pekaj, Stacey Podovik, Kiran Pookote, Jonathan Prohov, John Reid Sidebotham, David Reiss, Nils Robbins, Ben Rose, Ari Ruffer, Maya Samuel, Matt Schuelke, Ayal Sharvit, Samara Silverman, Matt Skalski, Matthew Sloan, Sarah Smith, Karolina Strack, Ilana Strauss, Kathryn Swanson, Gideon Sylvan, Steve Tapas, Lindsey Taylor, Anne Tomsky, Sam Travers, Roxanne Tully, Maddi Vering, Robert Wald, Rachel Weiss, Lauren Whalley, John Yang, Gale Young, Dominique Young, Jonathan Youshaei, John Zender, and Michael Zucker.

Members of the United States Congress should take cues from all these students on how to work in a more bipartisan manner to accomplish the most pressing issues that face Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and invest in tomorrow's leaders.

RAYMOND G. MURPHY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for four bills that are before the House. H.R. 366, H.R. 2546, H.R. 2602, and S. 229 honor four Medal of Honor recipients who through their diligence and self-sacrifice protected the freedoms we hold dear today. As we move toward the Fourth of July recess, it is fitting that we pay tribute to these four men, two of whom were Native Americans.

H.R. 366 would pay honor to Ernest Childers by naming the VA Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, OK, the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic." A Creek Indian from Oklahoma, Ernest Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the Chilocco Indian School in north-central Oklahoma. He was deployed to Africa to fight in World War II, and retired from the Army in 1965 as a Lieutenant Colonel. During action in 1943 in Oliveto, Italy, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up a hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests and capturing an enemy mortar observer. His courageous action helped American troops win the battle and save the lives of American soldiers. Ernest Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

H.R. 2546 would honor the sacrifice of a Cherokee Indian from North Carolina, Private First Class Charles George, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country in

Korea. This legislation would name the VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center." Private First Class George displayed gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy, when enemy forces launched a grenade into his company and after calling out a warning to his comrades, he pushed one soldier out of danger, and with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. It is more than fitting that we name this VA facility in his honor.

H.R. 2602 would pay tribute to Oscar G. Johnson by naming the VA Medical Facility in Iron Mountain, MI, the "Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility." Another of our World War II heroes, U.S. Army Sergeant Oscar Johnson led his company to protect the left flank of an offensive to break the German's Gothic Line. Under heavy fire, most of his company were either killed or wounded. Yet Sergeant Johnson held the line, and continued to single-handedly hold the line from September 16–18, 1944. On September 17, 1944, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. He was sent two additional men to reinforce his position, but they were both injured and were removed to their rear. He remained on watch through the night, and when finally relieved of his post on September 18, 1944, 20 dead Germans were found in front of his position. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Johnson was in a large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.

The final bill under consideration is S. 229, which would honor Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy by naming the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, NM, the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center." Serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in Korea, Second Lieutenant Murphy had positioned his unit above the Imjin River facing the Chinese Communist troops. On February 3, 1953, American forces attacked the Chinese Communists who were dug into high ground. As the battle went on, sensing the operation was not being executed as planned, Lieutenant Murphy led his reserve platoon up the hill to find all the officers and noncoms of the two assault platoons dead or wounded and confusion among the troops. In the midst of machine gunfire, he ordered his men to find their comrades and evacuate the area. Jerry Murphy made several trips in the midst of heavy gunfire to rescue casualties. At one point, Jerry Murphy was helping lift a stretcher when he was hit in the back by fragments of an enemy grenade. He refused medical attention and continued to lead his men to rescue their wounded comrades, holding off the Chinese Communist troops with an automatic rifle until all the Marines were safe. Wounded a second time, Second Lieutenant Murphy continued to refuse treatment and provided cover for his troops, until all Marines were safe and accounted for. The House companion bill for S. 229 is H.R. 474, introduced by Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON.

The four men we pay tribute today served their country with honor, valor, and courage. The three Medal of Honor recipients who survived to return to the United States continued to serve their country in the military and in

public service. After his retirement from the military in 1965, Ernest Childers continued his public service as a leader among the Creek Nation, and spoke out against racism. Oscar Johnson continued to serve his country as the foreman of a National Guard vehicle maintenance shop in Lansing, MI, and served for 30 years with the National Guard. Raymond Murphy dedicated 20 years of his life helping veterans in New Mexico, serving as the Director of the Veterans Services Division of the Albuquerque, NM, VA Regional Office from 1974–1997. After his retirement from the VA, he continued to volunteer at the VA hospital in Albuquerque. As a final tribute to the veterans he cared for, upon his death this past April, Raymond Murphy requested to be buried in his VA Volunteer smock.

It is right and fitting that we pay tribute to these Medal of Honor recipients, who through their service to a grateful Nation, continue to provide inspiration, pride and encouragement for generations to come.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007. As Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, the committee that has original jurisdiction on matters that relate to Federal elections, I encourage this measure to prevent voter suppression.

Over the past 100 years, this body has passed legislation regarding the very sacred franchise, the right to vote, that has significantly increased participation of all Americans across the Nation. No longer is the right to vote only made available for white, male land owners. Women, African-Americans, young people and others have been guaranteed their right to vote through the Constitution and various landmark legislation.

Therefore, any attempt to prevent an eligible American from exercising this fundamental right should be met with swift protective action. During the last election cycle, just north of this House in Maryland, fliers were distributed in African-American communities which falsely stated that candidates had been endorsed by their opponent's party and by prominent African-American leaders. Distributing this type of misleading information and intimidating voters through nefarious tactics are direct threats to our democracy that must not be tolerated.

Attempts to knowingly communicate false election-related information, with the intent to prevent Americans from exercising their right to vote, will be met with fines and/or imprisonment. The House and the nation should remain committed to ensuring that all eligible Americans have a guarantee that they will be able to exercise their right to vote free from intimidation and false pretenses.

I stand in full support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007