

Army's 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Calvary Division, deployed from Fort Hood, Texas.

Specialist Marisol Heredia was from El Monte, California. She was born on September 16, 1987. She received a public school education and attended Mountain View High School, where she was a dedicated student who graduated half a year earlier than her class.

For love of country and out of admiration for her older sister who served in the U.S. military, Specialist Heredia joined the United States Army in July, 2005. Specialist Marisol Heredia was deployed last October to serve her first tour of duty in Iraq. On July 18, 2007 a vehicle she was fueling caught on fire in Baghdad, Iraq. She was evacuated to Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for treatment, but passed away on September 7, 2007 as a result of her injuries.

Specialist Heredia served this country with courage, pride and loyalty. She gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country and for that we will be forever grateful to her and her family. She was buried yesterday on what would have been her 20th birthday. My prayers and deepest sympathy go out to her family and friends.

She is survived by her 3 sisters, as well as her mother and stepfather who were deeply touched by her kind heart and gentle strength.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel

to Washington, DC for votes on September 10, 2007.

However, I would like the record to reflect that I would have recorded "yes" for that day's recorded votes. They included:

(1) H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and;

(2) H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EDWARD SMITH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a spiritual leader whose commitment to his congregation and to his church spans half of a century. Bishop Edward Smith, dedicated pastor of the Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrates his 50th anniversary in the ministry this year. A beacon for hope in times of sorrow and an inspiring figure in times of celebration, Bishop Smith has faithfully and prayerfully served the Denmark community. I congratulate Bishop Smith on this significant milestone in his ministry.

In the Book of Micah we find the question, "What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with

your God?" Bishop Smith has certainly answered with an adherence to that biblical admonition. He began his service in 1957. Bishop Joseph Williams appointed the then Elder Smith as the new pastor of Progressive Church following the resignation of Elder Collins. In accepting this challenge, Bishop Smith said, "The Lord saved me for service and if this is where I am to serve, here am I Lord use me." And so, with the Apostle Peter as his example, Bishop Smith sold his home in Columbia, South Carolina and went to Denmark to build a house for the Lord.

By fall 1959, Bishop Smith moved his church from Blackville, South Carolina to a storefront in Denmark, South Carolina, increasing his congregation from six to fifteen. With the power of faith, the force of hammers, and Bishop Smith as their guide, seven months of construction later, February 1963, there stood a new church on East Haynes Street.

Over the course of the 46 years that followed, he presided over an expansion that included a Progressive Child Development Center established in 1986, and the purchase of a sixteen acre track of land on Progressive Way, where Bishop Smith envisions a new K-12 school and efficiency apartments for the elderly. Today, the Progressive Church in Denmark attracts congregants from five neighboring counties.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop Edward Smith on his 50th Anniversary. Like his spiritual guide, Saint Peter, he has established a strong house for God. In addition, this vibrant and devoted civic leader has enriched the lives of many in Denmark, South Carolina. I commend his steadfastness on behalf of "the least of these" and I applaud Bishop Edward Smith for his half century of public service.