

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KATHARINE PHILLIPS SINGER, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to recognize a true Southern lady who, over the course of the past few weeks, has become a familiar face and distinctive voice throughout America, Mrs. Katharine Phillips Singer of Mobile, AL.

Her story, which is told in the Ken Burns' highly-acclaimed documentary, "The War," represents the significant sacrifices—and obvious concerns—of millions of American families whose loved ones were fighting the forces of evil during the Second World War.

Whether it was rationing food by cooking without essential ingredients, saving tin cans or purchasing war bonds, World War II was a time when all Americans were called upon to do their part to contribute to America's success.

Young Katharine was just a sophomore at Auburn University when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and her 17-year-old brother, Sidney Phillips, signed up for the Marines. Upon graduating in 1944, she returned to Mobile and began working in a day care center for shipyard workers' children. She volunteered at the Red Cross canteen at the railroad station and served coffee and donuts to the troops aboard trains as they passed through town. She also volunteered with the Red Cross motor pool and regularly drove officers around town.

At the end of the war, Katharine began working as a stewardess for Waterman Airlines. In 1947, she married Harvey Singer, a Waterman pilot and former WWII naval pilot. They lived in Ohio for many years and returned to Mobile in 1970. The mother of two daughters and the grandmother of four, Mrs. Singer runs her own antique linen business in Mobile.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mrs. Katharine Phillips Singer in "The War" provides us all with an appropriate time to pause and thank her and all of the concerned families who shared their loved ones with the world during this trying time.

Not only did she provide an intimate story of what it was like here at home during the war, but along the way she became a prominent storyteller for a documentary that I believe should be required watching in every school in America. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mrs. Katharine Phillips Singer for her love of family and love of country.

CORPORAL STEPHEN R. BIXLER
POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, from June 29 to August 1, 2007 I asked members of the Suffield, CT, community to share their opinion on changing the name of the local post office to honor Cpl Stephen R. Bixler. During that period, my office received over 170 letters, calls and e-mails in overwhelming support of the idea. The comments I received described a thoughtful and compassionate man who wanted nothing more than to serve his Nation and make a difference for his community, and I wanted to take a moment and share some excerpts with my colleagues.

"Being the very proud and saddened grandmother of Cpl Stephen R. Bixler, renaming the Suffield Post Office in his honor would be a special tribute, keeping his memory alive for all who knew, loved, and respected him. He gave his life to secure our freedom."—Cpl Bixler's grandmother.

"Stephen Bixler was a close friend of mine, in which I served with during Operation Iraqi Freedom with 3rd Battalion 8th Marines. During this period, Stephen showed what it meant to be a Marine through his hard work and dedication to the Marine Corps and in making the quality of living for the Iraqi people better. From when he was a Boy Scout, Stephen went out of his way to provide service to others. Being part of the Boy Scouts, Stephen was able to excel in all that he did leading him to earn Eagle Scout. Stephen decided to serve his country and protect others by joining the United States Marine Corps. In the Marine Corps, Stephen utilized his outstanding qualities of selflessness, determination, and dedication to the job at hand. Stephen strived to be the best at everything that he did. When 3rd Battalion 8th Marines returned state-side, Stephen volunteered to return with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion for a second tour of duty in Iraq. He successfully completed his first of many schools when 2nd Recon Battalion asked for volunteers to leave to go back to Iraq. Stephen jumped at the opportunity and did it courageously. Before Stephen left, he told me that he did not think that he would make it back this time. Stephen went to many schools in Suffield, CT, when he was home and loved to talk to the students about his experiences. Stephen went on the deployment and lost his life in Fallujah, Iraq doing what he loved.

During the time I knew Stephen, I saw that he was a courageous and selfless individual by his actions. He changed the life of everyone whom he came in contact with. His service in the Marine Corps and in Boy Scouts made a lasting impression on Suffield, Connecticut residents, and on to all those who knew him. Stephen's loss has deeply impacted his family and those who had the pleasure of voting for him."—A fellow marine who served with Cpl Bixler.

Stephen gave his life selflessly while serving his second tour of duty in Fallujah, Iraq

on May 4, 2006. Stephen served our country proudly knowing that the risk to himself was of the highest level and yet he went straight for the front lines. It is important to note that Stephen was given the Medal of Valor for his final act which saved the lives of his fellow marines traveling through a desperate area of the Al Anbar province. It was Stephen who noticed the danger along the route and who stopped his caravan to investigate and mitigate the danger.

Stephen was a valuable member of our community as a young person who was always willing to give of himself as a Boy Scout (Eagle Scout rank), a member of the St. Joseph's Church, and as a friend who was filling to volunteer to help whenever the opportunity arose.

Stephen's willingness to help his community was not limited to Suffield, CT. His devotion to the Marines was Stephen's way to serve our country on behalf of us all.

Just before he returned to Iraq for his second tour of duty, I asked Stephen why he felt he needed to return. His response was simple. He said that the Iraqi people needed his help. He told me that after a few days of the Marine presence in the small towns of the Anbar Province that children returned to play and that people were back at work in the shadow of security provided by Steve and his fellow marines. Steve was humble in his view of his profound work."—Friend of Cpl Bixler.

Stephen Bixler was a close friend to both my husband and I, whom my husband served with during Operation Iraqi III 04-06. I had the privilege of knowing Stephen outside the United States Marine Corps. Stephen was a hardworking, dedicated and thoughtful individual. He always thought of others before throwing himself into the mix. His family and friends always came first. He exemplified what it meant to be a great friend, a great Marine, and a great leader. I only know the stories from Iraq either from my husband or his brother. They talked nothing of greatness and leadership. Stephen knew what he was doing, loved what he was doing and was passionate about being a Marine. Stephen became like a brother to me. Staying at our house and helping my husband out when something needed to be fixed. He was never afraid to get his hands dirty. He always came with a smile and left with one. His attitude was always positive even on those tough days at work.

Knowing Stephen made me a better person today. There is not a day that goes by that I do not walk past the pictures we have hanging in his memory or a night that I fall asleep that I am not thinking of him. He was a loved individual with so much to offer. His loss will always leave a lasting impression not only in Suffield but everyone that he reached out to."—Friend of Cpl Bixler.

Stephen Bixler was a close friend of both my brother and I, whom my brother served with during Operation Iraqi Freedom III 04-06. I also had the privilege of serving with Stephen Bixler in Camp Fallujah during this deployment. During this period, Stephen exemplified what it meant to be a Marine and a citizen soldier through his hard work and dedication to helping to improve the standard of living for numerous Iraqi families." "During the short time that I knew Stephen,

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