

TRIBUTE TO MISSY THOMS AND  
JIM KAVARS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two heroic individuals from north Iowa for their swift and unselfish actions, which resulted in saving a man's life.

On Saturday, September 29, 2007, Eusebio "Joe" Garcia of Albert Lea, Minnesota, was driving on a highway in Mason City, Iowa, when he suffered a heart attack and lost control of his vehicle into the median.

Missy Thoms of Mason City and Jim Kavars of Clear Lake witnessed the vehicle in the median and quickly came to the scene to assist. Joe did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Missy and Jim conducted CPR until the paramedics arrived. Missy, a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Mason City, advised the paramedics that Joe needed an IV and to be defibrillated. With that helpful information and Missy and Jim's work, the paramedics revived Joe's breathing before they even had him in the ambulance.

Missy and Jim are great examples to use when teaching our children and grandchildren about the importance of helping thy neighbor.

I know that all of my colleagues join me in commending Missy Thoms and Jim Kavars and honoring them for their swift and unselfish actions which resulted in saving Joe Garcia's life. I am truly honored to represent both of these heroes in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 962, H.R. 2089—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
BERNADETTE PAVLISH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bernadette Pavlish, a devoted wife and loving mother, and I celebrate her dedication to her family and the community.

By all accounts, Bernadette simply lit up an entire room with her presence. Her smile became an instant source of comfort and joy for anyone who was lucky enough to cross paths with her. Bernadette was extremely generous with her time and talents; she never passed up an opportunity to help someone.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Bernadette Pavlish, who is

survived by her husband James, and her children Ursula, Vincent and Lavinia. Although she has passed, her spirit will continue to shine brightly and her memory will live on in all those blessed to have known her.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE  
OF AMERICA'S WATERWAY  
WATCH PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and I want to commend Mr. BILIRAKIS for drawing attention to this important program.

The attacks of 9/11 made every citizen mindful of the need for constant vigilance to protect our country from the threat of terrorism. Keeping America safe requires the efforts of every American.

The openness of our Nation's waterways and harbors prevents opportunities for terrorists to exploit. The U.S. Coast Guard works very hard to ensure the safety of these areas, and they do a tremendous job for which we are all very grateful.

However, recreational boaters also have an important role to play in this area, and America's Waterway Watch program works hard to teach recreational boaters about what they can do to protect our homeland. Boaters provide critical eyes and ears in watching over our coasts, our ports, and other important infrastructure like bridges and tunnels.

Specifically, participants in the campaign are requested to report: Individuals engaged in irregular activity such as surveillance or unusual boating operations; unattended vessels in strange locations; lights flashing between boats; unusual activity near bridges, overpasses, industrial facilities, or fuel docks.

In Michigan this program has been particularly important. My home state has over 3,000 miles of shoreline—more than any other state except Alaska—which presents an incredible challenge for our government agencies to patrol. And of course we share much of this water with Canada which enables people to come across into the United States very easily. And in some places this liquid border is quite narrow—such as the St. Clair or Detroit Rivers. So we really have to rely on our boaters to keep their eyes on things.

In Michigan, we have more than 900,000 boats registered in our state, which makes us the number 1 state for per capita boat ownership, and 3rd overall behind Florida and California. Boating is an important part of life in the Great Lakes State.

In 2005, state officials began a campaign to notify our state's boaters of this Waterway Watch program. Working with the Coast Guard and the Michigan Boating Industries Association, Michigan sent out a brochure on this program with each watercraft registration renewal notice. Since 2007 was the 3rd year this was done, we have now reached nearly all of our state's boaters with information about the Waterway Watch program.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this program, I strongly support the resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO AUGUST GLIEM

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize August Gliem of Ogden, Iowa, for his longtime service to the International Lions Club. Gus was recently awarded the 50-Year Monarch Milestone Chevron Award for his 50 years of service to the Lions Club, which began on July 1, 1957.

The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters.

Fifty years of service isn't slowing Gus down, and I am told that he is still very active in the Lions Club. I consider it an honor to serve Gus in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues will join me in recognizing and honoring Gus' dedication to his community and his commitment to the International Lions Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 963, H.R. 20—Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3056, TAX COLLECTION  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANGEL, for his work in bringing H.R. 3056 to the House floor. I have received feedback from Vermont citizens and members of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), both in Vermont and nationwide, strongly urging the repeal of the IRS authority to use private debt collectors. There has been much concern for this practice of using "private bounty hunters." National NTEU employees expressed deep concern for outsourcing of inherently governmental jobs.

In January, 2007, the National Taxpayer Advocate, who is appointed by the Treasury Secretary, sent a strong message to Congress urging repeal of this authority as a burden and cost to taxpayers. Taxpayers have faced overzealous intimidation and abuse by private collectors as well as the loss of privacy and confidential information. The Taxpayer Advocate reported to Congress that "the money spent on the IRS Private Debt Collection initiative is