

was chosen as "Best TV Anchor in Las Vegas" by the readers of the Las Vegas Review-Journal six different times, and along with Gary Waddell, received the Best Anchor Team Award in the Women in Communications Electronic Media Awards. She also was inducted into the KLAS-TV Hall of Fame in July 2000.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Paula Francis. Her contributions to KLAS-TV and to Southern Nevada are admirable. I applaud her commitment to Southern Nevada and I thank her for her time and support to our community.

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY 2007

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the veterans who have served so bravely in defense of our freedoms to say thank you for your service. November 11, 1918 marked the day major hostilities during World War I ended, and was subsequently adopted as Veterans Day in the United States. This day now gives us an opportunity to reflect on the many sacrifices made by the Armed Forces throughout our history. As members of Congress continue to address the needs of today's soldiers and veterans, I share these thoughts in honor of those who have fought and died for our country.

Earlier this year, I made my third trip to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where I met with our brave service members who were injured while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Repeatedly, I see the severity of these injuries and I know that properly caring for our returning soldiers demands far more funding than what has been allocated by previous Congresses. Since the beginning of our military engagements in the Middle East, health care for returning service members and veterans has been wholly unsatisfactory.

Under the strong leadership of Democrats, we have begun the process of providing the necessary funding to adequately address the needs of our soldiers and veterans. In May, Congress provided \$5 billion for the health care needs of soldiers returning from the Middle East, including \$1.8 billion for veterans enrolled in VA health care programs. This funding will ensure the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration both have the resources to provide timely and efficient case management services, especially for the young men and women who served in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In March, I supported legislation limiting the number of cases assigned to a physical evaluation officer, in order to ensure the utmost attention to soldiers' needs. This proposal would also encourage accountability by establishing a toll-free number for families to report deficiencies in military medical facilities.

As nearly one in three soldiers admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center presents with traumatic brain injuries (TBI), we will continue to target investments to respond to these most debilitating injuries. I am pleased Congress provided \$900 million specifically for TBI treatment and services to soldiers. Additionally, this year the Senate has proposed \$10 million for the TBI Program, to improve serv-

ices for soldiers' families. I also supported legislation that would establish four VA facilities solely dedicated to rehabilitating and tracking the progress of soldiers with TBI. In honor of the brave men and women who suffer these injuries, I will continue to advocate for increased funding throughout the appropriations process for fiscal year 2008.

Congress must also continue to take a hard look at the current rating systems for disabled veterans, which many have described as disparate, unfair and outdated. Earlier this year, Lt. General James Terry Scott, chair of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC), expressed concern that the status quo is not meeting the needs of veterans and returning soldiers. The VDBC, and the Dole-Shalala Commission formed by President Bush this year in response to the deplorable conditions at the Walter Reed Annex, both agree that the dual-disability rating system through the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense needs a permanent fix. With the commissions' detailed recommendations in mind, I will work diligently to ensure a system that equitably compensates soldiers with service-connected disabilities, while reducing the red tape that so often compromises the ability for veterans to receive care.

As a representative to the United States Congress for nearly six years now, I have worked tirelessly to represent the interests of the active duty and retired military who call the 13th District home. On this Veterans Day, let us remember our family, friends and neighbors who have proudly worn the uniform. We are forever grateful for their service and we will continue to work persistently to ensure our nation's veterans will want for nothing.

TRIBUTE TO GUNNERY SERGEANT  
ANGEL BARCENAS, U.S. MARINE  
CORPS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, the poem below was written by poet and Capitol guide Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Angel Barcenas from Paramount, California. Gunnery Sgt. Barcenas admirably served our great nation on Marine One during the Clinton and Bush Administrations. In July 2006, he was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq and had both of his legs amputated below the knee. He started walking again 3 months after his attack, crediting the professionals at Walter Reed for his quick recovery. In May 2007, fighting all odds, he led a two-mile motivational run through lower Manhattan with the Marine Corps, and New York firefighters and police. Gunnery Sgt. Barcenas is an American hero whose unwavering sense of duty and dedication should be an example for all Americans. I proudly submit the following into the RECORD.

MARINE ONE

Marine One,  
America's Son, . . . A Most Heroic One!  
Who so bravely marched off to war, . . . to  
do what had to be done!  
Terminating Evil . . . as have all of our fine  
heroes, long as time begun!

Lock and Load,  
A True American Hero, Who So Lives By A  
Code . . .  
A Marine's, Marine . . . a presence, a force  
upon the scene . . . who'll make hearts  
explode . . .  
So Very Bold!

From That Great Golden State,  
As A Hero's Hero . . . our Lord God, would so  
create!

Strength In Honor, In awe at what we saw  
. . . as we so watch you rebuild, with  
but your new gait!

I've got a life to live, for this Angel . . .  
Heaven can wait!

Serving, Two Presidents . . .  
Aboard Marine One, as has been your most  
honored residence . . .

Bringing home a Hero, who gave his fine legs  
. . . as you too would live that same  
page . . .

And still your courage weights, and has been  
getting greater by the day!

Building, from where none lies left . . .  
Rising up from the ashes, for no one will  
take your dreams . . . for you are,  
America's Best!

As into a future, this our world . . . as an  
Earth Angel, you shall bless . . .

On the ready, my fine son . . . you never  
rest!

As An Angel, here on earth . . . until, on the  
scene as an Angel in The Angel of Our  
Lord you burst!

Teaching us all, about your fine character  
and courage first . . . and of a human  
being's true fine worth!

Our True Fine Sum, Thy Kingdom Will Come  
. . . Someday, when you leave this  
earth.

Someday, you shall shine . . . in our Lord's  
Sun!

Until then! Standing Guard, Standing  
Strong, Standing Hard . . . for That's  
Who You Are!

That's What You Do . . . So Tried And True  
. . . As Angel, Your Heart Takes Your  
Far!

Walking like Travolta, no walks like you!  
Running fast and far . . . A Force, A  
Shining Star

On the road of life, where it all begins and  
ends . . .

Is the Greatest of all forces, which so burns  
bright until times end . . . is but, The  
Heart Which sends . . .

As Angel, yours so emanates . . . from deep  
down within, your soul is one of great-  
ness . . . my fine friend!

For you are my Son, A Marine's Marine . . .  
You Are . . . Marine One!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY-ELLEN  
MCMULLEN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary-Ellen McMullen who has been bestowed the honor of Nevada Alumni Association Alumna of the Year from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Mrs. McMullen has a history as a longtime Nevadan, moving to Reno at the age of 13 with her family. She was immediately exposed to the University of Nevada as her father began his tenure as the dean of the College of Education.

Mary-Ellen was a student in the College of Education majoring in English with a minor in