

She also played a key role in developing the Take the Wheel Program, which focused all of the organization's resources and programs into Harris County because it had the highest number of drunk driving deaths in Texas. By partnering with law enforcement, businesses, government, community and religious leaders, the program seeks to save lives by encouraging personal responsibility in the use of alcohol and educating the public about the dangers of drunk driving.

On Dec. 13, 2007, Linda passed away unexpectedly. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion and exceptional service. On Dec. 19, 2007, friends and family will gather to celebrate the remarkable life of this extraordinary community servant. The State of Texas and our Nation owes much to Linda Kitazaki for making our streets and highways safer.

And that's just the way it is.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, due to medical reasons I missed a suspension vote and the vote on the motion to postpone consideration of the veto message for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 1154 and "aye" on rollcall No. 1155.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to personal medical reasons, I was unable to vote during the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 1163: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1164: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1165: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1166: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1167: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1168: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1169: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1170: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1171: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1172: "yea."  
Rollcall No. 1173: "yea."

#### ALL ALONG HIS WATCHTOWER

### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to present the following poem entitled All Along His Watchtower, which was written by Mr. Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Brent Hendricks, of the 172nd Striker Brigade from Forest City, North Carolina. Mr. Hendricks lost his leg when an IED blew up his humvee.

Bump, bump bump bump bump . . .  
Bump, bump bump bump bump . . . bump,  
bump bump bump bump . . .  
Whether, upon football fields of green . . . or  
on so Heroic Battlefields of Honor Seen  
. . .  
All Along His Watchtower, "They could get  
no relief" . . .  
Striking Hard, Striking Fast!  
A bold heart, That is his motto, That is his  
path!  
Dying twice, when . . . The Dark Riders in  
the distance, they began to approach  
. . .  
When Brent, began to howl . . . "I'm not  
ready now!"  
The Nort Catolacki Kid,  
6'9" . . . built for power and speed . . . 9  
sacks in one football game . . . a man  
who would not heed!  
Until, on battlefields of horror he would  
bleed . . . In The Real Game of Life, all  
for our Country 'Tis a Thee!  
Giving up his fine leg, as he did . . .

Brent Hendrick, an Army Man . . .  
A Real American Hero, who before us now  
stands . . .  
Strength In Honor, who respects so com-  
mands . . . cheating death, as towards  
evil he ran . . .  
Into that dark valley of death, for our nation  
to so bless . . . Striking Hard, Striking  
fast . . . all in death's path!  
But, when you're 6'9" . . . and have a 17½  
shoe . . .  
You can kick some glutenous maximus too!  
Now isn't that true! As this patriot's  
heart comes into view!  
Could we, would we . . . ever such magnifi-  
cence find so too?

All ready, operations . . . he's had 65!  
But, this Heroes Heart . . . will not wilt, will  
not die!  
Like Arnold, he'll be back . . . Back . . .  
Back . . . Back in Iraq . . . with his  
brothers in arms . . . or he'll resign!  
And The Wind Cries Hero!  
Do Do Do Do . . .

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation for this soldier's dedication to the United States Armed Forces and to this Nation. His service and sacrifice is a shining example of the quality of men and women who serve this great Nation at home and abroad.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND THE CHRIS- TIAN FAITH

SPEECH OF

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for her support and help in getting this important measure to the House floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to address the House today to discuss the importance and relevance of Christmas, the Christian holiday celebrating the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

As this resolution notes, there are approximately 225 million Christians in the United States, making Christianity the religion of over three-fourths of the American population. Beyond that, there are approximately 2 billion

Christians throughout the world, making Christianity the largest religion in the world and the religion of about one-third of the world population.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, in recent decades there have been some who have undertaken efforts to diminish the significance of this great religion, and these efforts are no more apparent than during this time of Christmas.

It is not hard to look out over this great country of ours and find those who, for one reason or another, have engaged in a highly-politicized and highly-publicized crusade to rid the public square of any reference to the religious underpinnings of the Christmas holiday. These are individuals who have subscribed to a radical interpretation of our Constitution's free exercise and establishment clauses and have sought to impose their secular views and beliefs on the nation as a whole.

In many respects, it is this ongoing effort to bring about the secularization of Christmas—and all of our everyday lives for that matter—that motivated me to bring this resolution before the House today.

Regardless of how others may define it, Mr. Speaker, Christmas is a religious holiday. It is the day on which Christians—those who identify themselves as believers in the salvation from sin offered to them through the death and resurrection of their savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and who, out of gratitude for the gift of salvation, commit themselves to living their lives in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Bible—celebrate the birth of their savior. For Christians, the birth of Jesus is cause for great celebration. As the Son of God, Jesus was sent to earth, by our Heavenly Father, to become a human being, live a sinless life, be crucified on a cross for our sins, and rise from the dead three days later. The purpose of this, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, was to save sinners from eternal death—the price to be paid for their sin.

And so, Mr. Speaker, the birth of Christ, as celebrated by Christians on Christmas is a truly important and significant day because it is celebrated as a recognition of God's redemption, mercy and Grace.

The importance of Christmas, however, does not end with the tenets of Christianity. Because Christmas is one of the most important holidays on the Christian calendar, I believe that its annual passage should serve as an opportunity for all Americans, Christian or not, religious or not, to recognize the important role played by Christianity in the formation of our nation and in the founding of our civilization.

It is no coincidence, Mr. Speaker, that court-houses throughout this country proudly display the Ten Commandments. It is no accident that, in this very chamber, it is the face of Moses, the human author of those divinely dictated commandments, that looks down upon you, keeping close watch on all that transpires in this chamber. Mr. Speaker the framework of our laws and the fabric of our society is heavily dependent upon the maxims of Christianity, and I believe that as we Christians begin our annual celebration of the birth of our savior, the one from whom Christianity derives its name, it is wholly appropriate for us, as a nation and as members of this House, to take the time to acknowledge the contributions that the Christian religion has made to our country and our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all can agree that virtually any American, whether Christian,