

Private First Class Miller, also known as P.J., was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas. He was deployed in Iraq since September 2007 and was fatally wounded when his unit came up against an IED attack and small arms fire during combat operations in Baghdad.

Although I did not have the privilege of knowing this courageous young man, by all accounts he was someone who lived every day with the same honor and integrity that he brought to the service of his country.

Prior to joining the Army, P.J. graduated from Mitchell High School in New Port Richey. While there, he excelled both in academics and athletics. These traits would serve him well later in life in both college and as a soldier in the U.S. Army. P.J. eventually earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of South Florida and aspired to one day further his education in graduate school.

Private First Class Miller's life was one of courage, perseverance and determination. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect us and the country he loved. This is a debt that can never be repaid to his family and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of P.J. and grieve for his family. May God bless them and comfort them in this time of great loss. May God also bless this great country for which Private First Class Miller so nobly fought and died. We shall never forget him.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATALIA,
TEXAS AND THE 20TH ANNUAL
BLUEBONNET FESTIVAL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Natalia, Texas and the 20th Annual Bluebonnet Festival, to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008. The Bluebonnet Festival has grown into a homecoming for former residents and others who wish to celebrate the incorporation of Natalia, Texas.

Natalia was founded in 1912 by Dr. Frederick Stark Pearson who named the town in honor of his daughter, Natalia Pearson Nicholson. Dr. Pearson was the engineer, designer and builder of the Medina Dam, and Natalia was established as the headquarters for the irrigation district. Destined to be the "Queen City of the Southwest," Natalia was quickly built with macadamized streets, electric power and water works. Today Natalia continues to be home to the seat of the irrigation district, now known as the Bexar, Medina, Atascosa Water District (BMA). BMA owns and operates Medina Dam, Medina Lake and the entire canal system, furnishing water for 35,000 acres of land year-round for vegetable crops, grain and hay.

Though established by Dr. Pearson, Natalia was not incorporated as a city until March 2, 1968. In January of that year, a group of 50 citizens petitioned Medina County to incorporate as a municipality using a City Council form of government. A vote was held on the 2nd of March and by a tally of 116 to 50, Natalia, Texas was incorporated. Just a few weeks later the first elections for Mayor, Alder-

man and City Marshall were held. During the 40 years of the City of Natalia's existence, the goal of its elected officials has always been to offer a better quality of life for its citizens. Natalia continues to retain its small-town charm while also constantly preparing for the future.

There is perhaps no better way to celebrate Natalia's anniversary than with the Texas Bluebonnets. The flower blooms in early spring across fields and roadsides in central and south Texas. Aptly named for its vibrant color and shape, the Bluebonnet's petal is often said to resemble a woman's sunbonnet. Though especially prevalent in towns like Natalia, the Bluebonnet has come to symbolize the entire State of Texas and it was chosen as its state flower in 1901. The annual Bluebonnet Festival celebrates not only the anniversary of Natalia, but also the wild beauty that we have come to associate with the Bluebonnet and the untamed landscape of West Texas.

As they celebrate 40 years of city incorporation, I congratulate all current and past residents of Natalia, Texas for working to achieve the dream of Dr. Pearson of being the "Queen City of the Southwest."

CHRISTINE SHEHAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christine Shehan who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Christine Shehan is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christine Shehan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Christine Shehan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT E.
DOGGETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Robert E. Doggett, and to honor a life spent in service to his country, his community, and his family.

As a young man, Mr. DOGGETT served our country bravely during World War II, earning a Purple Heart of Honor for his service in the first African-American army combat unit in the South Pacific Theatre. After returning stateside

from his service, he followed his parents to Cleveland to put down roots in Northeast Ohio in the late 1940's. An artist at heart and by trade, he first utilized his artistic talents by designing calendars for local businesses. He later began work with the City planning commission as a draftsman in 1951, work which would mark the beginning of a career-long commitment to the City of Cleveland and the residents of Northeast Ohio. During his twenty years at the City planning commission, he became the city's first African-American senior planner. His integrity and work ethic carried him up the ranks quickly when in 1972, Mayor Ralph Perk appointed Mr. Doggett as the Cleveland director of the federal community redevelopment Model Cities Initiative, a program dedicated to rebuild Cleveland's East Side. To top off his career of civic service, Robert is responsible for the architectural designs of more than thirty churches, office buildings and restaurants.

Recognized for his talents as a great abstract and landscape artist by his friends and family, he was also a known jazz aficionado and has met Jazz greats Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton who both performed regularly in the Cleveland area. Mr. Doggett is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Georgia; his children Lisa, Enid and Steven; and one granddaughter. He will be affectionately remembered by his family and friends for his compassion, humor, intelligence and artistic talents.

Madam speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Robert E. Doggett, and to honor his commitment to his country, community, and family. May his exemplary life serve as an example for us all to follow.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RHUDEL A.
GEORGE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize a man from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, who is being celebrated as a "selfless humanitarian." Mr. Rhudel A. George is well known in our community as a tireless government worker, an advocate for the small businessman, a teacher and a political organizer. As a friend and supporter that I can always count on, Rhudel is exemplary. We are all encouraged by his work as president of Concerned Virgin Islanders, an advocacy group that is determined to both preserve and invigorate the cultural touchstones that make the Virgin Islands special.

He grew up in the Down Street area of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and graduated in 1956 from the Charlotte Amalie High School (CAMS). He relocated to New York City where he joined the army in 1957 and served honorably for two years, leaving with a rank of Specialist 4th Class. Upon returning to the territory in 1959, he worked in both the private and public sector, while at the same time pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management at the University of the Virgin Islands in 1975. In 1975, he began to work for the V.I. Small Business Development Agency, first as a Field Investigator, and later as a Loan Officer. He was appointed Deputy Director of the