

Constable's Office in Houston, Texas. His attitude as a deputy was to enforce the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law. Chief Shiflet's personality and professionalism earned him respect from both those he worked with and with those he arrested. He inspired many young deputies to strive for excellence and they credit his leadership as the reason for their professional success.

His boss and close friend, Constable Ron Hickman, described Chief Shiflet as being a part of the backbone of the organization. "Chief Shiflet's keen sense of community involvement, understanding of law enforcement responsibility, leadership skills, wisdom and experience have made him an indispensable part of our organization," said Hickman. "His fair, but firm hand has provided a stalwart position that many of us have looked to for resolution during difficult times. I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Larry for 25 years and count him among my best friends."

Hickman also described Chief Shiflet as a man that is fully aware of the real dangers of police work, but at the same time is deathly afraid of snakes. Even after working for years along the Texas border for the railroad police, Hickman said that Chief Shiflet is still very likely to shoot somebody to get out of the way of a snake.

Along the way during his career in the Constable's office, Chief Shiflet met his wife Cynthia Calvert when he worked in Atascocita. She was the editor of a local newspaper at the time and called him to ask about the violent crime wave of bicycle thefts in Kingwood. Chief Shiflet suggested that it would be best to discuss the bike thefts over a cup of coffee. That face to face meeting request was the beginning of a relationship that later led to their marriage.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Chief Shiflet had a brief stint as an unofficial U.S. Ambassador to Ireland during a family vacation. At every pub his family stopped at for a meal and a drink, Chief Shiflet would have to defend America and President George W. Bush's foreign policies. As soon as the natives heard the warm, southern drawl in Chief Shiflet's voice, they knew he was from Texas and would launch into anti-American foreign policy tirades.

Chief Shiflet patiently, respectfully and eloquently explained that they were wrong and America was right. As only a true American patriot would, Chief Shiflet spent his entire family vacation defending America and our President from Irish criticism.

Ironically, even though he has spent 50 years in public service through the military and law enforcement, Chief Shiflet started his working career in the newspaper business and it looks like he will end it with newspapers. When he was 10 years old he delivered newspapers by hand from his bike for an old city paper called the Houston Press. In 2007, he and his wife started a community newspaper company called the Tribune newspapers. Instead of delivering papers on a bicycle, he will soon be delivering issues of the Tribune from his red Corvette.

As Chief Shiflet retires today from the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office, I am honored to recognize his lifetime of law enforcement service. For 46 years, he has put on a badge and a gun to protect and serve the people and communities that he loves. As

he hangs up his gun for the last time today and turns in his badge, he can ride off into the sunset in his Corvette knowing that he is loved, respected and appreciated by so many.

Happy Trails to you, Chief Shiflet. Thank you for a job well done and for all your hard work to make our Texas neighborhoods safer. And that's just the way it is.

---

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT  
MATTHEW RYAN VANDEGRIFT

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and Marine from my district, First Lieutenant Matthew Ryan Vandegrift, of Littleton, Colorado. First Lieutenant Vandegrift was killed while conducting combat operations in Basra, Iraq, just four days after celebrating his 28th birthday.

First Lieutenant Vandegrift, stationed in Iraq since August 2007, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, NC. Matthew was part of a team responsible for training Iraqi security forces. Through his service, Matthew played a critical role in establishing Iraqi sovereignty by preparing Iraqi security outfits with the knowledge and expertise necessary to survive as a free and independent democracy.

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, First Lieutenant Vandegrift found his home in Colorado, when his family moved while Matthew was studying international business at Texas A&M University. While at Texas A&M, Matthew maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and participated in the Midshipmen Battalion NROTC program. Following graduation, Matthew returned to Littleton, when in 2005 he courageously decided to continue the Vandegrift family tradition of serving America, by joining the United States Marine Corps.

First Lieutenant Vandegrift fought to protect and preserve the freedom and democracy that we as Americans enjoy. First Lieutenant Vandegrift exemplified what it is to be an American, and he will forever be remembered for his sacrifice and patriotism.

Madam Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to Matthew's family and friends. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

---

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHARLIE"  
NILES

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness to note the recent passing of a constituent, Mr. Charles "Charlie" Niles, a resident of Plattsburgh, New York, who died at the age of 85 on April 2, 2008.

I greatly appreciate the service Charlie provided to our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army during World War II and for his 33 years of service as a part-time immigration inspector

at the Port of Champlain in Champlain, New York. In addition to that service, Charlie also served the community of Champlain, New York. Specifically, he taught English at Northeastern Clinton Central School. Charlie retired in 1988 and was a member of the New York State Retired Teacher's Association. I am advised that he made Shakespeare, Steinbeck, and other classics come alive for his students while teaching them to speak and write the "King's English."

Accordingly, I now wish to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife of 62 years Elizabeth L. Niles, sons Charles A. Niles, Jr. and John Niles, daughter Marilyn Donohue and grandchildren Adam C. Niles, Jennifer L. Niles, Ryan J. Donohue, and Timothy B. Donohue.

---

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GREGORY  
HENRY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Gregory Henry, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state-level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year award, Gregory moved onto the state-level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Gregory was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. He volunteers with the Smyrna Police Department and plans to become a Citizen Auxiliary Policeman, being the youngest member of the department. At the awards ceremony, Gregory was honored with the Best Essay Award.

Once again, I would like to commend Gregory Henry for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year and winning the Best Essay Award.