

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
MAJOR KEVIN M. JENRETTE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to recognize the life of a heroic American citizen, Major Kevin M. Jenrette.

Major Jenrette, of Lula, Georgia, died in Afghanistan on June 4, 2009, of injuries sustained when an IED detonated near his military vehicle followed by small arms fire. He is survived by his wife and children in Lula and his parents in Auburn, Alabama.

Like all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in this conflict, words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Major Jenrette died serving the United States and the entire cause of liberty, on a mission to bring stability to a troubled region and liberty to a formerly oppressed people. He was a true patriot indeed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
HOME LOAN REFINANCE OPPOR-
TUNITY ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act of 2009. This bipartisan legislation improves the federal Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB) program to allow eligible states to use tax-free bond proceeds to refinance the home mortgages of our military veterans.

This legislation is necessary during our troubled economic times. QVMB home loan financing was not available to newly discharged veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan until passage of the Heroes Earning Assistance Relief Tax Act of 2008 (H.R. 6081) in the 110th Congress.

Prior to 2008, some veterans may have taken out adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM) to

purchase a home during the real estate boom earlier in the decade. It is only fair to them that they have the same opportunity as newly discharged veterans to take advantage of the low-interest, fixed rate mortgages available through QVMB financing.

For some veterans with a costly ARM or interest-only mortgage, this legislation could prevent a foreclosure.

Finally, Madam Speaker, this legislation includes an inflation index to ensure the QVMB veterans home loan program remains viable in the future.

I urge passage of the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act.

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to add my voice to the millions across the nation to honor Memorial Day and the bravery and sacrifices of our troops and veterans—especially the men and women who have paid the ultimate price for defending our freedom. Since the founding of our nation, the members of our armed forces have been charged with defending liberty, a job that they carry out with honor and distinction every day.

Without concern for their own safety, they have stormed the beaches of Normandy and Okinawa. They have protected the people of Seoul and held Saigon against the Tet offensive. And today, they valiantly serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know firsthand of these ongoing sacrifices. As a member of the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I participate daily in meetings and hearings where I am reminded of their tireless efforts, devotion and dedication to our nation. I was fortunate to witness their professionalism and extraordinary service on the front lines during a recent visit to Iraq and Afghanistan over the Memorial Day recess. Talking with soldiers from my home district was especially moving as it served to remind me of the uncommon courage and dedication that can come from small towns and local communities all across America. I want to say a special thank you to those soldiers I met with in Iraq and Afghanistan for their tireless service.

On Memorial Day, we pause to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the good of their country. We remember the courage and dedication of soldiers who served on a distant battlefield knowing that they may not make it back home. For this reason, I sup-

port several legislative proposals to honor our men and women in uniform, such as measures to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA affairs, recognize the hard work of our NCOs and support the families of U.S. servicemembers.

Setting aside Memorial Day as a time for the nation to remember our fallen service members is crucial, but we must remember and honor our troops who put their lives on the line not once a year, but every single day, so that we may continue to enjoy the freedom and liberty that make our country great. For that, we are eternally indebted to them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGH
QUALITY TEACHERS ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation encouraging teacher development in the schools that are in need of quality instructors.

Several years ago, we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, with the goals of closing the achievement gap and improving academic performance overall. Schools have since found some success, but I believe we need to make a number of changes to NCLB to make it more supportive for educators.

Madam Speaker, our teachers are crucial to our educational system. It is teachers who connect with our children and inspire them to achieve.

I am introducing the High Quality Teaching Act of 2009 to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers in struggling or at-risk schools.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes federal grant funding for schools to invite the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, NBPTS, to implement its Targeted High Need Initiative, THNI. The NBPTS trains teachers to become professionally certified.

This legislation targets funding to the schools the most in need of quality teaching, such as those falling into Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind or those with high student populations from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support professional teacher development in the schools that could benefit from the best possible instruction.