

has been awarded an honorary Doctorate of Sacred Literature from Logos Christian College and an honorary Doctorate of Christian Counseling by Rhema University.

His tenure at Editorial Vida saw into fruition the Spanish language version of several important Christian texts, the most notable of which is *La Biblia Nueva Version Internacional*. Dr. Fernandez also organized the translation and publication of Rick Warren's *A Purpose Driven Life*.

He was also recognized as one of the ten best executives for his leadership at Editorial Vida in 2007. The great success that Dr. Esteban Fernandez has achieved is a result of his passionate devotion to his field and faith and I am truly grateful to call him a friend.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOHN
FINN ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor I rise today to pay tribute to United States Navy veteran Lieutenant John Finn on his 100th birthday. Lt. Finn is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. His actions in combat and life reflect bravery and courage of the highest level and I am proud to bring recognition to his accomplishments.

John Finn was born in Los Angeles, California on July 23, 1909, and at the age of 17, with the permission of his mother, he enlisted in the United States Navy. His Navy career started aboard American gunboats patrolling the rivers of Inland China, and in 1940 he was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Kaneohe Bay in Oahu. On December 7, 1941 came the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, and it was this event that presented Lt. Finn with an opportunity to display his extraordinary valor.

As the first attack on the harbor began, Lt. Finn managed to secure and man a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on an instruction stand on a completely exposed section of a parking ramp under intense enemy fire. Lt. Finn, with no regard for his own safety, vigorously fired upon Japanese aircraft with success. Although he was hit many times by enemy strafing fire, Lt. Finn refused to leave his post until the attack ended. It was only under a direct order that he left for the hospital to treat his 21 shrapnel and bullet wounds. However, after receiving medical attention, and despite a great deal of pain and difficulty moving, he returned to repair and rearm returning planes.

John Finn served through the rest of World War II with great distinction and retired from the United States Navy in 1956. He and wife Alice retired to their ranch in Southern California where he continues to live today.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Finn holds the Purple Heart, Navy Unit Commendation, Good Conduct with 2 bars, Yangtze Service Medal, American Defense, American Campaign, Pacific Campaign, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Madam Speaker, John Finn has never seen himself as a hero, but that's what he is; as his Medal of Honor inscription reads, John Finn

truly went above and beyond the call of duty. It was his tenacity and zeal that embodied the American resolve that set the tone for the rest of the war. Men and women like John Finn are responsible for the success of our Armed Forces. To John Finn, we are forever grateful for your heroism and service. You are truly a great American hero.

CONDEMNING SHOOTING AT U.S.
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when a crazed and racist gunman takes the life of an innocent museum guard there are no words to fully convey both our shock and sorrow. But disgust with this act of violence and great sympathy for the loved ones of Stephen Johns are nonetheless our nation's response to yesterday's senseless and ugly act of violence. While we cannot undo the despicable crime of a racist murderer, I want to express my deep condolences to the family and friends of Stephen Johns, the 39-year-old guard who gave his life in the line of duty at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum this past Wednesday.

The shots of an anti-Semitic gunman have tragically ended the life of Mr. Johns, but no gunman can silence the truth of history enshrined in the Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, D.C. When Stephen Johns lost his life to the bullet of an anti-Semite on Wednesday he was joining the hallowed ranks of those before him who stood in the way of hatred and violence against Jews.

This nation will never tolerate the violence and hatred of anti-Semitism and we will preserve the memory of people like Stephen Johns who refused to give an inch to the forces of hatred. We must never allow the sort of racist misinformation and twisted, violent lies that apparently led a gunman down a violent path to gain credence here in America. I pray that this criminal is swiftly brought to justice for this senseless act.

Mr. Johns' fellow museum guards who prevented this tragedy from turning into an even deadlier event also deserve great praise. Their skill, bravery and professionalism no doubt saved lives during yesterday's shooting. My hope is that thanks to their bravery and the dedicated work of the many employees and volunteers at the Holocaust Museum that many millions of Americans will continue to be exposed to the story of the Holocaust. One gunman cannot stop the educational mission of this museum to ensure that acts of genocide like the Holocaust do not happen again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that on June 11, 2009, I was attending the funeral of my father-in-law who recently passed away, and I therefore missed the six rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 329, on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 330, on H.R. 1687, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, SW, Canton, OH, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote number 331, the Ros-Lehtinen substitute amendment to H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote number 332, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Act of 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 333, final passage of H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Act of 2009.

Lastly, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote number 334, on H. Res. 529, condemning the violent attack on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10, 2009, and honoring the bravery and dedication of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum employees and security personnel.

HAPPY 234TH BIRTHDAY, U.S.
ARMY

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 234th birthday of the United States Army. As the oldest branch of the U.S. military, the United States Army has established the tradition of duty, honor and country that has been the standard of excellence, not only in the military but also in private industry.

Two hundred and thirty-four years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our Nation. From the Revolutionary War to our current challenges, Global War on Terror, our soldiers remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 234th birthday commemorates America's Army—soldiers, families and civilians—who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong both here and abroad. Their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is without a doubt, the strength of our Nation.

Additionally, in recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, the Secretary of the Army established 2009 as Year of the Non Commissioned Officer, NCO.

Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of life as an NCO are exemplified by acts of courage and a dedication and a willingness to do whatever it