

IN RECOGNITION OF IRAQI
KURDISH ELECTION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, July 25th Iraqi Kurds went to the polls to elect a new Parliament. The election was a success garnering nearly 80 percent participation from eligible voters. This was an important benchmark for the people of Iraq's Kurdistan Region as they continue to build a democracy both in their own region and Iraq as a whole.

Congratulations to the people of the Kurdish Region for their courage and determination to promote democracy within a federated Iraq.

I commend and congratulate Kurdish regional President Massoud Barzani on his reelection. President Barzani's leadership will be vital as the local Kurdish population works with their fellow countrymen in Baghdad to resolve certain outstanding issues including oil production and revenue-sharing as well as territory disputes.

Moving forward, I know that the people of Iraqi Kurdistan will work together with the United States to bring peace and prosperity to that region and to the nation of Iraq.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SAM SCHLOSS
LODGE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Sam Schloss Lodge of B'nai B'rith in Memphis, Tennessee.

Sam Schloss Lodge is one of the oldest B'nai B'rith lodges in the country and has the largest membership of any original Lodge. B'nai B'rith's mission is to engage in community service and promote Jewish rights.

The lodge is involved in multiple service organizations in the Memphis area, including the Harwood Center for Developmentally Delayed Children and the Jewish Family Service of Memphis. The Lodge's most successful service project is the "Care Bear" project, which collects stuffed animals from the community and distributes them to abused and neglected children.

I want to congratulate all of the members of the Sam Schloss Lodge, including President Leon Hellman for this tremendous milestone.

JARED MONTI: AMERICAN HERO

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, one of the saddest and most important parts of our job is to attend funerals for the extraordinary young men and women of our districts who have lost their lives in the

service of our country. A few years ago I attended such a funeral in the town of Raynham, Massachusetts, where I heard about a particularly impressive young man, Sgt. Jared C. Monti—of the U.S. Army, who died in Afghanistan in a valiant effort to save his comrades. I was struck then by the impact this young man had had on virtually everyone who knew him, and the magnitude of our loss as a community was clear. Last week we learned that he has been awarded the Medal of Honor for the bravery of this effort to save others.

Madam Speaker, to his family and others who loved and were warmed by this young man, the conferring of this award is, as his father said, "very, very bittersweet." They relive now the pain they felt when they learned of his death, but they now have the knowledge that I hope will be comforting at some level at some point that the rest of the world now knows what a wonderful man he was, and the pride they felt in his accomplishments now become a matter in which our whole country takes pride.

Madam Speaker, to the family and friends of Jared Monti, I again extend my deepest condolences, and to his memory I extend the salute that is the least we as a grateful nation can do for a young man who quite literally gave his life in defense of others, and I ask that the article about Sgt. Monti from the Taunton Daily Gazette be printed here, so that his example can be widely understood and appreciated.

[From the Taunton Daily Gazette, July 27, 2009]

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORT DETAILS
RAYNHAM SOLDIER'S HEROISM

(By Jessica Scarpati)

RAYNHAM—On Sept. 17, President Barack Obama will present Army Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti's parents, Paul and Janet, with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. Only five Medals of Honor have been bestowed, all posthumously, for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The final act of courage by the Raynham man is retold through a Department of Defense report and interviews with his family:

Evening fell, but the desert sun had cooked the earth Army Staff Sgt. Jared C. Monti traipsed with his soldiers and their 70-pound packs.

Even at dusk, the air still boiled in the northeastern mountains of Afghanistan and sweat streamed down Monti's muscular 5-foot-5 frame.

They were out of water. They radioed for more.

North of where he stood on the plateau, Monti, 30, could see the enemy compound he and the 15 other soldiers in his group were sent to scout out June 21, 2006.

In his 12-year military career, the Raynham soldier had been lauded by superiors in his military records for his "endless potential" and "uncompromising courage."

That day would be no different, except that Monti's final act of bravery—running into a combat zone to save a wounded comrade—would end with the ultimate sacrifice.

Monti, a member of the elite 10th Mountain Division, was on his second tour in Afghanistan and that day was part of an advance scouting group—sent ahead of a larger force pushing into a valley in the Nuristan province, his father said.

More troops were coming behind them to rid the valley of Taliban insurgents.

Staff Sgt. Patrick L. Lybert, 28, of Wisconsin, finished filling his water bottle and

was lying down behind a stone wall with another soldier, according to the military report.

Monti slid down and sat behind a nearby rock and chatted with two other soldiers. A third group collected behind another rock wall.

No one heard the clicks and rumbles of the grenade launcher above them 50 meters away.

The blasts began.

The first rocket-propelled grenade exploded on their plateau, followed by a hurricane of bullets from assault rifles and machine guns coming from in front of and behind them.

The group ran to the rock where Monti sat, hesitating to return fire. There were allies—possibly American soldiers—in that direction.

He grabbed the radio and shouted back to the command center. They were under attack and needed air support.

They couldn't climb down from the plateau—the way down was too steep. It would kill them.

Behind Monti, one of his soldiers, a private, screamed. He was shot in the back and his wrist was gashed open—probably by a grenade fragment.

The private, whose name the Department of Defense redacted in the report, crawled toward the group with Monti. He was bleeding and disoriented. Another soldier put pressure on the wrist wound while someone yelled for the medic.

Lybert leaned over the stone wall and fired back at the insurgents and rockets exploded around them.

"You couldn't see anything but muzzle flashes and pops through the trees," said one staff sergeant, who was not identified in the report.

Monti was firing back, positioning the men and shouting in the radio, doing what he did best—commanding everything at once.

He was their expert at calling in air attacks to precise locations, which was what they needed—now.

Everyone was there except for Pvt. Brian Bradbury, a 22-year-old from Missouri. He had to still be farther up—he hadn't made it behind the rocks.

Monti and the soldiers shouted his name. The explosions drowned them out.

Lybert rose again from behind the rock to fire. He was shot. One bullet in his face. He collapsed.

Someone yelled that Lybert wasn't moving. Blood was pooling beneath his body.

They continued firing, trying to ward off the insurgents closing in on their team from the east and west.

Bradbury was still nowhere to be found.

Monti called for his men to cover him. He would not let the young private remain out there alone.

Seconds passed. Bullets blasted the plateau.

Monti dropped back. He turned back into the fire.

Grenades exploded.

Monti screamed.

"Help me!" he shouted.

Bradbury had been wounded when a grenade landed nearby earlier, injuring his arm and shoulder.

Another grenade had hit Monti as he dashed across the ridge to Bradbury, severely wounding his arm, leg and midsection.

He was 20 meters from his team. He screamed in pain. They fired at the insurgents as a fellow sergeant tried to dash toward him.

The sergeant ducked as more explosions came. He was 10 yards away.

He heard Monti gasp his last words.

"Tell my family I love them," he said.