

James S. Clark of Aco 1/17 IN. I ask that this poetic tribute penned by Albert Caswell of the Capitol Guide Service, be placed in the RECORD in honor of Staff Sergeant Clark. On October 15, 2009, James lost his leg and almost his life, in an IED explosion in Kandahar Afghanistan. Like many of our fine sons and daughters, who have been injured, he has, and will continue to, inspire us all with his faith, courage and determination during his recovery. James plans to move to San Antonio, Texas to live with his wife Kae-c and their children Samarra and Izeyah and their family to receive treatment. We welcome another great American veteran and his family with open arms, to our community of heroic heroes—patriots who have served our Nation over the years.

I STAND

I STAND!
 I stood, so you can sleep . . .
 While, out across our nation so many fine families weep . . .
 For all of my Brothers and Sisters In Arms, who but their promises did so keep!
 As I raised my hand, and swore with all my heart . . . for something true!
 To live and die, and not ask why . . . all for that Old Red, White, and Blue!
 As I cried, as I watched my Brothers die!
 As they stood and so did I, to protect you . . . the reasons why . . .
 Yes, my fine leg I have lost . . .
 But, such things are but the high price . . . of freedom's cost!
 And now, I must rebuild . . . and oh yes . . . yes I will!
 For, I Will Stand . . . And I Will Run!
 For all my Fallen Brothers, I will live to see the new day's sun!
 For what I have lost, so much more I've gained . . .
 As now my new war's just begun!
 As I work through all of this heartache, and pain . . .
 Until I'm done!
 For I'm not half the man I used to be . . .
 For the sum, is far much more greater inside of me!
 For I'd rather stand for something, than nothing at all!
 I won't moan, and I won't crawl . . .
 As I will run again, standing tall . . .
 For I am, an Army Man!
 Like all of my Brothers, Army Strong I So Stand!
 In life, there's only so much time!
 To Stand For Something, To Heaven Find!
 I'd rather stand for something than nothing at all!
 Can you but not hear, my heart call?
 For such men of such worth, as James . . .
 Are put upon this earth, to stand . . . and in our souls remain . . .
 To Teach Us . . . To Reach Us . . . to All of Our Hearts . . .
 To So Beseech Us . . .
 And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray . . . he could be like this one!
 Who Stands!

NASA'S CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, the most fundamental responsibility of the Federal Government is to "provide for the common defence."

America's national defense strategy fundamentally depends on supremacy in space. Our troops on the battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq depend on crucial intelligence-gathering and communication capabilities, which in turn rely on a robust space program.

But the current Administration proposal would cancel the Constellation program, NASA's safest and most proven means to return to space.

We've spent billions to build an International Space Station. Do we want to rely upon the Russians whenever we need to return? Under the Administration's proposal, we would.

Do we want to be buying rocket parts from China because we have decimated our national industrial base? Or do we want to maintain the strong industrial sector on our own?

Do we want our military to rely on others to send vital navigation and communication satellites into orbit? Or do we want our country to decide when and how those vital coordination satellites are launched into space?

We need to restore the Constellation program and maintain our superiority in space.

HONORING OLIVIA PERRY FOR WINNING THE LESSONS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WRITING CONTEST

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Olivia Perry as a winner of the first annual "Lessons of the African-American Experience" Creative Writing Contest. Olivia is currently in the fourth grade at Woodstock Elementary School, which is located in Woodstock, Connecticut.

In celebration of Black History Month, I sponsored a creative writing contest for all third through eighth grade students within the Second District. As we know, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of our nation's past. The lessons learned during this month continue to serve as the stepping stones of our nation's future. Olivia's essay "Perseverance" eloquently embraces this belief.

Olivia's essay shows a remarkable enthusiasm for learning that is inspiring to all. She identified the values that she learned during Black History Month and creatively discussed how those values affect her life and the lives of others. For this, her essay was among the four winners selected.

RECOGNITION OF NATHAN ELFRINK

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nathan Elfrink, an energetic, passionate young man. Despite having spent most of his life fighting a brain tumor, Nate never let his illness diminish his thirst for adventure. He passed away at the age of seven on February 26, 2010. My heart goes out to

his family, friends, and all those who have been touched by Nate's kindness and bravery.

Nate never complained about his illness, the doctor's appointments, or the difficult treatments. Instead, he often asked his mom when he could go play on his way to appointments. He was a caring boy who would bake cookies for his teachers and friends. Nate was active in various community events around central Ohio and he led a group, known as "Nate's Mates," at a local Relay For Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Nate's favorite holiday was Christmas. Last year, Nate's mother posted an online update about his condition and said that he would enjoy receiving Christmas cards. A subsequent Facebook group was initiated asking for one million Christmas cards for Nate. As cards poured in from all 50 states and 63 countries, the town of West Jefferson came together to open all the cards and read the most notable to Nate.

Nate always had a passion for sports and despite his worsening condition, Nate watched the entire Winter Olympics opening ceremony and enjoyed pointing out all the countries from which he received cards.

Nate enjoyed his life the best he could. His family plans to keep the cards Nate received and hold a Christmas in July celebration on what would have been Nate's eighth birthday. I am proud to honor Nate Elfrink for his courage and optimism throughout his illness; this inspirational member of our community will be sincerely missed.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY BAUGUS AS THE HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeffrey Baugus upon receiving the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398's Middle School Teacher of the Year Award for 2010. Mr. Baugus is an innovator and an inspiration to his students, and I am honored to venerate his achievement.

Jeff is an 8th Grade Math and Advanced Algebra 1 Honors Teacher at Woodlawn Beach Middle School in Santa Rosa County, in my district in Northwest Florida. In only his second year of educating, Jeff is rapidly becoming known as an innovative thinker. He uses real world techniques such as crime scene investigations, sports, and cooking to explore math concepts. Jeff also created an educational math blog entitled "Mr Bloggus' Mathlete Corner" for his Algebra students that contains video lessons on the skills learned in the classroom. The blog concept has proven so popular that other math courses in the school and throughout the school district have used Jeff's work as a model for their classrooms. Additionally, he introduced Google Sketchup into his math instruction, allowing his students to visualize three-dimensional objects manipulated live on the computer. For his innovation, Jeff received the 2009 Woodlawn Beach "Rookie of the Year" Award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to acknowledge Jeffrey Baugus as the Hurlburt AFA