

Stokvis who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Servaas Stokvis is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Servaas Stokvis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Servaas Stokvis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.
ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL S. PRIDHAM, JR.

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 6, 2010, America tragically lost another of its brave heroes. Army Private First Class Michael "Mikey" Pridham, Jr. was killed in Qalat, Afghanistan, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was 19 years old. A Louisville, KY, native, Mikey's father currently lives in New Albany, IN.

Mikey, who was known to have a great sense of humor and cared greatly for people, joined the Army as he saw the military as a better path to the one he was on prior to enlisting. According to his father, "Mikey was more of a man at 19 years old because of the Army than most men I know." His mother said he was more mature after returning home from basic training and that he had an eye on building a life.

Days before deploying to Afghanistan, Pridham married his wife, Deidre, who is expecting the birth of their first child. At the time of his death, Pridham was just six weeks away from redeployment—he would have been back just in time for the birth of his baby girl. While in Afghanistan, Mikey and Deidre spoke on the phone twice a day, every day. He would tell his wife how excited he was to come home and be with her and their daughter. Justly, Deidre plans on telling their daughter that her father died a hero.

Pfc. Michael Pridham is a true hero. His sacrifice for our nation deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and reverence. Though I did not have the pleasure of knowing Pfc. Pridham, I will mourn his death. His friends and family are in my prayers.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH AFRICA
ON FIRST TWO CONVICTIONS
FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Representative CHRIS

SMITH and Representative KAY GRANGER in congratulating the government of South Africa for their efforts to combat human trafficking.

Let there be no mistake: human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Although slavery was abolished almost 150 years ago in the United States, millions of people worldwide are still deprived of their freedom. Victims of this growing epidemic are forced into a world of abuse and exploitation. I have worked with my colleagues in Congress for years to fight this horrific problem but our work is far from over.

Past experiences indicate that global sporting events such as the World Cup strongly affect the human trafficking industry. The influx of millions of tourists to South Africa for the World Cup increases the demand for prostitution and facilitates the entry of trafficking victims to the country. Women and girls are reportedly being trafficked to South Africa from all over the world in order to meet the demand for commercial sex. With so many people entering the country, it is important to raise awareness of the horrors of human trafficking and be able to identify victims from tourists. The government of South Africa not only needs to protect its vulnerable population but also those that have been trafficked from across the globe.

House Resolution 1412 is an important measure that not only commends the government of South Africa for their efforts to combat human trafficking but also urges them to act quickly to pass anti-trafficking legislation. Strong police enforcement and strict government laws are especially critical during the World Cup in order to protect potential victims and ensure victims are given proper attention. Although the government of South Africa has worked to tackle this issue and has successfully convicted two human trafficking cases more needs to be done to prosecute traffickers and buyers of the industry.

It is our duty to protect men, women, boys, and girls from this devastating scourge that is destroying people's lives.

CONDEMNING THE RISE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN HAITI IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake, and its aftershocks, that struck Haiti in January, 2010, there has been a horrifying rise of sexual violence against displaced women there. I rise in condemnation of this unconscionable crime and fundamental violation of human rights. And, I call upon my colleagues in Congress, the administration, the international community, and all Americans to speak out against this abuse and act swiftly to end it.

It is widely documented that sexual violence often increases in emergencies and post-crisis situations, due to mass displacements of people, lack of safe, secure shelter and other scarce resources, and the breakdown of rule of law. In Haiti, according to reports from the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, major media outlets and many others, violence against women in the aftermath of the earthquake has risen dramatically.

In particular, the displaced women in camps have been the main targets of sexual violence. These women have lost their homes, loved ones, contact with friends and family, and have nowhere else to go but to makeshift shelters often consisting of little more than a plastic tarp. These camps offer little privacy, order, or protection from any kind of danger.

The conditions in the camps are so deplorable that they actually increase the chances of women and girls experiencing sexual violence. For example, men and women share the same latrines, which remain unlit after dark, effectively turning a basic necessity into a predatory opportunity and increasing the chances that a woman using those facilities will be raped.

Access to food, clean water, health service and other critical necessities is also limited or nonexistent in these camps. This forces women to take on great personal risk and brave unsafe conditions simply to acquire essential requirements for survival, for themselves and their dependants.

The breakdown of law enforcement has only exacerbated this intensifying problem. There is insufficient policing in and around the most volatile areas. Women have no recourse to report violence, seek protection from abuse, and ensure their cases are brought to justice. Often they are too afraid to speak because their attackers live in the same camp and the women fear retribution. They have nowhere to seek refuge.

Furthermore, as many individuals are still unaccounted for, women and girls who are sexually assaulted are too often faceless, nameless victims. Any surviving family may not know their loved ones are out there, let alone in dire need of protection from rape.

We must make the safety and protection of women and girls in Haiti a top priority during the ongoing recovery efforts. It is critical that we in Congress, along with the UN, human rights groups and non-governmental organizations take a strong stand against this sexual violence and do all we can to protect women in Haiti during this difficult time of national crisis.

We must not allow sexual violence against women in Haiti to continue. Freedom from violence and intimidation is essential to empowering women and improving societies all over the world. It is a fundamental human right.

I strongly urge for a greater police presence as well as more peacekeeping forces on the ground to enhance and ensure security for vulnerable women and girls. Additionally, I strongly support efforts to help strengthen the capacity of local women's organizations. These local organizations help women acquire access to crucial medical and mental health services after an attack.

Strengthening medical and counseling services while building a stronger and more effective security force that patrols the camps are critical first steps to curb the rampant rise of sexual violence and address its devastating consequences for women already suffering from the trauma of the earthquakes that devastated their country just six months ago.

Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the earthquake we saw a worldwide outpouring of support and goodwill that was truly inspirational and demonstrated the best of what is within all of us. We also heard a lot of talk about ensuring accountability, sustainability, and a commitment to revive Haiti at all levels,