

REMEMBERING STAFF SERGEANT
PHILLIP JENKINS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the sacrifice and courage of a young Hoosier who lost his life while supporting Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins was providing security for a visiting commander when he was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Despite the dangerous nature of military service, Staff Sergeant Jenkins always knew he wanted to join the Army. Like so many before him, Staff Sergeant Jenkins bravely answered the call of duty. We will long remember the passion and dedication he had for his country, and the joy he had for life.

Staff Sergeant Jenkins is a true American hero, but the tragedy of such a loss as this is never easy. I give my most sincere condolences to Staff Sergeant Jenkins' wife, Melissa, and two young daughters, Lindly and Piper; mother, Rose Jenkins; sister Cassie Jenkins; mother-in-law Debby Feurer; father-in-law Mike Hays; two brothers-in-law Matt Hays and Nick Hays; and paternal grandmother Darlene Carlile. The Good Book tells us that "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted," and that is my prayer for the family of Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins.

CONGRATULATING THE
TEUTOPOLIS BASEBALL TEAM
ON WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Teutopolis Wooden Shoes baseball team on the state championship.

Teutopolis recently upset the undefeated Harrisburg in the state championship by a score of 5–1 to claim their first state title in school history. The Wooden Shoes finished the season with an impressive 31–4 record.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach Justin Fleener, Assistant Coach Rob Bothwell and Assistant Coach Troy Bierman for their work with this outstanding group of student-athletes. But most of all, I want to congratulate the members of the 2010 Teutopolis Wooden Shoes state champion baseball team: Ryan Pruemer, Clint Lustig, Luke Bushur, Andy Hardick, Lance Niebrugge, Kyle Zerrusen, Jeff Bloemer, Derek Repking, Derek Thompson, Jordan Roepke, Damon Hoene, Bo Bliedernicht, Dillon Hardick, Brock Swingler, Cole Borries, Josh Koester, Garrett Overbeck, Brett Deters and Mark Niebrugge.

They have represented themselves, their school and the community in an exemplary fashion, and I would like to join with the other members of this House in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
HECTOR E. PAGAN, UNITED
STATES ARMY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Hector E. Pagan, United States Army, who on Friday, September 17th will retire and relinquish command of Special Operations Command South, SOCS, to Rear Admiral Thomas L. Brown II.

Since the summer of 2008, Brigadier General Pagan has exemplified unparalleled leadership through his command of Special Operations Command South in Florida. A New York native, he grew up in Puerto Rico and was commissioned as an infantry officer from the ROTC program at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. In 1980 he attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course and Ranger School and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 51st Infantry, in Germany, as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Scout Platoon Leader. In 1983, he attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course and remained at Fort Benning, Georgia, with the Infantry Training Group and the 29th Infantry Regiment, where he served as chief, Special Weapons Committee, operations officer, and commanded the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 29th Infantry Regiment from 1984 to 1986.

Brigadier General Pagan served in Panama with the 3rd Bn., 7th Special Forces, SF Group, Airborne, 1988–1990, as an A-Detachment commander and Battalion S1. He served in Operation JUST CAUSE and deployed to El Salvador in 1989. From 1990 to 1992, he served in SF Branch, Total Army Personnel Command as a future readiness officer and captains assignments officer. He attended the Army Command and General Staff Course and then served as the executive officer, 1st Bn., 7th SF Group (Airborne). From 1994–1995, he served in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command as the chief, officer management, office of the deputy chief of staff for personnel.

He returned to the 7th SF Group, Airborne, in 1995, where he served as group operations officer, executive officer and deputy commander. From 1998–2000, Brigadier General Pagan commanded the 2nd Battalion, 1st SF Group, Airborne, at Fort Lewis, Washington. After his tour with the 1st SF Group, he was assigned to the Special Operations Command South, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, where he served as the director of operations, J3, from 2000 to 2002.

Upon completion of the U.S. Army War College in 2003, Brigadier General Pagan took command of the 5th SF Group, Airborne, in Baghdad, Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom. He led the 5th SF Group, Airborne, in combat as the commander of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Arabian Peninsula for two combat tours in 2003 and 2004.

In 2005, Brigadier General Pagan served as the special assistant to the commander of the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. In 2006, he assumed duties as the deputy director of the Operations Support Group in the Center for

Special Operations in the U.S. Special Operations Command. Brigadier General Pagan served as the deputy commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command in November 2006 and in May 2007 assumed duties as deputy commander, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, NC until July, 2008.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one bronze oak leaf, Bronze Star Medal with bronze oak leaf, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with one silver oak leaf and one bronze oak leaf, the Army Commendation Medal with bronze oak leaf, the Army and Joint Service Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with bronze star device, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 2nd oak leaf cluster, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, the Combat Infantryman Badge, second award, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. He earned a master's degree in management from Troy State University and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Brigadier General Pagan has served our nation honorably. He has dedicated his life to defending freedom, ensuring that our democratic principles remain intact and that Americans can continue to live in liberty. His patriotism, courage and leadership are unparalleled, as is his commitment to the ideals of democracy. For me it has been a privilege getting to know Brigadier General Pagan and I am honored to call him a friend. I ask that you join me in thanking Brigadier General Hector E. Pagan for his years of service to our country, and his family for supporting him throughout his military career. I wish them well in their future endeavors and will be eternally grateful for their sacrifices and commitment to our Nation's safety and freedom.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES
ARMY SERGEANT MARTIN A.
LUGO, JR.

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Martin A. Lugo, Jr., who was killed in action on August 19, 2010.

A native of Tucson, Arizona, Martin graduated from Tucson High Magnet School in 2004 and enlisted in the Army shortly thereafter. Martin, a decorated combat veteran and graduate of the U.S. Army's Ranger School, re-enlisted in February 2010. He was on his 6th combat deployment and 4th to Afghanistan, when he was killed by small arms fire in Logar Province, near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Martin was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Among his many decorations, he earned the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Purple Heart. He was one of our nation's most elite, best and bravest.

We remember Martin and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the

feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Martin made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

This body and this country owe Martin and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his service to his country.

Sergeant Lugo is survived by his mother, Maria; father, Martin; and sister, Leslie.

PASSING OF JAMIE GRODSKY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my condolences and sympathies to the family and friends of Jamie Grodsky, former counsel for the Natural Resources Committee at the time that I served as committee chair. Her funeral took place in San Francisco in May of this year, and she will also be remembered in a Memorial Service to be held on September 20 in Jack Morton Auditorium at George Washington University.

Jamie passed away on May 22, 2010. She was an extraordinary individual, who was both respected and cherished by her numerous friends and family members, as well as by her colleagues and students.

Jamie played many valuable roles in her various jobs in all three branches of the Federal Government and in academia. For five years in the 1980's she was an Analyst with the Office of Technology Assessment. In that capacity she helped write reports and analyses that helped us to understand and benefit from changes in information technology and economic competition.

From 1993 to 1995, Jamie returned to the Hill to serve as a counsel to the Natural Resources Committee. During that time, Jamie worked with me on a wide range of issues, including developing new policies for the conservation and use of the natural resources in the Western United States, and other environmental issues.

A native of California, Jamie went to work for Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN from California, as a counsel on the Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 1997. Among other issues she worked on were privacy, civil rights, judicial nominations, antitrust, intellectual property, and constitutional law.

Jamie was well educated and loved learning. She received a BA with distinction from Stanford University, where she was elected president of her class. She subsequently received an MA from U.C. Berkeley in Economic Geography, and returned to Stanford to receive her law degree where she was Articles Editor of the Stanford Law Review and received the Murie Award in Environmental Law and the Ochlmann Prize for Legal Writing.

Jamie left Capitol Hill to clerk for the Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, the Hon. Proctor Hug, who described her as "the most multi-talented person I have ever met." From there, Jamie served as Senior Advisor to the general counsel of the U.S. EPA from 1999 to 2001.

Jamie went on to become a well respected law professor, first at the University of Minnesota, and, beginning in 2006, as a Professor of Environmental Law at George Washington University where she received tenure. She was a proficient writer and was one of the Nation's preeminent experts in environmental law. Two of her recent articles were chosen as being among the top five law review articles in the Nation.

At various times, Jamie also found time to backpack around Appalachia, play guitar with the great Doc Watson; walk with Native Americans from California to Utah; serve as Educational Director of the San Francisco Oceanic Society (where she founded Sea Camp, a children's maritime educational camp); and conduct research in marine biology at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts.

There is no question that the Congress and our country are a better place because of Jamie's contributions. Jamie displayed not only tremendous knowledge, expertise and judgment, but also incredible enthusiasm and friendship to all who knew her. I know I speak for all of my colleagues on both sides of Capitol Hill, as well as Jamie's co-workers in the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch, and for her students and friends in Washington, D.C., California, Minnesota and around the Nation, when I offer my condolences and respect for a life well lived and fully enjoyed.

ADERA NICHOLE ETHERIDGE MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son David and his wife Casey on the birth of their second child, Adera Nichole Etheridge. Adera was born this morning, September 15, 2010 and weighed 6 pounds and 10 ounces. My wife Faye and I are excited about the birth of our seventh grandchild, and she joins me in wishing David and Casey and their son, Walker, great happiness upon this new addition to our family.

Faye and I are truly blessed by the arrival of Adera Nichole Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. And I know that Walker is excited to have a sister with whom he can play. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world. I had the pleasure of hearing one of Adera's first cries this morning, and I can assure you she is going to be one strong, vivacious little girl.

God has truly blessed my family with this new addition. My family and I are looking forward to spending a lot of time with Ms. Adera and introducing her to our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

FIGHTING MEDICARE FRAUD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee with my colleague and Ranking Member WALLY HERGER (R-CA) to introduce the Strengthening Medicare Anti-Fraud Measures Act.

This bipartisan legislation is a direct byproduct of a joint hearing held by the Ways and Means Health and Oversight Subcommittees earlier this year. The hearing was on efforts to reduce fraud, waste and abuse in Medicare.

We heard testimony at this hearing from two panels of witnesses. The first panel consisted of Members of Congress pursuing legislative initiatives to reduce Medicare fraud, waste and abuse. The second panel was made up of government witnesses: Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (OIG), The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Government Accountability Office.

Numerous witnesses raised concerns about limitations to the authority of the Office of the Inspector General to minimize Medicare fraud. From this discussion it became clear to Ranking Member HERGER and myself that we should change the law to provide the Inspector General with the additional tools requested to better protect Medicare.

This is a simple bill with only two provisions. It expands the OIG's permissive authority to ban executives whose companies have been convicted of Medicare fraud from the program. Second, it expands the OIG's permissive authority to exclude affiliates of corporations convicted of fraud, including parent companies hiding behind convicted corporate shells.

The first change is important because it will enable the OIG to protect Medicare from executives who circumvent exclusion by moving to another company. Under current law, executives whose companies are convicted of fraud can be excluded from Medicare. However, if the executive has left the company by the time of conviction, he or she cannot be barred from Federal health care programs. These executives are able to move from one company to another and continue to defraud Medicare, seniors, and taxpayers.

The second change provides the OIG with stronger tools to address corporations that have engaged in fraud. Companies that engage in fraud often set up shell companies to insulate themselves from liability. Criminal settlement negotiations can result in the conviction of these shell organizations with no real operational impact on the parent company. Without discretionary authority to exclude parent companies from the program, the OIG is missing a tool in its arsenal that could allow the government to exclude or obtain stronger prospective remedies in settlements.

We held a hearing, we learned of a need, and we are joining across party lines to introduce this legislation. Reducing fraud, waste and abuse in government programs is a bipartisan priority. We urge our colleagues to cosponsor this bill and quickly enact these new anti-fraud tools to protect Medicare beneficiaries and all of America's taxpayers.