

motivated by his faith, Ryan moved to the Nuba Mountains in 2003 and worked for Samaritan's Purse, an aid group led by the Rev. Franklin Graham.

Early this year, Ryan married a local woman, Jazira, a health worker—and 6,000 joyous Nubans celebrated at the wedding, along with Ryan's parents, who flew in from Florida.

It was clear that war was brewing in the Nuba Mountains. The region had sided with South Sudan in the country's long civil war, but now South Sudan was separating while the Nuba Mountains would remain in the north. The people—mostly Muslim but with a large Christian minority—supported a local rebel army left over from the civil war.

In June, fighting erupted. The Sudanese government moved in to destroy the rebel army and depopulate areas that supported it. Aid organizations pulled out their workers. Ryan decided that he could not flee, so when Samaritan's Purse ordered him to evacuate, he resigned and stayed behind.

"A lot of people tried to convince me to leave," Ryan remembers. "But this is where my wife is from, this is where I've lived for eight years. It's hard to get on a plane and say, 'Bye, I hope to see you when this ends.'"

Ryan organized a network of 15 people to gather information and take photos and videos, documenting atrocities. He used a solar-powered laptop and a satellite phone to transmit them to the West, typically to the Enough Project, a Washington-based anti-genocide organization. He also supplied eyewitness interviews that helped the Enough Project and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative find evidence of atrocities, including eight mass graves, on satellite images. And he helped journalists understand what was going on.

"He's irreplaceable," said Jonathan Hutson of the Enough Project. "There's no substitute for someone on the ground."

Ryan tried to keep his presence in the region a secret, at least from the Sudanese government, for fear that it might seek to eliminate a witness. Once, a bombing seemed to target his hut, but he heard the plane approaching and ran out in his skivvies and took cover; the bombs missed, and he was unhurt.

After the first few weeks, the killings on the ground abated. But the government has continued the bombings.

"It's terrifying when they bomb," Ryan told me. "You don't feel safe at any time of day or night."

The bombs typically miss and have killed fewer than 200 people, he says, but they prevent people from farming their fields. Several hundred thousand people have been driven from their homes in the surrounding state of South Kordofan, Ryan says, and a famine may be looming.

"It's not a good time to have kids," Ryan quoted Jazira as telling him. "If we have kids, they'll just starve."

Frustrated by the lack of attention for the Nubans' plight, Ryan decided to return to the United States this month and tell his story. He couldn't get a visa for Jazira in time—obtaining an American visa for a spouse is a long and complex process—so she is in a refugee camp for 15,000 Nubans in South Sudan, struggling to address health needs there. Meanwhile, in Washington, Ryan has testified before Congress and met with White House officials.

Soon, he'll go back, rejoining Jazira and sneaking back with her into the Nuba Mountains. It'll be more dangerous than ever now that he has gone public, but he is determined to give voice to the voiceless—and Nubans will do everything to protect him.

In a world where leaders often pretend not to notice mass atrocities, for fear that they

might be called Upon to do something, I find Ryan an inspiration. His eyewitness accounts make it more difficult for the world to neglect a humanitarian crisis in the Nuba Mountains—even if he does need to brush up on his tech skills.

I asked Ryan if he planned to use Twitter. "Twitter?" he asked. "I've been in the bush for nine years, so I don't know how to use it." But he's planning to learn.

TRIBUTE TO SPC. JOSEPH B.
DELOACH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of South Carolina's heroic sons, U.S. Army Specialist Joseph B. DeLoach, from Ruffin, South Carolina. In 2010, Specialist DeLoach was injured by an RPG while in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was serving as a cavalry scout with the 1-32 Cavalry Squadron, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The following poem, composed by Mr. Bert Caswell, an appreciated Capitol tour guide, is a testament to this true American hero.

OUT IN FRONT

All in times for war!
There, are but all of those who so insure!
With Scouts Out in front, you must believe!
For way out up ahead, there are all of those
fine soul who have died and bled!
As all out there on the very edge of death,
they so live . . .
All for Country Tis of Thee, so much they
give!
Scouts Out, Heroes who no doubt . . . may
not be coming home!
Gathering Intel, melding into the battle zone
. . . knowing so very well, death lies
close!
As they may be gone for days and days, for
only our Lord God so knows where are
they!
All to help win all those wars! Airborne!
As to new heights Blake, your fine heart has
soared!
For when they sign you up on that line,
You know for sure that you so live on all
borrowed time!
Realizing, on each new day . . . you but live
on, someone else's prayers!
All for love of Country Tis of Thee, they
cheat death we see!
Out of RECON, all by themselves as they
must be!
As their magnificent souls go so far beyond!
Oh Yea Blake, Rambo aint got nothing on
you . . . as into that darkness dis-
appearing, your gone!
The ones who so lead the way, and for all of
them and their fine families we now so
pray!
Way out up ahead, as into that darkness all
by themselves as they've so led!
Give Blake some C4 and DEC CORD, and he
will blow up anything all for . . .
All for that old red, white and blue!
For he's a true Son of the South . . . through
and through!
Scouts out!
Bad to the bone, as Blake that's you . . . the
title that you now so own!
As an American Hero so tried and true, but
The Best That South Carolina Can So
Do!
In Seven months in Iraq, you were involved
in six exploded IED's attacks!

And then on that fateful day, after recover-
ing from his injuries re upping so
bravely!

In Afghanistan, with your name on it . . .
you met an RPG that your sight so
ripped!

Right on the very edge of death, four times
. . .

As your Brothers in Arms rushing in . . .
your so blessed!

As an Angel on the Battlefield, named SPC
Resmondo . . . so brought you back
from death!

As you magnificent warrior, so lost your
sight . . .

And yet you see far much more clearer than
any of us tonight!

As you'd do it all again, All Out in Front . . .
As so magnificently, bringing to all your
light!

Scouts Out, are some of our nation finest
men . . . who are Devout!

As it's only upon themselves, they they must
so count!

As this strong South Carolina son, was
raised by his fine mom and dad . . .

To be such the one!

But, there's even more greatness still to
come . . . all in Blake's three young
sons!

Ethan, Bryson, and Joey Jr., are but Blake's
greatest of all loves!

Now, Blake is "Out in Front" all in his re-
covery, as he's on the hunt!

Because, Scouts fight, and they don't run!
A quiet calmness all in his heart has so
begun!

And if ever I have a son, I wish he could be
like this one!

Whose, life speaks volumes . . . all because
of what he's so said and done!

As one day up in Heaven, one again, Blake
you will be Out in Front!

For all you've done, and you will see our
Lord my son!

HONORING LT. COLONEL THOMAS
PLOURDE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Thomas Plourde of Lewiston, Maine. Plourde was a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Japanese American Combat Team in World War II, all of whom will be receiving Congressional Gold Medals today.

The 442nd Combat Team was comprised almost entirely of Japanese Americans, men who volunteered to fight tyranny and oppression abroad even while their families were interred in camps at home. For its size and length of service, it was the most decorated unit in the entire history of the United States military. In the course of their service, the 442nd earned 9,486 Purple Hearts, eight Presidential Unit Citations, and 21 Medals of Honor. These brave men fought with unparalleled skill and valor winning tremendous victories for the allies in Europe. Their heroism cannot be overstated.

At just 23 years old at the time of his enlistment, Thomas Plourde would serve as a 1st Lieutenant before rising to become a company commander for the 442nd. Following a decisive victory in the allied push to liberate Italy, Lieutenant Plourde led a task force that secured the capture of 33 German officers and over