

HONORING MARINE LANCE CPL. JOSH MISIEWICZ FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Cpl. Josh Misiewicz, a Marine from the Third District of Illinois who was injured serving our country in Afghanistan. He was awarded a Purple Heart after he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) and lost both of his legs. While I am sad for his loss, I am proud he served our country bravely and I know he will continue to live a life of great achievement.

Lance Cpl. Misiewicz's achievements before the Marine Corps were remarkable. A well-rounded young man, he was a standout student-athlete at Lyons Township High School, was recognized by the state of Illinois for his athletic achievement, and went on to play hockey for St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He knew, however, that he wanted to serve his country and embarked upon one of the greatest challenges an American can face: joining the Marine Corps. Demonstrating bravery and leadership, Lance Cpl. Misiewicz chose to join the infantry and rose to become a squad leader.

After being deployed to Helmand Province in Afghanistan, his unit was in charge of continuing efforts to drive out Taliban insurgents and promote peace in the area. On July 20, 2011, in a patrol around that remote region, Lance Cpl. Misiewicz's life would change forever when an IED detonated near him and he lost both of his legs and much of his hearing. Four days later he was transferred to Walter Reed Military Hospital where he continues recuperating.

The difficulty of recovering from such an event for Lance Cpl. Misiewicz and his family is beyond comprehension for many Americans. The outpouring of local support from friends and neighbors, however, is a true testament to this young Marine's character. The love and care of his family and the companionship of his fellow Marines will see him through this trying stage of his life. Our men and women in uniform are some of our bravest people and Lance Cpl. Misiewicz is no exception. He makes us all proud to be Americans.

I ask you to join me in honoring Lance Cpl. Misiewicz for his bravery, commitment to his fellow man, and sacrifice. May he have a speedy recovery and rehabilitation. I know that this is not the last time we will hear from this impressive young man.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Adoption Day, November 19, 2011, and in support of more than 400,000 children living in foster care.

National Adoption Day began in November of 2000 as an attempt to raise awareness for children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. In particular, National Adoption Day aims to facilitate and finalize adoptions in all 50 states, celebrate and honor those families who adopt, and encourage others to consider adopting. Through the efforts of policymakers, practitioners and advocates, over 35,000 children have found homes on this day. This year alone, organizers hope to finalize adoption for 4,500 foster care children.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress acts to support the tireless efforts of organizations and individuals helping to find loving homes for the thousands of children living in foster care across the country. In my home state of Illinois, more than 15,000 children eagerly await the day they are adopted into a permanent, stable, and caring family. Let us give hope today to those children in search of the homes they desperately need and deserve by raising awareness for this critical issue.

I urge my colleagues and fellow Americans to support efforts that will unite children living in foster homes with permanent families, and to join me in recognizing National Adoption Day on November 19.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF HIGHMARK CARING PLACE CENTERS AND REMEMBERING CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the good work being done in Pennsylvania to help children and teenagers cope with the loss of a loved one.

For more than a decade, Highmark Caring Place centers in Pennsylvania have worked with hundreds of schools and businesses throughout the commonwealth to promote better strategies for helping young people deal with the death of a loved one. This type of tragedy is a burden faced by too many young people. One out of every twenty children will lose a parent, and one in seven children will lose someone close to them—such as a brother, sister, or grandparent—before they reach the age of 18.

As the holiday season approaches, the pain of losing a loved one often grows as memories of past holidays are revisited. Many grieving children will feel alone and afraid, and although it is often believed that children are less affected by loss and more able to easily continue with their lives, the opposite is true. These children need the caring support of family, friends, and others to help them understand and cope with their feelings.

Since its founding in 1997, Highmark Caring Place has served over 30,000 people and in 2008 alone, provided the equivalent of \$428,000 in volunteer service hours. The program brings together grieving children, their families, and trained volunteers to share meals, talk and play games, and engage in group discussions with other families coping with the same experience. These programs are free of charge to the community and open to anyone.

On November 17, Pennsylvanians will mark Children's Grief Awareness Day, a day of re-

membrance initiated by school students across the commonwealth to bring attention to their classmates coping with a loss. Thousands of students will wear blue to show solidarity with, and support for, their peers. Others will hold assemblies, bake sales, and presentations to raise awareness. I commend these students for their initiative and the compassion they are showing for their peers.

Through their programs and the generosity of their volunteers, Highmark Caring Place is truly making a difference in the lives of grieving children and their families. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the work they do.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 439

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Steamfitters Local 439 of Caseyville, Illinois, affiliated with the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

The history of the pipe trades goes back before the Civil War. During the mid-nineteenth century, plumbers, steamfitters and gas fitters would have been represented by individual trade locals. In 1889, a plumber from Boston sent a letter to a plumber in Washington, DC, expressing an interest in forming a "United Brotherhood" and soon thereafter, the new union was formed. The union name would later be adopted as the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada and be known as UA.

On August 12, 1911, UA General President Martin P. Durkin chartered Local 439 in East St. Louis, Illinois. The local hall would remain in East St. Louis for 76 years. In 1987, the current hall was erected in Caseyville, Illinois, and named the Donald J. Bailey Building in honor of Local 439's retired business manager. In further recognition of the contributions of Donald Bailey and the Steamfitters to the community, St. Clair County named the street where the union hall is located, Donald Bailey Drive.

The current business manager is Charles "Totsie" Bailey, who first joined Local 439 in 1978. Throughout his tenure as Local 439 business manager, Totsie has worked tirelessly to provide his members with the best representation possible and also to improve their skills through continuing education and training. Through his leadership, additional training facilities have been opened and educational programs have been developed.

Totsie is a fierce advocate for his members but he is also known for his generosity and his commitment to his community. Totsie leads by example and has personally donated his own resources to assist members, retirees and families of his local as well as many within his community.

Local 439 has always been very involved in volunteer and fundraising efforts and the list of organizations they have helped includes; the