

This is also an example of the Mexican people's positive influence on the American people and culture through their continuous struggle for freedom. Today, young Mexican women and men serve in the Armed Forces defending our country from those who would do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 44 million Mexican-Americans living and contributing to the United States through their tenacious work ethic, positive energy and love for this country. As a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California which is home to over 300,000 constituents with Mexican and Latino heritage, it is my honor to rise in celebration of the Mexican and Latino people's struggles and achievements.

I am proud that Latinos have risen to leadership roles in every sector of American life—politics, law, medicine, entertainment, the media, sports, business, and the arts. Today there are 30 Latino Members of the United States Congress, including 7 California Democrats. I am privileged to serve with them in our fight to create jobs for Latinos and Latinas; make college more affordable for Latino young people, including by preventing interest rates on need-based student loans from doubling in July; and protecting Social Security and Medicare for the millions of Latino seniors who rely on these programs.

So on this glorious day let me wish my constituents, and all Americans, a very Happy Cinco de Mayo.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAN UTLEY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report the tragic loss of a young man who was born and raised in Kentucky's second district.

Captain Dan Utley, born in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1979, and who was raised and educated in Glasgow, Kentucky, before graduating from the University of Louisville, was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army in Mali on April 20, 2012, while on a training mission to help the people of that country combat terrorism.

Captain Utley was 33 years old. And I am told that in those 33 years he touched many lives with his intellect, his compassion, and his warmth. He was a sharp young man who, at every turn in his life, made the kind of selfless choices that define what it means to be an American hero. And make no mistake—Dan Utley and the members of America's Armed Forces who die defending our nation are indeed heroes. They put defending their country, their families, and our freedom ahead of their own lives.

During his Army service, Captain Utley served in many posts, all of them challenging and proof of his skill and talent. His deployments included serving in South Korea for 24 months, in Kuwait for 12 months, in Afghanistan for 13 months, and in Mali for seven months. It was in that North African country that Captain Utley lost his life.

A recent news article published by Reuters outlined the challenges facing Mali:

Within weeks, Mali has plunged from being a sovereign democracy to a fractured terri-

tory without a state, occupied by competing rebel groups in the north while politicians and coup leaders in the south jostle for control of the capital Bamako.

There is no sign the broken nation can be put back together soon—raising concerns among neighbors and Western powers of the emergence of a lawless “rogue state” exploited by al Qaeda and criminals.

“We have never been in such a dire situation at any other time in our history,” said Mahmoud Dicko, influential head of the Islamic High Council in the poor former French colony once seen as a poster child for electoral democracy in West Africa.

Captain Utley was there because America is engaged in a worldwide fight against al Qaeda and other terrorist networks. His devotion to his country and to the less fortunate people of the third world took him to one of the most dangerous places on Earth. He made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the people of Mali and so that everyone back home can continue to enjoy freedom and safety. I am humbled every time I hear of one of these young men and women who have given their life so that their fellow citizens can enjoy their own life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dan served with distinction during each of his missions. He served as a tactical communications platoon leader, an operations officer while in Kuwait, as aide-de-camp for the 160th Signal Brigade, and as a brigade civil affairs officer in the 101st Airborne. After completing a civil affairs qualifications course, Dan was assigned to F Company, 91st Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) as a Team Leader.

During the course of his service, Dan Utley won several awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal. Captain Utley also received the Basic Parachutist Badge and his Thailand Jump Wings.

What I've been told about Dan Utley is what I think every parent ultimately wants for their children—that they grow up with a strong desire to serve their fellow man, their country, and their community. That they grow up with an incredible work ethic. That they grow up with compassion and a desire to make a difference.

Dan Utley lived that kind of life, and I couldn't agree more with Dr. Gary Gregg, the Director of the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville where Captain Utley was a graduate, who lamented, “America has lost one of its rising stars.” And to my friend, the Senior Senator from Kentucky, MITCH MCCONNELL, I offer my sympathy on the loss of one of the greatest McConnell Scholars who has passed through the wonderful program that he set up at the University of Louisville to nurture the next generation of leadership for our Commonwealth.

Dan Utley is no longer with us, but he had already grown into a great leader, an American hero, and will forever serve as an example to others who seek positions of leadership. If every person who desires a chance to lead

had the heart and values of Dan Utley, I imagine we would be living in a much better world.

Today, I offer condolences to Captain Utley's widow, Captain Katie M. Utley, who we also thank for serving in America's military; to Captain Utley's father, Charles L. Utley; his mother, Linda H. Utley; his brother and sister-in-law, Charles L. Utley II and Maria; his brother and sister-in-law, Matthew R. Utley and Michelle; his nephews, Matthew Ryan Utley and Mason Robert Utley; his niece, Marleigh Rose Utley; his maternal grandmother, Pauline Haynes; his parents-in-law, Chris and Peggy Michael; his brother-in-law, Matthew Michael; and many other friends and family members.

I am saddened by this loss, but heartened at the enduring courage of those who serve in America's Armed Forces. Kentucky is home to a great many families who have lost loved ones in the War on Terrorism and in previous conflicts in which our country has been engaged. We mourn always for their loss, and remain eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

HONORING ELMER ELLIS LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elmer Ellis Library at the University of Missouri on its 150th year of service in the Federal Depository Library Program, a program whose origins date back to 1813, when Congress first authorized the printing and distribution of copies of the Journals of the House and Senate, and other documents the chambers had ordered printed. One hundred and fifty years is a long time to do anything, especially, I would argue, to keep track of our government's too-numerous-to-name documents. Of course, I say that in jest—retention and preservation of tangible and digital information is critical, and future generations and scholars need an accurate record of the proceedings and actions of their government.

Since 1813, depository libraries have safeguarded the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving and assisting users with information from the federal government. Government documents span a wide range—from agency information, appropriations, census data and technical reports to Supreme Court decisions and insertions into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, such as my remarks today.

I also would like to take this opportunity to recognize Elmer Ellis Library on its recent receipt of the Federal Depository Library Program Spotlight Award, which highlights that not only is the library one of the oldest participants of the program, starting its program in 1862 in the midst of the Civil War, it also has one of the largest collections in the country, housing 1.5 million federal and Missouri state documents. Unbelievably, some of these documents date back to the founding of our nation.

Since the Federal Depository Library Program's inception in 1813, much has changed. Depository libraries still act as the bridge between our nation's government and its services, offering free access and assistance to interested individuals. However, technology has