

“WE STOOD!”—REMEMBERING THE FALLEN OF THE CHINOOK HELICOPTER CRASH ON AUGUST 6, 2011, IN AFGHANISTAN, “WHO GAVE THAT LAST FULL MEASURE” ON THIS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ARMY, AND NAVY

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in remembrance on this up and coming one year anniversary of the thirty magnificent lost heroes from the Navy Special Warfare Units, The Army and Air Force. Who so heroically gave That Last Full Measure for God and Country aboard a Chinook Helicopter in Afghanistan on August the 6th, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families and all of their Brothers and Sisters in Arms, on this anniversary, as I read this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

P01 (SEAL) Darrick C. Benson,
CPO (SEAL) Brian R. Bill,
P01 (SEAL) Christopher G. Campbell,
CPO (SEAL) John W. Faas,
CPO (SEAL) Kevin A. Houston,
LCDR (SEAL) Jonas B. Kelsall,
MCPO (SEAL) Louis J. Langials,
CPO (SEAL) Matthew D. Mason,
CPO (SEAL) Stephen M. Mills,
CPO Nicholas H. Null,
SCPO (SEAL) Thomas A. Ratziaff,
CPO (SEAL) Robert J. Reeves,
CPO (SEAL) Heath M. Robinson,
P01 (SEAL) Jon T. Tumilson,
P01 (SEAL) Aaron C. Vaughn,
P01 (SEAL) Jason R. Workman,
P01 (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman,
P02 (SEAL) Nicholas P. Spehar,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Jared W. Day,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist John Douangdara,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Michael J. Strange,
SCPO Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Kraig M. Vickers,
Army SGT Alexander J. Bennett,
SPC Spencer C. Duncan,
Chief Warrant Officer Brian J. Nichols,
Chief Warrant Officer David R. Carter,
SGT Patrick D. Hamburger,
Airmen Tech SGT John W. Brown,
Staff SGT Andrew W. Harvell,
Tech SGT Daniel L. Zerbe,
The United States Army, Air Force, Navy.

WE STOOD!

We!
WE STOOD!
WE STOOD!
so you can sleep!
While, out across our Nation, our Mother's
now so weep!
WE FOUGHT,
so you can live!
All in such blessed peace,
that which our most selfless sacrifice so
gives!
As all in such pain and heartache our fami-
lies must now so live!
WE STOOD, so you could sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom so very sweet!
As to all of you our promises WE Did So
Keep!

As it was all for you, WE Now So Sleep!
So Sleep, all in such cold dark quiet graves
so very deep!

WE GAVE!
All of Our Most Precious Lives!
While, all of our Brothers In Arms did so
cry. . .

and did not ask why!
As WE so raised our hands so way up high!
And so swore to pledge our most precious
lives!

To Make A Stand!
To Make A Difference With It All!
As WE so gave That Last Full Measure While
Standing Tall!
As WE died and so bled!

To so keep all of our most solemn vows of
honor, said!
As way out across our Nation Our FAMILIES
Now So Weep!

All For The Greater Good, WE so gave all we
could!

AS WE STOOD!
As WE pray now to our Lord their fine souls
to so keep!

For THEY So Stood For What Was Right.
All with their most brilliant souls so burning
bright!

As THEY died,
all for that Old Red White and Blue this
sight!

As into that face of evil,
THEY so marched off casting their most he-
roic lights!

To so go forth,
all in such a most brilliant force to fight!
For THEY'D,

MUCH RATHER HAVE DIED FOR SOME-
THING!
THAN, TO HAVE LIVED FOR NOTHING AT
ALL!

FOR STRENGTH IN HONOR!
Was but THEIR most sacred battle cry. . .
call!

Because, moments . . . are all that WE so
have!

To Make A Difference!
To Hear That Call!
To Change The World!
To go off so boldly with flags unfurled!
Troops mount up, as Heaven calls!
Move on! Move out!

As there are 30 more new Angels,
In The Army of Our Lord . . .
To fight that battle, who shall not pause!
To so watch over us all!
And when there comes a gentle rain,
their tears will wash down upon us to so re-
main!

To ease our pain,
so we won't have to cry anymore!
As forever in our hearts YOUR most sacred
names,
WE will carry ALL!

Because,
YOU died so WE can sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom . . . YOUR Gift
of Peace!

As now WE LAY YOUR FINE BODIES down
to rest,
to sleep!
BECAUSE YOU STOOD!
Amen!

HONORING DOUGLAS CROPPER,
MAINE STATE TROOPER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a Maine State Trooper in my district who literally put his life on the

line to prevent what could have been a terrible tragedy.

While performing a traffic stop on Interstate 295 in Portland on the afternoon of July 1, Trooper Douglas Cropper received a call that a motorist was driving northbound in the southbound lane of Maine's busiest highway. Seeing no other options to stop the wrong-way driver, Trooper Cropper raced ahead of the car and nosed his cruiser into the travel lane. The driver hit the cruiser and came to a stop just in time for oncoming motorists to avoid a collision. A dramatic dashboard video from the cruiser shows just how quickly the incident unfolded.

No one was injured, and I'm extremely grateful that this scary moment didn't end up being a tragic one. But it's very likely that this would not have been the case without Trooper Cropper's quick thinking and outstanding bravery.

Trooper Cropper says he was simply doing his job. But it's my belief that he went above and beyond to protect lives—and that he saved many in the process.

I want to thank Trooper Douglas Cropper for his actions, and for what he and other Maine State Police officers do every day in Maine: putting their lives on the line to protect people of our state. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for keeping us safe.

HONORING TAYLOR MORRIS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer Second Class, Taylor Morris.

Taylor grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and after graduating from high school in 2007, Taylor joined the Navy. Looking for a challenge, Taylor trained as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician. While all of our servicemembers face danger in the course of their service, EOD techs literally put their lives on the line to disarm bombs and keep all of our forces safe.

Taylor deployed to Afghanistan for the first time in January of this year. On May 3, while working with Army Special Forces in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan, Taylor stepped on an IED while clearing a route. The blast of the IED blew off all four of Taylor's limbs. Remarkably, Taylor remained conscious after the blast and called out to the medics that were rushing to help him to stop, recognizing the possible danger of other IEDs. After the second EOD with Taylor had cleared the area, medics arrived to address his wounds.

On May 6, Taylor arrived at Walter Reed Medical Center, not too far from here in Bethesda, MD, where I first had the chance to meet this remarkable young man, along with his girlfriend, Danielle, and his mother, Juli, who've stuck by him since he got home. Taylor is one of only five quadruple amputees from the last decade's wars, and despite his wounds he's remained upbeat and shown remarkable courage in working to recover. Even a few weeks after his injuries when I visited with him for the first time he was raring to move forward and get better.

Just last week, on July 23, I was proud to welcome Taylor, Danielle, and his sister Claire