

HONORING SPECIALIST BRENDEN  
N. SALAZAR

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2012*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative ADAMS rise in honor of Specialist Brenden Salazar, who gave his life July 22, 2012, while supporting combat operations in the Logar Province of Afghanistan. He died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol.

Salazar was a 2010 graduate of Paul Hagerly High School in Oviedo and enlisted in the Army in June 2010. He deployed to Afghanistan in July 2012 after being in his unit a little over a year and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Caserma Ederle, Italy. Brenden came from a long line of soldiers. His grandfather is a retired helicopter pilot and both his mother and stepfather are active duty Army aviators.

Spc. Salazar will be buried at Florida National Cemetery with full military honors. He is survived by his father Chris Salazar and sister, Sophie Salazar of Canton, Georgia; mother, Jovanna Nelson; stepfather, James Nelson; and sister, Hannah Nelson of Chuluota, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that we honor Spc. Brenden Salazar's sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. He is a hero to his countrymen, his family, and his fellow soldiers. He reminds us that America is blessed to have so many young men and women willing to stand up and fight to preserve our precious freedoms. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all our military families, whose selfless dedication to this Nation is an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF VICTIMS RIGHTS

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2012*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue and to point out the efforts of a person who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes on this issue.

The issue I am referring to is the passage of a Victim Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Currently, this issue is before us by way of H.J. Res. 106.

The resolution seeks to amend our Constitution by fixing a problem our founders never likely anticipated. Our founding fathers were concerned, with good reason, about the prosecutorial abuses they had witnessed by the King of England and local Colonial loyalist bureaucrats.

There are few offices more powerful than a prosecutor, and abuse of that office by prosecutors, or by the police assisting that office, is prevented by many provisions in our Constitution. What has happened, however, is that all of the Constitutional provisions designed to stop prosecutorial abuse have essentially conveyed criminals in our society with fundamental rights unparalleled even for its lawful citizens.

This proposed amendment addresses the reality that for every crime there is a victim, and that our legal system has systematically excluded these victims from meaningful consideration. This amendment, if enacted, would prohibit the denial or limitation of the rights of a crime victim to fairness, respect, and dignity. It would also convey to a crime victim the right: (1) to reasonable notice of, and to not be excluded from, public proceedings relating to the offense; (2) to be heard at any release, plea, sentencing, or other such proceeding involving any right established under this amendment; (3) to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; (4) to reasonable notice of the release or escape of the accused; (5) to due consideration of the crime victim's safety; and (6) to restitution.

The victims of crimes would have standing to fully assert and enforce any of the above rights in court. This amendment brings balance back to the criminal justice system which has, for centuries, protected the criminals and ignored and often harmed the victims a second time.

At the same time, no constitutional right afforded to a criminal would be impacted or lessened. All such rights are preserved. Instead, crime victims are afforded some legal rights long overdue.

I want to point out the good work of Steven J. Twist, of Phoenix, Arizona. He has been an advocate for crime victims' rights. He recently published a scholarly review on this issue, called "The Proposed Victims' Rights Amendment: A Brief Point/Counterpoint" in the Phoenix Law Review, Volume 5, Number 2 (2012). He researched this issue and has advocated for this issue for years. His work should be recognized and applauded. On behalf of my constituents and the people of Arizona, I want to thank Mr. Twist for his work in this area and I encourage my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 106.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF VINTAGE HALL AND ST. HELENA HIGH SCHOOL IN ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 7, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration and praise of St. Helena High School, my alma mater and one of the oldest public education facilities in northern California, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Founded in June of 1912, upon the completion of what is now known as Vintage Hall, St. Helena Union High School represents the culmination of a long-standing effort to unify the various school districts of the St. Helena area, including those of Pope Valley, Conn Valley and Angwin. Early efforts to provide free, public education, beginning in the 1890s, combined the regions under a single governing board, but classes had to be held in the local Presbyterian Church from 1895 until completion of the building nearly 20 years later.

Today, St. Helena High School's facilities have expanded far beyond Vintage Hall to accommodate the demands of the community's growing student population. And this year, the school became home to a new \$13.5 million vocational education complex, complete with a state-of-the-art culinary facility, animal barn, agricultural mechanics workshop and all of the amenities of 21st century classrooms. With these facilities in place, students will benefit from a top-flight vocational training program, essential to the development of a skilled workforce and subsequent community improvements.

Students at St. Helena High School will now be afforded the unique opportunity to prepare for careers in the areas of hospitality, tourism, the culinary arts, floral design, agricultural husbandry, and mechanics, continuing the historic tradition that St. Helena High School started so many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate the students, educators and administrators of St. Helena High School, past and present. The centennial celebration in St. Helena is one that is well-deserved. We extend our best wishes to the school and community for many more years of outstanding public education and the merits that come with.