

buildings and homes similar to one he had seen done in neighboring Arlington County. "I didn't realize Arlington is about one-tenth the size of Fairfax County, and I bit off a great deal to chew . . . and I'm still chewing."

All told, Mr. Stuntz spent 47 years on the Commission, chronicling and preserving our community's rich history and culture. In addition to the books he and his wife published, he regularly lectured in local classrooms and community centers. He readily acknowledged that he was not a trained historian, but his local knowledge went back a piece, and he understood the value in connecting the past with our present. It was those connections that continued to drive him, even in his later years, when he lost his sight.

I had the great pleasure of collaborating with Mr. Stuntz on Civil War preservation and a number of historic marker dedications during my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. You could not help but get carried along by his vast knowledge and passion for our local history. I was able to spend time with Mr. Stuntz earlier this spring when we celebrated the Freeman Store, a local Civil War landmark, being added to the National Register of Historic Places. It was particularly poignant for him as he was the first chairman of the Freeman House ad hoc Historical Commission. His daughter, Anne, is now president of the Commission's successor, Historic Vienna. As we reflected on this latest addition to his historic tally, he pulled me aside to ask me if I had purchased my plot at Flint Hill Cemetery. It is believed to be the oldest cemetery in Fairfax County, and Mr. Stuntz had served as president of the cemetery association for 50 years. He had long encouraged me to get a plot before they were all gone, and even now was still trying to close the deal. He was truly a character.

Mr. Stuntz is survived by his wife of 66 years, Connie, their three children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and in commemorating the remarkable life of Mayo Stuntz for his tremendous service to our country and community and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family. His strong connection and commitment to our community became a lifelong passion that has preserved milestones in our history for future generations and inspired others to pick up where he left off. He also was my friend, and I shall miss his smile and warm presence terribly.

HONORING DR. GENE JOHNSON

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Gene Johnson, Superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District in Johnson County Kansas, for his unwavering service to our country's greatest natural resource—our children. Dr. Johnson has tirelessly served the children of Kansas during his educational career as teacher, principal, administrative leader, and during the last five years as the Superintendent of one of the largest school districts in Kansas. He will be ending his life-long service in public education at the end of June.

During his time of leadership Dr. Johnson has led through the difficulties of economic challenge and a changing demographic in student population, while continuing to raise the bar of academic excellence and achievement—a great example of excellence in leadership through diversity. He has quietly and brilliantly led this national award winning school district in the increase of their International Baccalaureate programs in the high schools and Advanced Placement Courses; Signature Programs in Bio-Science/Medical Studies, Bio-Technology, Engineering, Legal Studies, Culinary Arts and others while strengthening focus on early childhood education and academic rigor in the Middle Schools.

Thank you, Dr. Johnson, for your servant leadership. You are a hero and champion, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

STRENGTH IN HONOR

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of United States Navy SEAL Lt. Jason Redman. In September 2007, while in the midst of an intense fire fight to capture an Al Qaeda High Value Individual, he was severely wounded. Shot in the face and other parts of his body, he came very close to death. With the help of his devoted wife Erica, Lt. Redman has made a miraculous recovery. The one word he uses which embodies his life and attitude is OVERCOME! He and his wife have started up a new company in Virginia called Wounded Wear. Through their company they are devoted to providing clothing and other gear for those injured in combat. Their goal is to help make the transition easier for American wounded warriors and their families. Lt. Redman and his family make us all so very proud to be Americans and I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

TO OVERCOME

STRENGTH IN HONOR

Strength!

Strength In Honor!

When, hearts caress!

All in life,

all in life and death!

But To Be The Best!

While, all in the throws of death!

All in these,

our most heroic of all quests!

All in those,

moments that which we have so left . . .

Will it be The Angel of Light,

or Angel of Death?

As somehow Jay . . .

you so fought onward . . . with all that you had so left!

While, all in those darkest of all hours . . .

As upon your heart as was so showered,

the determination to so etch!

To so summon up the strength and power

. . .

TO OVERCOME!

To rise above,

all in this battle to which your heart had now so come!

To somehow find the light,

from somewhere deep down inside!

As there you were Jay,

all in your SEAL OF HONOR,

as your courage out to all so cried!

All in this battle that you had so begun!

TO OVERCOME!

As upon you,

the dark hand of death would descend!

As you could so see its face,

and felt its hand!

When, life and death could not so wait!

As the tears ran down your most heroic face!

As you so said No to The Angel of Death,

as The Angel of Light came upon your

breath!

To so help you find the grace . . .

To so reach deep down from within . . .

To fine THE STRENGTH IN HONOR,

with but your faith to so begin!

TO OVERCOME!

As death so wanted you to own!

As you have gotten stronger,

as your gait has gotten longer!!

TO OVERCOME!

As this battle SEAL,

YOU HAVE SO WON!

Because NAVY SEALS,

are everything Superman wishes he could so become!

As now you've rebuild your new life against all odds,

TO OVERCOME!

Almost like a God!

All in this your most heroic song!

For a town called pity,

is not some where you so belong!

Halfway to Heaven,

halfway to death!

As inch by inch,

step by step!

As you Lt Redman,

quantum leaps you so leapt!

As with you we could not so keep pace,

as all out in front you've so won this race!

That race to recovery,

TO OVERCOME!

All in those most magnificent moments,

that your fine soul so stretched!

To win that battle,

to win that fight . . .

as to our world you so brought your light!

For Faith and Courage,

are but the words you so live by!

And you wounded warrior,

have so brought such tears even to The Angels eyes!

As you fine wife Erica so stood by your side, as upon her you could so rely!

For some people are put upon this earth,

to so teach us all what so comes first!

To so show us all that even in the very worst!

How to OVERCOME!

As Thy Will Be Done,

as On Earth As It Is In Heaven!

ALL IN THEIR STRENGTH IN HONOR,

TO SO SHINE LIKE THE MORNING SUN!

TO SO OVERCOME!

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
FRANCIS G. PHILLIPS IV

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor fallen Army Staff Sergeant Francis G. Phillips, IV, who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend the freedoms of the United States of America. He was 28 years old.

This week, he returned home to Auburn, New York, and his family will lay him to rest next week at Arlington National Cemetery.

Staff Sergeant Francis G. Phillips, IV was killed on May 4, 2013 in Maiwand, Afghanistan along with four other members of his unit when their vehicle was struck by an enemy improvised explosive device. Francis Phillips, or Frankie as he was affectionately called by his family, embodied the same values that make this country extraordinary: Dedication, Honor and Pride.

Staff Sergeant Phillips, of Meridian, New York was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th

Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. Francis joined the Army in 2004 and served one tour in Iraq and two previous tours in Afghanistan. This was Frankie's fourth deployment and third to Afghanistan.

Francis is survived by his wife and daughter, Christine and Sophia Phillips, El Paso, TX; his mother, Cherie Phillips and fiance, Greg Race, Auburn; his dad, Francis "Frank" Phillips III, Lyons, NY; maternal grandmother,

Jonnie Maxson-Manker, Springfield, Missouri; paternal grandparents, Betty Roberts, Seneca Falls, NY, Frank F. Phillips Jr. Savannah, NY; a brother, David Phillips, Auburn; a sister, Danielle Nicole Phillips, Land O'Lakes, FL; several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, in appreciation of this young man's love for country, who gave his life protecting this great nation, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the legacy of Army Staff Sergeant Francis G. Phillips, IV.