

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. JAMES WILSON
MURRAY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. James Wilson Murray's service as the executive director of General Baptist Ministries. Dr. Murray is retiring after 65 years of ministry. His service to our country and his community is unparalleled. I am incredibly thankful for the work he has done and the example he has set in Southern Missouri.

Dr. Murray served more than 20 years in the United State Marine Corps. He saw combat in both Korea and Vietnam and was recognized with three Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star Medal for valor. After leaving military service, Dr. Murray was president of Oakland City College for 33 years. He transformed the university from an unaccredited, declining college to a fully accredited university with more than 2,000 students on multiple campuses.

In addition to these incredible experiences and years of service, Dr. Murray has dedicated his life to the ministry of the General Baptist denomination. While serving as the executive director of General Baptist Ministries in Poplar Bluff, he established financial stability, provided ministerial credibility and implemented Mission One, a five-year initiative to offer new resources and enhanced communications to the people and ministries of the General Baptist denomination.

From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate everything he has done from his service in the Marine Corps to his time as executive director of General Baptist Ministries. I am proud to have Dr. Murray serve as an example in Southern Missouri, and I thank him for his years of dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence, due to travel delays with a lightning storm at Charlotte, from a vote which occurred on July 9, 2012. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 452—H.R. 4155 To direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses—"aye."

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
SOUTH SUDAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 9, marked the one year anniversary of South Sudan's independence. A nation whose self-determination was long in the making, South Sudan had to struggle for its freedom, and millions of its people paid with their lives to reach that milestone. One year later, a country has been established, but its stability and prosperity are unfortunately far from assured.

As we know too well, conflict rages near the border between Sudan and South Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of refugees from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan have streamed into South Sudan, and their numbers are only increasing. Men, women, and children in the conflict areas have been cut off from humanitarian supplies due to fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). Near constant bombing by the SAF has forced families to seek refuge in caves and travel hundreds of miles, sometimes by foot, to reach safety from the barrage.

Add to this the stress of fraught negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan on post-CPA implementation issues—such as border demarcation, oil transit, wealth and debt sharing, the status of Abyei—and you have a volatile situation that has been teetering on the edge of a cliff for months. In April, Sudan and South Sudan exchanged cross-border attacks. While negotiations have since resumed under the auspices of the United Nations High-Level Implementation Panel, they have yet to lead to many concrete developments, or to the implementation of the African Union/United Nations-approved road map.

Internally, South Sudan has its own problems that need attention. Violence and ethnic conflict has ebbed and flowed in Jonglei state over the past few years. Although the Government of the Republic of South Sudan has taken steps to address this, real concerns remain. Demobilization and disarmament must continue judiciously. In addition, the RSS government's laudable attempts to root out corruption and graft at all levels have been met with open hostility and far too much opposition from other officials. I encourage His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit to continue fighting corruption and establish high standards for his government. Such an approach will better serve the people of South Sudan in the long run and will help guarantee a democracy founded on the soundest principles.

The United States must continue to pay strict attention to the needs of South Sudan as it further establishes itself with an eye toward longevity. This means supporting responsible policies put forth by the RSS government and

telling hard truths to our friends when necessary. We must stress the importance of finding a solution to the oil crisis. We must maintain strides made thus far in development in South Sudan and encourage further progress through proper governance, capacity-building, investment, and promotion of agriculture. The American people have invested too much in the success of South Sudan to turn back now.

So, on this anniversary of South Sudan's independence, I join in celebrating the initial achievement, but I also pledge my commitment to seeing South Sudan emerge as a fully competent, robust, and vibrant democracy in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF KEITH RUNYON FOR
HIS 43 YEARS OF JOURNALISTIC
EXCELLENCE AT THE LOUIS-
VILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a newsman and writer whose desire to inform and enrich his community led to a 43-year career in journalism.

Keith Runyon retired from the Louisville Courier-Journal in April, leaving behind a matchless legacy. One of Kentucky's longest-serving and most distinguished journalists, Keith spent 35 years on the newspaper's editorial board, where he skillfully guided the C-J through times of national turmoil and triumph to local controversy and accomplishment.

The landscape of Keith's career is decorated with awards, and earlier this year he received one of the most prestigious: The Society of Professional Journalists' acclaimed Sigma Delta Chi Award.

Keith was the last member of the editorial board to have a direct connection to the Bingham Family, who owned and operated the Louisville Courier-Journal for three generations. The Bingham's two-tiered commitment to solid, fact-based journalism and advocacy for social justice has always remained—in Keith, and in all those who he has advised over the years.

But Keith's field of vision has always been broader than political reporting and commentary. Through most of his career, he also served as editor of the C-J's books page, driving to expand coverage of literature and nonfiction at a time when most major U.S. newspapers are cutting back.

Among the many responsibilities of journalists and commentators is to fully envision the kind of community where you want to live and work to achieve it. We are indebted to Keith for his years spent in service of that cause. His legacy will be the decency, equality, and justice that he fought for and inspired throughout our community.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District, I thank Keith for more than four decades of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

contributions to our city, and I wish him years of happiness and continued success in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, due to a delay of my flight to Washington, D.C., I missed rollcall vote 452. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4155, a bill to direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL METRO DETROIT YOUTH DAY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the organizers, supporters and participants of the 30th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day.

In 1982, Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young asked Mr. Ed Deeb to rise to the challenge of restoring relationships between the local business community and the youth of Detroit. From this need, Mr. Deeb, Mr. Tom Fox and the late Mr. Jerry Blocker founded Youth Day, an annual event which strengthened ties between Detroit business owners and youth. Under Mr. Deeb's leadership as chairman and coordinator of Youth Day, it has continued to grow and evolve into an event focused on nurturing the great potential of our youth and community support in the City of Detroit.

Youth Day has grown from eleven hundred participants the first year to over thirty-seven thousand annually, with more than seven hundred thousand youth participants throughout its history. Of equal importance are the more than fifteen hundred annual volunteers who come from more than 320 organizations and 310 businesses and civic groups who supervise sports clinics, games, contests and many other activities that are a part of this daylong event.

Youth Day's evolution included expanding its impact on participants, supporters and volunteers. As part of this expansion, Youth Day began to focus on providing youth with guidance, mentoring, substance abuse prevention and motivational activities designed to allow them to channel their creativity and ideas into positive outcomes, as well as provide the opportunity to pursue higher education. This year, participants will also have the opportunity to attend workshops on anti-bullying and obesity.

To promote higher education, Youth Day began awarding participants with scholarships for youth who displayed outstanding citizenship, leadership and service. Since 1992, over seven hundred scholarships have been awarded to graduating high school seniors in Metro

Detroit, and over eighty will be awarded this year. In addition to the scholarship awards, several colleges will have information booths at Youth Day to showcase opportunities for higher education.

The fifty-person Youth Day Executive Board spearheads volunteer and event organization. Ed's vision speaks for itself, as Youth Day has been awarded numerous accolades including a Point of Light award from President George H.W. Bush and the Physical Fitness Award from the Governor's Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 30th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day and recognizing the organizers, supporters, volunteers and participants for working together to build a stronger future for Michigan youth in Metro Detroit.

HONORING THE GRAND HOTEL

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, let it be known it is an honor to commemorate the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Grand Hotel in Mackinac Island, Michigan.

The idea for a hotel on scenic Mackinac Island in Lake Huron became a reality when the Mackinac Island Hotel Company was formed by two railroads and a steamship company to promote tourism in the region. On July 10, 1887, the Grand Hotel opened its doors to the world. Using a force of 600 carpenters and 1.5 million Michigan White Pine boards, the original hotel was completed in just 93 days.

In the 1930s, W. Stewart Woodfill, who joined the hotel as a clerk in 1919, purchased the hotel and became its new owner. In 1960, Dan Musser, an employee since 1951, became the president of the hotel. The Mussers purchased the hotel in 1979 and have owned it since that time.

Throughout its history, the hotel welcomed many luminaries and statesmen including Mark Twain and Thomas Edison in addition to Presidents Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Michigan's own Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

The Grand Hotel is set on picturesque Mackinac Island. In addition to relaxing or participating in sports such as golf or tennis, patrons of the hotel can explore the Mackinac Island State Park, visit nearby Fort Mackinac, the oldest building in the state of Michigan, or enjoy bicycling or horseback riding. The island has banned motorized transportation since 1898. Although over a century has passed, some things never change, as the hotel still holds afternoon tea and patrons must wear proper evening dress at dinner.

The hotel still holds the record for possessing the longest porch in the world, at 660 feet long. It has been on Michigan's State Historical Register since 1957, was added to the National Historical Register in 1972, and became a National Historical Landmark in 1989. Aside from its historical status, the Grand Hotel has worked to make the facility as green as the forests which surrounds it.

In its 125 years of operation, the Grand Hotel has represented an important link to the Great Lake State's past and its future. I wish

the Grand Hotel and its staff a very happy anniversary. May it enjoy another 125 years of continued success in preserving an important and thriving summer destination.

As a final note, I would like to invite all Members of this body and all Americans to come to Northern Michigan and experience the natural beauty and friendly hospitality that make my home state one of the best places in the country to visit.

FORMER CHARLESTON NAVAL BASE LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2061, the Former Charleston Naval Base Land Exchange Act, introduced by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. Congressman CLYBURN and I introduced the companion to this legislation in the House, and I want to thank both Mr. CLYBURN and SENATOR GRAHAM for their support on this land swap.

Our bill simply authorizes a land swap between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the South Carolina State Ports Authority. The 25 acres DHS would receive are in the middle of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center campus and are currently leased from the Ports Authority. In exchange for this land, the Ports Authority would receive 10.5 acres of vacant DHS land to build an access road between Interstate 26 and the new container terminal under construction.

This is a commonsense solution that is a win for both parties involved, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

THE ALEH FOUNDATION PAID TRIBUTE TO MIKE SILVERSTEIN AT THEIR 28TH YEAR MILESTONE GALA

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, Mike Silverstein was a legendary figure in the shoe industry and co-founded NINA Footwear in 1953. Operating from a loft on Prince Street in New York City, the brothers, Stanley and Mike built Nina Footwear into one of the most widely respected independent companies in the shoe industry. Mike combined a flair for showmanship with true business acumen and was instrumental in developing the shoe industry's presence in New York City.

Mr. Silverstein was also renowned in other circles. To so many who knew Mike Silverstein, as well as to the disabled children that Aleh Foundation helps, Moshe "Mike" Silverstein is unforgettable, and has left his family and friends with warm and happy memories. His charismatic personality was joyously remembered by the Chairpersons, Honorees and the Raine & Stanley Silverstein Family Foundation during the Aleh 28th annual Awards Dinner to "Fulfill a Child's Dream."

Friends in the industry in which he played a central role for decades will remember him fondly as he left behind a beautiful family; to include his children, Scott, Baron, Nanci, and Neil.

At the Dinner in the ballroom of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park NYC, Rabbi Dr. Elie Abadie, an Aleh Foundation Rabbinical Board member and a strong supporter of the great work done by the Aleh Foundation, recited an emotional and special prayer dedicated to the deceased. Afterwards Rabbi Abadie then presented a Congressional certificate to Mr. Silverstein's niece, Nina Miner and her daughter Leslie and husband Michael—the sponsors of the 2012 Aleh dinner. These wonderful individuals were also the sponsors of a residential wing to house children in the Aleh village, which is known as the "Aleh Negev" in loving memory of Stanley Silverstein's great granddaughter, the late Chana Emunah Kule ob'm.

Truly, the City and people of New York will miss the kindness and compassion of Mike Silverstein. His good deeds and charitable spirit will live forever within our hearts.

CONGRATULATING THE WAUSAU KAYAK/CANOE CORPORATION FOR HOSTING THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION JUNIOR AND UNDER-23 CANOE SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me to recognize the hosts of the 2012 International Canoe Federation's Junior and Under-23 Canoe Slalom World Championships. This competition between young canoe and kayak paddlers all over the world will take place on the Wausau Whitewater Course in Wausau, Wisconsin from July 10 to July 15, 2012.

Due to the many great people who contributed to bringing this event back to American waters, this will be Wausau's second year to host the Junior World Championship and their first year to host the U-23 Championship. I am truly proud and honored that this event is taking place in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District.

This international competition among Junior Slalom and U-23 canoe and kayak paddlers will bring together over 400 participants and support staff representing athletes from over 35 nations. Not only does this event bring a multitude of skill and interest to the Central Wisconsin area, it will bring the inaugural championship for the Under-23 age category, which is sure to become an exciting new force in the slalom realm. In fact, two of the soon-to-be Olympic competitors in this category, Caroline Queen and Casey Eichfeld, will be competing in Wausau before competing for the United States at the 2012 Summer London Games later in July. Additionally, the event will also welcome international dignitaries to Wausau, Wisconsin, including Mr. Jose Perurena, the current president of the International Canoe Federation.

This World Championship would not be possible without the Wausau Kayak/Canoe Cor-

poration as the official host the event, as well as the multiple contributions from local and national foundations and organizations—including, The Alexander Foundation, The Dudley Foundation, The BA & Esther Greenheck Foundation, The Community Foundation of North Central WI, Wisconsin Public Service, Charter Communications, and Kinzie Green Marketing. I would like to take this moment to recognize the hard work and intense effort to make this event possible.

I am immensely proud and honored to have such a group of high caliber athletes coming to compete in Central Wisconsin, especially in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District. I wish everyone the best of luck in their upcoming races.

HONORING BOB PHILLIPS'S SERVICE AS THE 2011-2012 LEBANON ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor as a fellow Rotarian to congratulate Bob J. Phillips on his service as the 2011–2012 President of the Lebanon Rotary Club in Lebanon, Tennessee. True to the Rotary theme "service above self," Mr. Phillips worked tirelessly with his club to improve his community.

Prior to serving as President, Mr. Phillips served the Lebanon Rotary Club as a Member of the Board of Directors and project manager for the initial installation of the first two water purification systems in Honduras. He additionally served as Bulletin Editor prior to becoming President and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Mr. Phillips retired from Lockheed Martin in 2000 with over 22 years of service. In his last assignment with Lockheed Martin, he served as Assistant General Manager, Information Services Division, and managed all communication and information technologies in support of the Nevada Test site for the U.S. Department of Energy from 1995 to 2000.

He and his wife, Barbara, relocated to Lebanon after his retirement. They have two children and five grandchildren. He is a member of the Maple Hill Church of Christ where he has served on the evangelism program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 452, 453 and 454 I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 452, "aye" on rollcall No. 453 and "aye" on rollcall No. 454.

CELEBRATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 47th anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

The Older Americans Act of 1965 was the first federal-level initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services for American seniors. The Older Americans Act has played an instrumental role in shaping American society by supporting critical nutrition services, job training, senior centers, caregiver support, transportation, health promotion, and benefits enrollment, among other services.

The Older Americans Act remains an important element in our government, especially as American citizens live longer, and as many face financial challenges during these tough economic times.

Today, the Older Americans Act authorizes an extensive array of service programs through a national network of 56 state agencies, 629 area agencies, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 tribal organizations, and two Native Hawaiian organizations that represent 400 Tribes. Additionally, it includes community service employment for low-income seniors. It also provides older citizens with training, research, and demonstration activities in the field of aging and vulnerable elder rights protection activities.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that many seniors in the 37th Congressional District of California have benefited from this indispensable piece of legislation and have been protected from homelessness and joblessness. On the anniversary of the Older Americans Act, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful contributions American seniors have made to our nation and to continue supporting the services critical to their wellbeing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 452: on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4155—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 453: on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4367—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 454: on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5892—I would have voted "aye."

HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY VICTORIA
CERNOK

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary milestone of Huntington Beach resident Victoria Cernok, as she celebrates her 65th birthday on July 10, 2012.

A fifth generation Californian, Victoria has continued to be an active member in the Huntington Beach community for more than four decades. Victoria and her husband, John, raised their four children—Jon, Brian, Jill, and Greg—in Huntington Beach, while simultaneously running a private culinary and catering business and staying engaged in her children's education through volunteer parental activities. She also had a great career as a flight attendant—traveling the country serving others, while watching her family grow.

Victoria now enjoys spending time with her two grandsons, Grant and Blake, going for walks on the beach, honing her painting skills, traveling the world, teaching generations of Huntington Beach residents how to create culinary masterpieces at the local Community College, and being an active member in the acclaimed Saint Simon and Jude Church Choir.

Victoria has contributed her life to being a dedicated and wonderful mother and a shining example in her community by giving her time and energy to the betterment of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Victoria on this special day, July 10th, 2012, and in wishing her a Happy 65th Birthday! May she have many, many more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE
"TINA" MICHELLE DRABBLE-MCCORMACK

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SOMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sympathy to offer my condolences to the family and friends of a beloved daughter of American Samoa, Christine "Tina" Michelle Drabble-McCormack, who passed away early on the morning of July 9, 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona following a 6-year battle with melanoma.

Christine, who was known as "Tina" among family and friends, was born on May 30, 1971 in American Samoa, the eldest child of Thomas Hingston Drabble of Te Puke, New Zealand and Ta'alolo 'Chande' Lutu-Drabble of Pago Pago, American Samoa.

As a young girl, Tina attended South Pacific Academy, a private school where her father was one of the founders. At the early age of 9, she learned how to play golf from her uncle Fuga Tolani Teleso and she was selected as a member of the American Samoa Team in the 10 and under age group in the Junior Golf World Competition in San Diego, California, placing 2nd World and 1st Place International.

In the following years, Tina would continue to represent American Samoa, serving as an

American Samoa Flag Carrier in the 15–17 age group Junior Golf World Competition and earning additional 2nd and 3rd place World trophies, and an additional 4th place and two 1st place International trophies among junior golfers.

In 1985 she became a member of the American Samoa Team in the South Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands, where her team won the gold medal. Two years later, at the age of 15, she participated in another gold-winning American Samoa team in the renowned South Pacific Games held in New Caledonia in 1987. That year, Tina also won the Individual Silver Medal.

Tina attended Seabury Hall in Maui, Hawaii where she attained a 4.0 High School Grade Point Average in all four years. She was also the only female golfer on the school's all-male golf team. During high school, she also represented American Samoa in the three Fijian Ladies Opens in Suva, Fiji and the Fijian Ladies Classics in Deuba, Fiji in 1989, 1990 and 1991. She won all six of them.

After high school, Tina was accepted at Stanford University and Brigham Young University in Utah but chose New Mexico State University for its golf program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting & Marketing and was selected as Captain of her college golf team. Before turning pro in 1996, Tina participated in the United States Amateur Links, finishing second to Natalie Gulbis, who is now one of the LPGA's top golfers.

After Tina turned Professional, she played at the Futures Tours and won at Bay Hill Country Club. In 2007, a year after she was diagnosed with cancer, Tina was selected as an American Samoa Flag Carrier in the 2007 South Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, where she culminated her career by winning the Individual Gold Medal for American Samoa.

After college, Tina worked at Ashcraft Investment Company in Encinitas, California, as a Special Assistant to her dad at Sadie's Inn & Sadie's by the Sea in American Samoa and briefly at PICED, an educational development center in American Samoa. Tina was 41 years old in May this year.

It is a very sad time for not only the Drabble family, but also for our American Samoan community. We have lost a beautiful young lady whose contribution to the people of American Samoa, especially as a sportswoman, will always be an inspiration to our young people. Tina was not only an ambassador of the Samoan people to the world but she was also a loving daughter, sister, and friend.

I cannot imagine what a terrible experience it is for any parent to witness their child's life slowly coming to an end and I cannot find any words sufficient enough to comfort the Drabble family. In closing today, I can only extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Drabble family, especially Mr. Tom Drabble, Tina's father, and Mrs. Ta'alolo 'Chande' Lutu-Drabble, Tina's mother, who has also been Tina's full time caregiver and patient advocate in the final stages of her daughter's life.

In the Book of Matthew we read, "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted." I pray that the comfort of God will give Tina's family strength and that through the tremendous sorrow, memories of Tina's life and her beautiful spirit will bring lasting joy to all who loved her. Tina, you will surely be missed.

la manuia lau faigamalaga.

CONGRATULATING THE WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE COLLEGE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College of Superior, Wisconsin as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) is an impressive institution servicing the growing educational needs of Northwest Wisconsin. Throughout its 100 years, WITC has exemplified the important role of vocational and technical education for effective workforce preparation. Our Nation's varying economy and work environment is dependent on the advancement of new technology and innovation. With each new innovation created, WITC has been the key to supporting and supplying Northwest Wisconsin industries with a new generation of highly skilled workers.

Established in 1912, the Industrial, Commercial and Continuing Evening School in Superior, WI was the first technical school in Northwest Wisconsin founded to specifically address the need for educating those working in the manufacturing industry. As automation and mechanization processes in American industry grew and developed, this technical school shifted with the times to accommodate the changing populations and educational needs.

Workforce enhancement and skills training has seen a great deal of industrial focused positions—from shipbuilding, paper and steel industry directed courses to aircraft manufacturing and electrical work curriculum. Over time, advancing new curriculum, adding associate degree programs, and expanding a distance learning network of online classes and outreach centers has helped to provide students with affordable, flexible and accessible education and career opportunities for Wisconsinites.

In 1987 Wisconsin Indianhead Vocational, Technical and Adult Education district became the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College to more accurately reflect the mission of the school. Today, WITC employs a staff of more than 1,700 and provides education to 6,000 credit students in more than 50 full-time programs, and nearly 20,000.

WITC has provided Northwest Wisconsinites with the important technical and vocational skills needed to succeed and advance in today's economy. These are the achievements that we recognize today as Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College reaches this important milestone—its 100th year anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN FOR BEING NAMED AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Homer Glen, which will be recognized this evening as only the fourth International Dark Sky Community in the world. At the Homer Glen Village Hall in the Council Chambers, Mr. Bob Parks, Executive Director of the International Dark Sky Association, will present the village with the award. Homer Glen's commitment to recognizing the beauty of the night sky as well as saving energy has been recognized internationally and I am very proud of their accomplishment. In particular, Village Trustee, Margaret Sabo has been a stalwart supporter of this initiative, and she deserves special acknowledgment.

In 2007, Homer Glen passed the first city ordinance of its kind in Illinois. By setting guidelines for the amount of light commercial business can emit, the village eliminated the need for establishments to escalate the brightness of their signs to garner attention. The ordinance also included a lighting cutoff at night, which reduces glare for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, and protects the natural cycle of night and day for local wildlife. I also want to recognize several establishments in Homer Glen that responded to the ordinance with effective and responsible lighting plans: Eagle Rock Community Church, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Silver Cross Health Center, and Midland Federal Savings and Loan. All of the organizations will be recognized at the event tonight as well as Debra Briggs Luginbuhl who has been a leader in developing the ordinance.

While saving energy, the city ordinance has also allowed for local residents to view the breathtaking beauty of our night sky, something so many Americans cannot do or take for granted. Every summer, local organizations hold a stargazing event at Trantina Farm, where thousands of local residents can clearly view constellations including Bootes, Hercules, the Corona Borealis, and much more. This year, the event will be this Friday, July 13th. Over 1000 stargazers have attended since the beginning of the event, and local amateur astronomers from Kankakee Area StarGazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association, and the South West Astronomy Observers Group come to help others recognize the various celestial bodies.

I commend Homer Glen for joining Flagstaff, Arizona, Borrego Springs, California, and Sark Island in the English Channel as an International Dark Sky Community. The residents of this village have shown initiative and leadership in appreciating our night sky and I hope others will follow.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT D. PETERSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Colonel Robert D. Peterson; who has served West Virginia through his leadership for the past 3 years at the United State Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District. Col. Peterson is responsible for the 300 navigable miles of the Ohio River basin. Col. Peterson employees over 800 staff members to maintain 35 reservoirs, and nine locks and dams. I want to personally congratulate Col. Peterson for his continued success.

The awards of Col. Peterson are just a fraction of what he has truly accomplished. Col. Peterson has successfully managed 35 flood projects that prevented over 11.3 billion dollars in damages while allowing over 30 million visitors to support these regions through tourism. He was responsible for the processing of 94 tons of commercial traffic valued at \$18.6 billion dollars through nine locks and dams. He oversaw the ongoing construction of the Bluestone Dam including communication of risk in the event of dam failure and held a Combined Emergency Exercise to educate affected federal, state and local governments to potential dangers. As a result, the Huntington District was selected by the Great Lakes and Ohio River division as the Regional Dam Safety Production Center and soon after, selected by the Corps of Engineers Headquarters as the Corps' national Mandatory Center of Expertise for Dam Safety.

I had the honor to work with Col. Peterson as he executed nine Project Partnership Agreements for environmental infrastructure projects providing water and sewer service to unserved and underserved residents of the Second Congressional District, resulting in improved public health and safety. He has proven to be an effective communicator in a variety of public venues on the federal, state and local level, including such forums as the Ohio River Basin Alliance of which I have been involved. And lastly, he issued 800 permits for mining, highway construction, and flood emergency, including the permit to place West Virginia's newest resident, the Boy Scout Jamboree on a post-mining land site within our beautiful state of West Virginia.

Col. Robert D. Peterson is an outstanding soldier, friend, husband and father. He is a 1985 graduate from the prestigious academy of West Point, graduating with a Bachelors of Science and from the U.S. Army War College with a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies. Col. Peterson was awarded the Bronze Star, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Bronze Order of the deFloury Medal.

Col. Peterson's work has greatly enhanced the state of West Virginia and the world around him. Congratulations to Col. Peterson on his numerous accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012 WASHINGTON, DC FALUN Dafa EXPERIENCE SHARING CONFERENCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome participants of the 2012 Washington, DC Falun Dafa Experience Sharing Conference and Rally.

I share Falun Gong's commitment to freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and we must do all that we can to ensure that citizens here in America and around the world have access to these fundamental rights.

Since Falun Gong's inception in 1992, it is estimated that millions of individuals have been drawn to its guiding principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. These principles are enduring cornerstones of a democratic society. Yet, as we mark over 60 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is a travesty that those who hold Falun Gong beliefs have been persecuted and tortured. I look forward to the day when Falun Gong practitioners can freely express their beliefs without fear of reprisal.

Mr. Speaker, peace and justice are not only values but calls to action that we must live out every day. I will continue to act here in Congress to promote peace for all persecuted communities and work for a more just world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK "BEN" HODGES' SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major General Frederick "Ben" Hodges, United States Army, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Major General Hodges will be moving on from his present assignment as the Chief, Office Congressional Legislative Liaison (OCLL) for the United States Army to become the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Land Command, Chief.

A native Floridian from Quincy, Major General Ben Hodges graduated from the United States Military Academy in May 1980 and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer. After his first assignment as an Infantry Lieutenant in Germany, he commanded Infantry units at the Company, Battalion and Brigade levels with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and in combat during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. His most recent operational combat assignment was as the Director of Operations, Regional Command South, in Kandahar, Afghanistan during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Major General Hodges has served in a variety of Joint and Army Staff positions to include Tactics Instructor at the Infantry School; Chief

of Plans, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; Aide-de-Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Army Congressional Liaison Officer; Task Force Senior Observer-Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA; Chief of Joint Operations for Multi-National Corps—Iraq (MNC-I) in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM; Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, NC; and Director of the Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell on the Joint Staff.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to recognize Major General Hodges' long and decorated career today and also the great benefit to the Nation he has provided as the Chief, Office Congressional Legislative Liaison (OCLL) for the United States Army. We work closely with Major General Hodges to accomplish the toughest tasks for our Service Men and Women and Ben has always achieved excellence daily during his tenure. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major General Hodges for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country, we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Holly, his son Ben, and his daughter Madeline, all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

H.R. 4155—Veteran Skills to Jobs Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

H.R. 4367—To amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

H.R. 5892—Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,879,266,313,073.20. We've added \$5,252,389,264,160.12 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1951, armistice talks began for ending the Korean War at Kaesong. We

must balance our budget so that we have the resources to engage in peace talks.

IN MEMORY OF LEONARD RONIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Leonard Ronis who passed away on July 4. Mr. Ronis will long be remembered in the Greater Cleveland area for his more than 6 decade career in public transportation. Leonard Ronis was born September 5, 1921, grew up in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland during the Great Depression, and graduated from Glenville High School. He studied industrial psychology at Western Reserve University where he received his bachelors and masters degrees. He volunteered with the U.S. Army during World War II where he served in the Infantry, Foreign Language Training (Russian) and the Signal Corps. He finished his service as Officer in Charge of the Civilian Personnel Department of the Philadelphia Signal Depot.

Leonard Ronis began his career in transit in 1946 upon leaving military service in World War II. He started in the Personnel Department at the Cleveland Transit System (CTS) and worked his way up to Personnel Director, Operations Manager and Assistant General Manager before becoming the last General Manager for CTS on November 1, 1974. At that time, he was a founder and past president of the Ohio Public Transit Association, an organization that played a significant role in developing the state legislation which allowed regional transit authorities to be created.

As a Cleveland City Councilman and Council's representative in the negotiations which enabled the creation of a regional transit authority in 1974–75, I had the privilege of working with Leonard Ronis on the transition from a city-owned transit system. Leonard was a dedicated public servant who was a strong negotiator with only the best interest of the people who use and pay for public transit in mind. When the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) was created, he took the helm as General Manager and led the RTA through its first 7 years. Under his leadership, he won more than \$320 million in federal funding for operations and capital expenses. He also saw ridership increase 70 percent under his administration. Upon retirement in 1982, Leonard Ronis continued to apply his expertise in transit as a consultant for Parsons Brinckerhoff, a nationally known transit engineering firm based in New York City.

In 1990, Leonard was named to the American Public Transit Association (APTA) Hall of Fame. In 2005, he received an award from the APTA for his sixty years of achievement and dedicated service in public transportation. In addition to being a founder and president of the Ohio Public Transit Association, he was a Member, Institute of Transportation Engineers; Board Member, Case Western Reserve University Alumni; Member, Visiting Committee of Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs; and Board Member, Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Mr. Speaker, and respected colleagues, please join me in remembering Leonard Ronis, an esteemed public servant who dedicated his life and career to making public transportation better for the people who use it and depend on it to get around.

COMMENDING BELL LABS OF MURRAY HILL, NEW JERSEY ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TELSTAR

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the anniversary of a defining moment in the history of modern communications. It was 50 years ago that Bell Labs, based in Murray Hill, New Jersey, in partnership with NASA, launched the world's first active communications satellite. The Telstar I was launched on July 10, 1962, ushering in the era of real-time global telephony, data communications and TV broadcasting.

With Telstar and its successors the world was made a smaller place. Billions of people around the world had instant access to news, sports and entertainment.

Telstar I, a sphere roughly a yard in diameter and weighing about 170 pounds, incorporated dozens of innovations from Bell Labs. The satellite could carry 600 voice calls and one black-and-white TV channel.

Telstar achieved many firsts. It was the first active, direct-relay communications satellite, it successfully transmitting through space the first television pictures, telephone calls, high-speed data communications and fax images, and the first live transatlantic television feed. Telstar truly changed the world in which we live.

Telstar came out of Bell Labs 50 years ago and paved the way for innovations in communication that are still taking place at a campus located in my district in Murray Hill, New Jersey—where Alcatel-Lucent headquarters their global R&D arm.

Over 3,000 employees are hard at work there, creating technological innovations for future generations.

Researchers at Bell Labs have won seven Nobel Prizes in Physics—shared by 13 people. The most recent prize was awarded in 2009 to George E. Smith and Willard S. Boyle for their invention and development of the charge-coupled device (CCD)—a technology used for digital imaging in cameras and high-powered telescopes. Other innovations to come out of Bell Labs throughout the years include the transistor, the cell phone, solar cells and the laser.

As the innovation engine behind Alcatel-Lucent, Bell Labs helps to weave the technological fabric of modern society. The Labs' scientists and engineers make seminal scientific discoveries, launch technological revolutions that reshape the way people live, work and play, and continue to build the most advanced and reliable communication networks in the world.

I congratulate Bell Labs on its historic accomplishments.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
CORTLAND JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL EIGHTH-GRADERS ON
THEIR FIRST PLACE FINISH IN
THE NASA SPACE SETTLEMENT
CONTEST

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Stephanie Passeri-Densmore's 8th grade English class at Cortland Junior Senior High School in Cortland, New York. Her class proudly won First Place in this year's NASA Space Settlement Contest.

The members of this year's First Place team include: Lead Officers: Captain Caitlyn Ruggiero and Co-captain Justin Gower; Officers: Clayton Larson, Connor Zinn, Macayla Kemp, Matt Plunkett, Molly Doubet, Madison Wasley; and Crew: Seamus Mulhern, Julia Marshall, Rebecca Alteri, Hannah Burkhard, Justin Cavanagh, Christopher Dovi, Bogdan Kalytyuk, Adam Klaes, Luke Lang, Erica Moran, Kelsey Neville, Jonathon Phillips, Audrey Porter, Tiffany Rogers, McKenzie Stark, Mya Velazquez, Curtis Wilk.

Mrs. Passeri-Densmore's 8th grade class began competing in the NASA Space Settlement Contest in March 1999 and every year since then they have placed among the top three finishers. The students create new entries every year.

The students choose their own small groups that tackle specific topics needed for the survival of an orbital space settlement. The groups communicate during the process to make sure the different sections coordinate smoothly when they are put together at the end. The students are able to choose the shape and location of the settlements. Most years, the students have chosen to put their settlement in the Lagrange 5 position between Earth and the moon or in orbit around Mars. It is an honor for me to celebrate the continued success of Mrs. Passeri-Densmore's students. Proudly, Mrs. Passeri-Densmore has several former students who chose careers in space-related professions or university programs because they became excited and interested after their participation in the NASA Space Settlement Contest.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring of these students and this outstanding teacher, Mrs. Passeri-Densmore who is inspiring students to ask questions, to dream big, to open their minds and believe in themselves. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 9, 2012, I unfortunately missed a series of votes. If I had been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 452, "yea" on rollcall No. 453, and "yea" on rollcall No. 454.

HONORING DANIEL WAYNE
WILLIAMS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Daniel Wayne Williams, a newly-naturalized American citizen and newly-adopted son of Brock and Ashley Williams. After three years of waiting, Brock and Ashley are bringing Daniel home with them from Russia. I am proud to offer them my deepest congratulations.

As a member of the House Adoption Caucus, these are the kinds of stories I love to share about the close-knit, loving American families who welcome adopted children into their homes in Southern Missouri from all over the nation and all over the world. I am reminded that it is our duty in this House of Representatives to promote their dreams of parenthood as well as the dreams of children to be adopted by parents who will make a warm and loving home for them.

Brock and Ashley have taken this journey together to find their son. Daniel has received a tremendous gift from them, and he is providing an even greater gift to them. Many have been able to follow their story through their blog, the Gorby Project—a step-by-step account of the adoption process which began in 2010. It serves as a reminder that adoption is rarely a short or easy process and that we have a duty to be supportive of these aspiring parents as well as the children who bring them such joy.

Thank you to the Williams family for sharing their experience with us, for promoting adoption, for persevering to bring their family together, and for demonstrating the great love that binds parents to their children—even when those children come to them from far away over the course of many years.

IN HONOR OF SSGT MARCUS
"MARK" BURLERSON AND HIS
FAMILY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero from my district in Odessa, Texas, SSGT Marcus "Mark" Burlerson of the 2nd/EOD Company, The United States Marine Corps. On December 9, 2011, while serving in Afghanistan, SSGT Burlerson was disarming a second IED, when a third one nearby exploded, almost taking his life. He lost one arm and the complete use of another. He lost one eye and vision in his other, and suffered numerous other severe injuries. In much pain, SSGT Burlerson continues to recover with the help of his wife, Sara; his sons Marcus and Issac; and his daughter, Ariel. Families and heroes like these are the heart of Texas and the backbone of America. I ask that this poem, The Heart of Texas, penned in their honor by Albert Caswell, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE HEART OF TEXAS

The. . .

The Heart of Texas. . .

Out in The West. . .

In Texas,

where men grow tall who can so pass that test!

Men like Houston and Austin,
who were but of our nation's very best!

For from her Heart,
now comes such a man no less,
who so answered that most noble call when
he was so asked!

Who all for our freedom so faced death!
That Call to Arms!

That Call to Fight,
as did this young man to do what was right!
To so march off to war,
so boldly there all in uniform!

All out into the darkest of all nights!
For from out of her heart so came,
you Mark. . . one of her most magnificent of
all sights!

Because, In Texas they grow em tall!
And Heroes too,
somehow they just don't believe in small!
All in this United States Marine,
the one who so answered that most noble and
proudly worn those shades of green!

SSGT Burlerson,
all in you. . . and what we saw!

Was but,
The Heart of Texas who but gave his all!
All in your most magnificent shades of
green!

Because, you Mark. . .
so grew up to be one of the finest of all
things that one could be!

As you so grew up to be A United States Marine!

Because, all in you. . . The Very Heart of
Texas can so be seen!

As the eyes of Texas are upon you Mark,
and they so like what they have seen!

All in your fine life of Strength In Honor,
and what it all so means!

While, against all odds. . .
somehow almost like a God, you'd so con-
vene!

And not give up you United States Marine!
For you had one of the toughest jobs of that
war!

Where, each new step, EOD. . .
but so means death for sure!
For only a man of such character and faith,
could such fear so ignore!

As there you were on that day,
when your fine life almost when away!

As an explosion took your arms,
and eye and so ravaged your body all in
every way!

As it was all in that moment when you so
had a choice. . .

When, your heart as big as Texas so said lis-
ten to that inner voice!

And don't give up,
as all of your Brothers In Arms for you
began to pray!

As somehow, someday you Mark have so
come back from that day!

Oooh. . .rah. . . Jar Head,
as your Heart of Texas has so led the way!

To so help you to so leave behind,
all of that pain and heartache that which
comes to you on each day. . .

To So Move On, To So March Off. . . To Our
World To So Bless!

Because, nothing is getting in this Marine's
way! As You So Teach Us!

As You So Beseech Us!

As You So Reach Us!

All in what your fine heart conveys!

For you are More Than Just A Man Mark,
you are one of Texas's very best!

Teaching us all,
what that word hero so means no less!

They say everything is bigger in Texas,
and maybe Hearts and Heroes too so yes!

And if I ever have a son,

<p>I wish he could be like you who our world does bless!</p> <p>Because, after that morning when you awoke. . .</p> <p>As you so had a choice, as your fine heart to you so spoke!</p> <p>Give Up Or Give In, and make the Angels cry so then. . .</p> <p>For your wife and sons and daughter found the hope. . .</p> <p>All in Mark what your fine soul invoked. . .</p> <p>As you've put the T in Texas, all in your heart of strength and of such hope!</p> <p>Because, arms and legs Mark we all need. . . but somehow we can cope!</p>	<p>But, up in Heaven you need not any of those. . .</p> <p>And that's where you are going one day to be with our Lord so close. . .</p> <p>Without them we can still survive!</p> <p>But, without a heart of faith. . . our souls will so surely die!</p> <p>Because, Marine your Strength In Honor and Courage brings tears to our eyes!</p> <p>Moments are all we have! To change the world!</p> <p>To go off with but our flags unfurled! To Make A Difference With It All!</p> <p>All but for The Greater Good, to so answer that most noble call!</p> <p>And families like your's SSGT Burluson,</p>	<p>who so see their loved ones injured and fall! Are the ones who must now so watch and help them rebuild, all in such pain one and all!</p> <p>As out to all of these quiet heroes our hearts so call!</p> <p>As they give you the strength and encour- agement. . .</p> <p>but to live but one day more, to give your all!</p> <p>For families like these, Heaven will one day call!</p> <p>As why we see on this very day, a smile upon our face. . .</p> <p>As we so watch you Mark, The Heart of Texas in every way!</p>
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