

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART IN INCIDENTS OF FRIENDLY FIRE DURING PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Chairman, today I am introducing legislation to award the Purple Heart posthumously to members of the Armed Forces killed on April 14, 1994, in a friendly fire incident in the northern Iraqi "no fly" zone. Fourteen American service members on peacekeeping duty were killed when two American F-15C fighter aircraft accidentally shot down two United States UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in northern Iraq. Mrs. Kaye Mounsey, the widow of Army WO Eric Mounsey—a pilot of one of the helicopters—resides in Culver City in my congressional district.

I believe that recognizing the sacrifice of these members of the Armed Forces is the appropriate thing to do. While the loss of a husband, brother, sister, or child can never be compensated, it is essential that we acknowledge the Nation's gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice that these Americans gave in service to their country.

Following the tragedy last April, the services had decided that the incident did not meet criteria for award of the Purple Heart—citing the accidental nature of the shoot down and the noncombat situation in the "no fly" zone.

However, language was included in last year's Department of Defense appropriations conference report which urged the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force to review their decision and award the Purple Heart or other medal of distinction to service members killed over northern Iraq. The deadline for reporting back to Congress on this matter was March 31, 1995.

We have yet to hear from the military regarding this matter, and, as a result, I am introducing this bill to ensure award of the Purple Heart for members of the Armed Forces killed or wounded due to friendly fire while engaged in peacekeeping activities. I feel very strongly that if the services deem that the situation under which these Americans were killed did not merit the award, then the criteria for the medal should be modified.

As the role and complexity of U.S. Armed Forces missions have evolved, the criteria for award of the Purple Heart should reflect that evolution. In 1993 Congress included criteria in statute to ensure award of the Purple Heart in incidents of friendly fire in combat situations. This legislation would amend the law to include peacekeeping missions in that criteria, with an effective date of January 1, 1994—ensuring award of the Purple Heart to service members killed in the Iraqi friendly fire incident.

UNIONTOWN, PA AMERICAN LEGION POST TO HONOR LT. COL. MATT URBAN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, true American heroes hold an honored place in the hearts of all of us who love our Nation. The Congressional Medal of Honor is one of the ways we have chosen to honor their heroes, and it is an award that is only given to those individuals who have exhibited an exceptional amount of courage on behalf of the United States.

Lt. Col. Matt Urban is a true American hero and a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. His resume of awards does not stop here, however, as he is recognized as America's most decorated combat soldier. His bravery in numerous battles in World War II is an example of the courage so many American soldiers showed in this monumental struggle.

The Uniontown, PA American Legion Post 51 holds an annual Americanism Day each year, and this year's event will take place on May 1. The American Legion has chosen to honor Lt. Col. Matt Urban this year, and he will serve as Grand Marshal of the parade which marks the highlight of this special celebration. I know the American Legion Post 51 is extremely excited to have Lt. Col. Urban as their guest of honor, and as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, I can't think of a more appropriate guest for this event.

I know I join all Americans in saluting Lt. Col. Matt Urban for his courage and devotion to the United States, and I wish the Uniontown American Legion Post 51 all the best in their 40th annual Americanism Day celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN PINA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young woman who represents the finest qualities of human nature. Carmen Pina, a student from the city of Pawtucket, has shown her entire community what it means to have grace under pressure. Carmen recently lost her father to Lou Gehrig's disease, a crippling illness that was emotionally draining on Carmen's entire family. Rather than succumb to perpetual sadness Carmen focused her energies on improving the quality of her own life.

Recently Carmen has been honored with several awards that have become a testament to her hard work and dedication to life. Not only has she helped her family, natives of Portugal, get back on the path to emotional recovery, but she has excelled in her own work, and has been named valedictorian of the senior class at Charles E. Shea High School in Pawtucket. Today, Carmen is 1 of 88 students from around the country to win this year's Horatio Alger scholarship. This coveted award is reserved only for those who have overcome the obstacles of life and made a commitment

to helping others in their times of need. I think I speak for all the citizens of Rhode Island when I say that we are all enamored by Carmen's courage and extremely proud of her.

Next year Carmen will attend college. As she embarks on this new and exciting journey I want to wish her only the best that life can offer. I know that these last years have been difficult, but in the days ahead I encourage her to continue to draw strength from these difficult times. The special relationship that she had with her father is a memory that can never be taken away, and a constant reminder that life must be cherished.

I hope that we can all learn a valuable lesson from Carmen's example. She has shown us that when times are hard it is a strong spirit that survives. Fulfillment is defined not only by what makes us happy, but by how we create a better life for ourselves by gaining strength from the people that we love most. My thoughts go out to Carmen and her family and I hope that her father's love remains eternal in all their hearts.

TRIBUTE TO BOB HUNTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 1, 1995, the First Annual Bob Hunter Memorial Flounder Tournament was held at the Clam Hut Restaurant in Highland, NJ. There was a spring flounder weigh-in and other activities, with proceeds benefiting the environmental organization Clean Ocean Action. While there have been and will continue to be many diverse tributes to the late Bob Hunter, I cannot think of one more fitting in epitomizing what Mr. Hunter's life meant to his many friends and well-wishers on the Jersey shore.

Bob Hunter has been nominated for New Jersey's prestigious Pinnacle Award for Excellence by a number of individuals and organizations who have all been helped and supported by him through the years. Throughout his life, he was a tireless booster of his native State—for example, his restaurant always offered a wide variety of New Jersey wines, while he always made sure Jersey seafood was served at the promotional festivals he helped organize. His death last October has left a void that has been deeply felt, most acutely by his widow, Lynn, and his two daughters, Maggie and Elizabeth, but also by many others who had the privilege of working with him or were just lucky enough to meet him at the Clam Hut.

Bob Hunter was born in Red Bank, NJ, and lived all his life in the nearby town of Rumson. Nineteen years ago, he was named general manager of the Clam Hut, one of the leading restaurants in a town noted for fine restaurants. In the intervening years, he, along with his wife of 17 years, Lynn Shugard, whose father founded the business, brought the waterfront restaurant from a beachfront stand to its present capacity of more than 300 diners in three inside rooms and an outdoor deck overlooking the Shrewsbury River. As general manager, Mr. Hunter also became involved in both the State and national restaurant associations, firmly believing that restaurants were central to New Jersey's tourism

and its overall economy. During his 16 years with the association, Bob rose through the ranks as a member of the board of directors and eventually as president.

Bob also maintained an active involvement with the promotional activities at Sandy Hook, the Gateway National Recreation Area facility adjacent to Highlands, known and loved by people from all over New Jersey. He could always be counted on to help any cause to promote New Jersey. He participated in Governor Whitman's Sampling in Atlantic City prior to her inauguration, frequently hosted Bayshore Development Office meetings for the Department of Commerce, and offered his restaurant for any event to advance tourism in New Jersey. He was a long-time member of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and brought a special passion to maintaining the lively waterfront business community. In his home town of Rumson, Bob coached Pop Warner football, served on the zoning board of adjustment, was treasurer of the Republican Club and was a Republican committeeman for many years. Notwithstanding his Republican affiliation, Bob maintained close ties with officials from both political parties—always willing to work with anyone who shared his devotion to improving the economy and quality of life on the Jersey Shore.

Mr. Speaker, it is a truly an honor for me to pay tribute to Bob Hunter, a good man and a great leader who made a difference for our community.

IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, March 30 was the 14th anniversary of the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan and the wounding of his press secretary, Jim Brady. To commemorate that date, 82 national organizations, representing more than 88 million members, joined together in a campaign to protect sane gun laws.

Mr. Speaker, we commemorate this anniversary because the extreme Republican majority has vowed to overturn the Federal firearms laws that we have enacted, including the Brady law, the assault weapons ban, and other firearms provisions of last year's crime bill.

These laws have begun to make America safer. A poll conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Handgun Control, Inc. on the effectiveness of the Brady law found that background checks in 115 State and local jurisdictions stopped 19,000 felons and other prohibited persons from obtaining handguns.

The American people also continue to show strong support for gun control legislation. A 1993 Time/CNN poll showed that 92 percent of Americans supported the Brady law.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican attack on our gun laws is senseless. Letting more criminals buy guns will not reduce gun violence and putting more guns on the streets of America will not make our streets safer.

Let us not weaken the gun control legislation that has begun to make our country a safer one.

I urge my colleagues to work against Republican attempts to undo the laws that have already reduced gun violence and saved lives.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH RAUCH

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Elizabeth Rauch, a resident of St. Charles, MO, who on March 11, 1995, was honored by Youth in Need as their 1995 Celebration of Youth Honoree.

Elizabeth Rauch has faithfully served her community, and her outstanding leadership abilities have contributed to the continued growth and development of her community. She has dedicated her time as an active participant in countless community efforts to assist the young people of St. Charles. Mrs. Rauch serves as a member of the Lindenwood College Board of Directors and as chairwoman of the Academy of the Sacred Heart Board of Trustees Endowment Fund. She has also been appointed to a 4-year term on the Archdiocesan Development Appeal Council.

Elizabeth Rauch promotes many civic and charitable groups. She supports such noble causes as the Academy of the Sacred Heart Mother's Club, American Red Cross Junior Program, St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance for Regional Community Health, United Way of St. Charles, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, and St. Charles Historical Society.

Elizabeth Rauch is a role model for community service, and in fact the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce recognized her dedication and leadership by awarding her its Humanitarian Award in 1984. She is indeed an inspiration to us all, and is rightfully honored for her continued service as Youth in Need's 1995 Celebration of Youth Honoree.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Elizabeth Rauch on this outstanding achievement and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE DOUGLAS, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Ms. Michelle Douglas of Agana, Guam, for winning this year's Pacific Area Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

Ms. Douglas is a senior at John F. Kennedy High School and hopes to pursue a career as a music or drama teacher. She has been honored repeatedly for her scholastic and extra-curricular achievements and is a leader in school offices. Her patriotic essay, titled "My Vision of America" represents a vision of America as a place dedicated to the principles of equality and opportunity. I am proud to announce that as a result of her hard work, Ms. Douglas has been awarded \$1,000.

This monetary award comes from the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. The

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program was started 48 years ago with the endorsement of the U.S. Office of Education and National Association of Broadcasters, Electronic Industries Association and State Association of Broadcasters.

Starting in 1958, the program was conducted in cooperation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW], with the broadcasters still serving as sponsors. In 1961, the VFW assumed sole sponsorship responsibility. At that time, the national scholarship award consisted of a single \$1,500 scholarship for the first place winner.

During the past 35 years, under VFW sponsorship, the annual national scholarship have been increased to 47 totaling \$109,000 with the first place winner receiving a \$20,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

This past year, more than 126,000 students participated. Over 8,200 schools participated, over 4,400 VFW posts and over 4,200 auxiliaries sponsored the program. The total monetary value of scholarships, bonds, and awards provided by VFW posts, auxiliaries, districts, county councils, departments, and national amounted to over \$2.5 million this past year. I commend the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary for this program and their role in promoting scholastic achievement in our Nation.

I am proud that the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have honored Ms. Michelle Douglas with this year's award. I wish Ms. Douglas all the best in her chosen career path and in her college years. I encourage my colleagues to take the time to read her thoughtful and inspiring essay.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

(BY MICHELLE DOUGLAS)

Nearly everyone has a view of how America ought to be; even I have a dream. Most of us would probably imagine a future where all injustices are righted, where peace reigns. It would be a country without problems: a paradise for everyone. But this idea alone is vague. In order for a vision to materialize, there must be something concrete.

I am not saying it is necessary to have the blueprint laid out in front of us, or even to have a clear idea of the final vision. I am only saying that each of us contributing in our own way, whether large or small, will make a unique vision of America become reality. Imagine each of us holding a piece of a puzzle, and none of us knowing what the final picture will be. Yet as each of us connects our piece—our individual vision—with the others, a picture emerges, becoming clearer as more pieces are added.

Perhaps the first part of America's vision was placed by Thomas Jefferson in the early summer of 1776 as he pondered over the wording to the Declaration of Independence. His ideas not only challenged the oppression that stifled the daily lives of the colonists, they also changed the course of history and continue to guide us into the future. If Jefferson were asked where his vision would take this great nation two hundred years later, he would have hardly imagined the results. He could not have known how the vision would grow, or how important his piece would be. Nor did he have to.

When Abraham Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation to a war weary nation, he probably did not realize he was setting the stage for future equal rights. In fact, ethics was not the issue. He had decided, right or wrong, that freeing the slaves would hold the nation together. This does