

RECOGNIZING SARGENT SHRIVER WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Congressional Gold Medal resolution for Sargent Shriver who was the first director of the Peace Corps. I do this with my cosponsors, former members of the United States Peace Corps, myself, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

I also do it on behalf of the 163,000 volunteers who have served the United States Government in over 135 countries. I also do this based on what I did Saturday which was to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps here in Washington, but then on Sunday I went to the World Trade Center, ground zero in New York City, so I saw peace on Saturday and war on Sunday.

I view the destruction with a renewed reemphasis in the role of the Peace Corps in order to better understand the world cultures, the world languages and the world differences.

Mr. Speaker, what better way than to authorize the President to present Sargent Shriver with a Congressional Gold Medal to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps in recognition of its founding father.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO TOM BURNETT, JR., A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero. America owes Tom Burnett, Jr., a deep debt of gratitude for his bravery on September 11. Indeed, the Members of this very body may owe their very lives to Tom Burnett, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Burnett, who grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota in the Third Congressional District, which I am privileged to represent, was aboard United Flight 93 on that darkest of days for our Nation. Tom was among the small group of passengers who confronted the hijackers that fateful morning. Department of Defense officials believe Flight 93 was headed for a target here in Washington, most likely the White House or the Capitol.

Tom was able to reach his wife, Deena, on his cell phone from the plane. She told him that other hijacked planes had crashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

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Tom then told her, and I am quoting, "We've got to do something. I know we're all going to die. There's three of us who are going to do something about it."

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what Tom Burnett did. His courage and sacrifice foiled the hijackers' plans of mass destruction. Without regard to his own safety, Tom helped save countless lives.

In recent days, after listening to the tape from the black box, law enforcement officials have described a desperate struggle aboard the plane. As FBI Director Mueller said after being briefed on the contents of the tape, and I am quoting, "We believe those passengers were absolute heroes, and their actions during this flight were heroic."

Mr. Speaker, Tom Burnett, Jr. has shown this kind of selfless leadership many times before. As a quarterback at Thomas Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minnesota, Tom's inspired play led his team to the conference championship game in 1980, the only game they lost that season. The team that beat them won the State title, in fact. He was also a leader in his remarkable business career, as chief operating officer for a medical device manufacturer in California.

No one who knew Tom Burnett is surprised at his heroism.

His football coach in high school, Bruno Waldner, said, "Tom, if anybody, would have the type of character to do that. He didn't get rattled. He took everybody up another level. He was on an average football team that went on to play over their heads. And they almost won a championship."

Another business associate said: "Tom was a man of action. If he knew that he could have any potential bene-

ficial effect and he knew what the odds were, he would have taken action." Another business associate said: "This was very much in character for Tom Burnett. It's just the type of man he was."

Mr. Speaker, such moving testimonials to this great and courageous man have literally come in floods of words and tears in recent days back in Minnesota. At a memorial service last Tuesday night at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Bloomington, I was among the 1,200 mourners who attended and heard many such moving tributes. The streets and parking lot of that church were lined with many other people who could not get into the packed church. Many waved American flags of all sizes. It was very sad. And it was very uplifting.

Mr. Speaker, many people claim America has suffered from a lack of heroes in recent years. Not anymore. Not with Tom Burnett, Jr. to look up to. Like so many heroes of September 11 who gave their lives to help others, from Tom and his fellow passengers on Flight 93, to the police, rescue personnel and firefighters in New York who rushed into those doomed towers and so many others, America has real heroes to remember and to cherish. We must never forget their ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Tom's wonderful family, his loving wife, Deena, their daughters Madison, Halley and Anna-Clair, his parents Thomas Sr. and Beverly of Bloomington, and his sisters Martha O'Brien and Mary Margaret Burnett.

May God bless Tom Burnett and his family. And may God bless America and all the heroes and heroines like Tom Burnett who gave their lives to save others on September 11.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOVERY AND RETURN OF LUDWIG KOONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to let my colleagues know of my introduction of a concurrent resolution in support of the United States Government becoming actively involved in the recovery and return of Ludwig Koons, a boy who was abducted to Italy by his mother.

Ludwig, son of Jeffrey Koons, an award-winning, internationally renowned artist, was abducted to Italy by his mother, Ilona Staller, on June 9, 1994. Mr. Koons has filed a petition against the Republic of Italy with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and a preliminary decision regarding the admissibility of this petition is expected to be issued by the