

than 2 years to live, he decided to fight it. And fight he did. I am pleased that today, at age 71, he still is fighting, despite enduring constant pain. Jim has refused to let his disease define him and instead has made his mark on the world and those around him.

Jim raised three children and now is a grandfather to nine grandchildren. He attends Lions Club lunches and meetings of the South Florida Baptist Hospital Board on which he serves. He also attends First Baptist Church of Plant City every Sunday, where he serves as a deacon. In addition, he gets to work at 7:30 every morning, and as he says, thanks "the good Lord for giving me another day."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know Jim Redman and to represent him and his family in Congress. He continues to live his life with grace, dignity, courage, and the can-do attitude from which we all could learn.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MISSOURI POLICE OFFICER DEPUTY DANIEL JAMES PERCIVAL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the life of Deputy Daniel James Percival. His life, though tragically cut short, was enriched by numerous accomplishments in his career, and a loving, caring family.

Daniel served the Elbert County Sheriff's Department with dignity and passion. He was a big guy, towering over most at 6'8" tall with size 18 shoes and was fondly referred to as the "gentle giant." He was recruited for a career with the NFL, however Daniel wanted a career where he could serve and protect people and this is a true testament to the type of person that he was. On October 31, 1996, Daniel was shot and killed in the line of duty, at the young age of 21.

Daniel is survived by his loving parents, James and Sharon, and his sister Erin. It is my hopes that his family will always remember how passionate he was about his job and how diligently he served the people of Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you help me in recognizing and remembering Deputy Daniel James Percival, his accomplished career, and the remarkable family he leaves behind. God bless them.

RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the Rhode Island General Assembly for passage of the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act and to urge other States to update their fire codes to modern standards. The Comprehensive Fire Safety Act, which was signed into law by Gov. Donald Carcieri on July 7, 2003, updates the Rhode Island Fire Code to reduce the chance of future fire-related tragedies. The legislation is the result of months of work by a 17-member legislation

commission, and it passed the State House and Senate unanimously last month.

This sweeping legislation is a timely, well thought out response to the West Warwick, RI, nightclub disaster that tragically killed 100 concertgoers on February 20, 2003. This was the deadliest fire in Rhode Island history and resulted from the use of pyrotechnics in a building that was not equipped with sprinklers or easily accessible exits.

The Comprehensive Fire Safety Act adopts the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire codes for new and existing buildings. This will end the State's grandfather clause that exempted older structures from meeting the State fire code. In addition, sprinklers will be required in more public buildings, a critical provision considering that the NFPA has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a completely sprinklered public building. In addition, the law bans most indoor pyrotechnics and expands the power of fire inspectors.

I hope other States will act to update their fire codes before similar tragedies strike. Enough lives have been lost in fires already. I also urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1824, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2003. This legislation provides a tax credit to businesses that choose to install fire sprinklers, thus helping to offset the cost of State mandates and encouraging buildings to exceed local fire codes for the safety of the occupants.

While nothing can be done to bring back the victims from this horrific tragedy, the Rhode Island government has honored the victims of this disaster by working to prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future, and I applaud the State for its efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 8, 2003, a horrible tragedy occurred in my congressional district which caused me to miss the evening's votes, most noteworthy the Department of Defense Appropriation Act for 2004.

A gunman entered the Lockheed Martin plant in Meridian, MS, and conducted a thoughtless and sickening shooting spree, wounding nine people and killing five. I felt it important that I be with the victims of this senseless tragedy to offer support and comfort.

The families and friends of these victims are undergoing tremendous heartache and confusion as a result of this terrible act of violence. I would request the thoughts and prayers from the members of this body as we struggle to cope with this tragic incident.

While I regret missing these votes, my duties required that I be with my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 334, 335, and 336.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID BYRNES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as the Senior Marine in the Congress, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel David Byrnes, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes has served our Marine Corps and our great Nation for more than a quarter of a century.

A native of my home state, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes grew up in Stoneybrook, New York. After graduating from Smithtown High School in 1977, a young David Byrnes followed in the footsteps of several great generations of New Yorkers and enlisted in the military. Like a few good New Yorkers before him he chose a challenging path—the Marine Corps. Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes' service as an enlisted aircraft technician took him from Memphis, Tennessee, to Beaufort, South Carolina, and eventually to Jacksonville, North Carolina.

In 1981, after these successful tours, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes continued to excel and take on greater challenges, transferring to the reserves to attend Dowling College in Oakdale, New York, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982. By 1984 he had earned a commission as an Officer of Marines. From 1985 to 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes served in many of my colleagues' home states including South Carolina, New York, Kansas, Oregon, Virginia, and Louisiana. As a testament to his talent and versatility Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes earned three military occupational specialties during these tours, including Aircraft Maintenance Officer, Adjutant, and Legal Officer. He served with distinction and honor in all of these roles. In 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes was selected to attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He immediately put this education to use serving in the J8 Forces Division on the Joint Staff, where he had responsibilities for the Secretary of Defense's Annual Report to the President and the Congress.

After his joint staff tour, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes began his last tour of duty in the Marine Corps—serving in the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs. In this position he interacted with the Congress to explain Reserve Affairs to Congressional Members and their staffs. This was a position of enormous responsibility, made all the more so because of the ongoing War on Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, which have all called for a large measure of devotion from our reserve forces. Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes has performed this highly challenging and difficult task flawlessly, always providing wise counsel and plain speaking. We have been fortunate to have such a capable Marine officer interact with us.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes has demonstrated strong character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, selfless sense of duty to his Marines. In recognition of his devotion to duty and exemplary performance Lieutenant Colonel Byrnes was awarded