State Colin Powell, to use every opportunity to press for freedom and democracy in Burma.

I want to publicly encourage the Secretary to continue his outspoken call for freedom in Burma, and suggest some changes in the international strategy to bring about democracy and human rights in that country.

It is now clear that United Nations efforts to bring about democracy in Burma have completely failed. Rather than making progress, the efforts have simply bought time for the regime, and allowed it to perpetuate its increasingly brutal stranglehold on power. The United Nations envoy to Burma, rather than serving as a positive voice for change, has repeatedly bailed out the regime just as critical international pressure has begun to make a difference. His defense of the regime's head of military intelligence Khin Nyunt is beyond unacceptable.

It is time to review the personnel and mandate on the United Nations role in Burma, and to give a qualified mediator the tools they need, including access to the United Nations Security Council, to make a difference. The State Department should lead the efforts for these changes at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.

The process is broken. We need to revamp this system with new actors as soon as possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE & BLACK NEWSPAPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a remarkable newspaper produced by the students of Grand Junction High School and recently named the best large high school newspaper in the state of Colorado for the 2002–2003 school year. The Orange & Black student-run newspaper has a history of excellence in its journalistic efforts, as it has been one of the top newspapers in the state for seven years. I join with my colleagues today in recognizing the fine efforts of the students of Grand Junction High School and their remarkable newspaper.

Erik Lincoln and Sarah Shean, the co-editors-in-chief of the Orange & Black for the previous school year, have now moved onto Mesa State College and Gonzaga University respectively. But they have left an impressive mark for their successors by winning first place in the general excellence and graphic illustration categories. These editors have also instilled greatness in their peers that resulted in first place awards in informational graphics, personal opinion columns, personality feature, and headline writing categories.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today and recognize this fine example of stewardship and hard work in journalism by these dedicated high school students from Grand Junction. Their eloquent product demonstrates a mastery of photographic, written and editorial expression not often achieved by high school students.

INADEQUATE TREATMENT OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS ARE RECEIVING FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this past week we sent the largest supplemental appropriations bill ever written to the President. The majority of the money is to be used for the men and women serving in Iraq.

A total of $64.7 billion in military funding was included 1n the bill. This includes:

A total of $64.7 billion for military activities in support of military operations mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

$39.2 billion for activities related to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including: $24.0 billion for the Army, $2.0 billion for the Navy, $1.2 billion for the Marine Corps, and $5.4 billion for the Air Force. The total includes an extra $100 million to find and destroy conventional munitions in Iraq.

The agreement appropriates $17.8 billion for military personnel, including: $12.9 billion for the Army, $816 million for the Navy, $753 million for the Marine Corps and $3.4 billion for Air Force personnel costs.

The funds are meant to cover the costs associated with the mobilization to active duty of reserve and National Guard personnel, including pay, travel, per diem, and health care and personnel necessary to maintain critical manning at authorized levels.

Extends TRICARE—the military's health care system—health coverage system to National Guard members and reservists and their families who lack health insurance and do not have access to employer-provided plans.

The measure authorizes continued payment of per diem for travel of family members of military personnel who are ill or injured as a result of active duty service, and continues the increased monthly rate of Imminent Danger Pay and Family Separation Allowances through Sept. 30, 2004.

The agreement includes $55 million for travel costs of troops on rest and recuperation leave, including the cost of travel home from disembarkation points in the United States.

The measure provides $32 million for family counseling, domestic violence prevention, and readjustment counseling and $10 million for similar programs specifically for the National Guard.

Finally, the measure retroactively and permanently exempts servicemembers with combat-related injuries from the requirement of paying for subsistence meal charges while hospitalized.

The agreement appropriates $5.5 billion to replenish equipment and munitions expended during military operations in Iraq and in the global war on terrorism. The total includes: $142 million to repair or replace Bradley fighting vehicles, M1 Abrams tanks and other related equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan; $239 million for more armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled vehicles, or HUMVEEs; $300 million to purchase additional body armor suits and modern flak jackets and to clear unexploded ordnance; and $46 million for radio jammers to disrupt attempts by Iraqi dissidents to explode remote controlled bombs and mines.

The measure also directs the Defense Department to increase the availability of modern hydration systems to soldiers in Iraq and to provide quarterly reports to Congress on department efforts to address equipment shortages.

The agreement provides $525 million for military construction funds—$112 million more than requested.

Most of the funds will go to construct new Air Force and Army facilities in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and other facilities providing support for operations in the Middle East and the global war on terrorism.

Defense Health Program—Provides $658 million for military health care costs.

When these young men and women return from the Gulf, they are going to leave the service in droves. Morale is low, and these people cannot get home quick enough.

At the same time, the Republican leadership refused to include $1.3 billion dollars in emergency veterans health funding, claiming that it will be included in the regular VA–HUD appropriations bill.

This severe funding shortfalls has resulted in health-care rationing among our veterans.

Over 200,000 are currently waiting 6 months or longer for initial and follow-up medical appointments; many are reporting that they are waiting 1 to 2 years.

The Veterans Administration, in order to meet this crisis, has taken steps to stop veterans from seeking care. The VA refuses to enroll any new Category 8 veterans.

Funding shortfalls are putting veteran safety and the quality of their care at ever greater risk. An April 2001 study sponsored by four Health and Human Services agencies confirmed that inadequate direct-care nurse staffing increases risks of urinary tract infections, pneumonia, shock, intestinal bleeding, and lengthy hospital stays.

Doctors and nurses under greater stress risk injury, too, as their increased workloads cause slower mental processing, diminished memory, and improper responses to patients.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. AIR FORCE CAPT. SEAN KELLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a U.S. Air Force Captain who has performed a great service to this nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Sean Kelley was instrumental in the delivery of Mohammed Al-Rehaief—the man responsible for providing the information of Pfc. Jessica Lynch's whereabouts that ultimately led to her successful rescue on April 2nd from Saddam Hospital in Nasiriyah. I would like to join my colleagues here today and all Americans in recognizing Capt. Kelley's selfless service.

Capt. Kelley is a graduate of Gunnison High School who has dutifully served the Air Force since his commission in 1993. He has made many trips to the Middle East but his most recent delivery of an Iraqi man and his family to the safety of the United States is especially commendable. This delivery aided our troops

in bringing home an American soldier who symbolizes heroism at its finest. During the flight, Al-Rehaief told him parts of the story of saving Lynch as he eagerly waited in the cockpit. Capt. Kelley will return to the Middle East at the end of the month when he returns to duty.

Captain Sean Kelley has courageously served our nation and we are indebted to him for continuing to protect America and her interests. I extend my warmest regards and thanks for the great sacrifices that Capt. Kelley has made in defending this nation.

HONORING THE 228TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, November 10th will mark the 228th Anniversary of the founding of the United States Marine Corps. To mark the occasion, I would like to submit for the RECORD a special tribute to the Marines who participated in the Liberation of Guam written by Retired Brigadier General and former Delegate from Guam, the Honorable Vicente Tomas (Ben) Blaz.

Ben was a teenager during World War II when Japanese Imperial forces invaded and occupied Guam in December 1941. During the Liberation of Guam in July 1944, he was captured by a Marine Patrol of the 9th Marine Regiment and later released upon confirmation he was a native Chamorro. Years later, he would serve as Commanding Officer of the same Regiment.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Notre Dame where he was later honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He also holds a Master's Degree from the George Washington University and a Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Guam. In addition he is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. In 1992, he was recognized as an Outstanding Asian-American in Public Service.

After a distinguished career in the Marine Corps, which included being awarded the Legion of Merit (twice awarded), the Bronze Star (with Combat V), Navy Commendation Medal (twice awarded), the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Gold Star) General Blaz retired and returned to Guam in 1980.

In 1984, the People of Guam elected him to Congress where he served with distinction for four terms. During his time in office, Congressman Blaz began the difficult task of addressing the unfinished business of World War II, the issue of war reparations for the people of Guam. He brings a unique perspective to this issue as a survivor of the Occupation of Guam, as a Marine, and as a public servant. Today, Congressman Blaz is a statesman respected by the People of Guam and a strong moral voice for our times. His insight is reflected in the following essay which conveys his deep love for our island and his profound admiration for the liberators of Guam.

Few people have achieved so much in one lifetime as General Blaz. I am honored to enter his essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all Americans may come to appreciate the men and women who wear the eagle, globe and anchor of the United States Marine Corps. The People of Guam honor all those who serve our nation in the armed forces, but in our hearts, first among equals, are the Marines, Guam's liberators, for whom our main street is named "Marine Drive".

On this 228th Anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corp, I submit this tribute written by one of the Corps' finest, Brigadier General (Ret.) Vicente Tomas (Ben) Blaz.

A MOVING MOMENT OF SILENCE ON MARINE DRIVE

(By Ben Blaz)

The news that the Marine Corps Drive Rededication Act is scheduled for introduction in the Guam Legislature on November 10 brought a smile to this manamko's face. It sharpened the focus in my mind on an episode that took place during the Liberation Day parade in 1958.

As Commanding Officer of a company of Marines at the Barracks, I had the honor of leading them in the parade. For the special event, we decided to wear combat clothing and carry packs and weapons much like the liberators did. Participating in this annual observance and remembrance was a new experience for my men as it was for me in my role as their commander.

It is not unusual for those in a parade staging area to be a little edgy before a march. But the march that day was not part of a football rally or a Little League parade. Symbolically, we were following in the footsteps of a long line of heroic Marines of World War II, many of whom fought and fell where we were gathering. It was a sobering thought that prevailed over a solemn occasion.

The parade route was different. As always, it was festive. Spectators lined both sides of Marine Drive stretching from Adelupe to East Agana. Most of them had survived the war and had vivid recollection of the enemy occupation. Whatever animosity they harbored, however, it was subdued that day. The crowd cheered loudly for everyone and everything that moved before them. All the villages had a float and every military service was represented in the parade—including marching bands.

As the parade was about to start, I braced myself against the possibility of emoting publicly. When we entered the parade route, the crowd roared. As we approached the reviewing stand full of military and political dignitaries, I gave the traditional command to salute, "Eyes Right." At that instant, as though directed to do so on cue, the crowd "returned" our salute with deafening silence.

For a few minutes, the only audible sound was from our boots pounding the pavement in unison. Just a few years earlier, similar boots pounded the original road all along the coast as Marines charged from their landing crafts, crossed the road under heavy gunfire, and fought their way inland against an entrenched enemy. For 1200 Marines, it was to be their last crossing. About 6000 of their comrades returned to the beach on stretchers.

My effort to control my emotions failed. I was marching solely on disciplined automation. Although tears swelled, I was able to connect with the faces in the crowd, young and old. Without uttering a sound, I heard the message radiating from their faces—of appreciation, of admiration, and of affection—for the Marines passing in review, for whom Marine Drive was originally dedicated. I, a liberated son of Guam, had the privilege of marching at that parade with a company of United States Marines who were, in effect, my liberators.

In the ensuing years, I have participated in Liberation Day parades as a general officer of Marines and as a Member of the U.S. Congress. But, I was never again to feel and embrace a moment such as I did that day in 1958.

I tip my hat to Senator Bob Klitzkie, himself a Marine, and to his fellow Senators for sponsoring the bill to rededicate Marine Drive. It is a magnanimous expression of remembrance. Unlike the typical inanimate monoliths that serve as memorials and centerpieces at annual ceremonies, Marine (Corps) Drive is a living memorial, a touchstone, a reminder to future generations how dearly we paid for the freedom we enjoy.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN BARTON SAMPLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I pay tribute to Franklin Barton Sample of New Castle, Colorado. Franklin passed away recently at the age of 81, and as I look back on his life, I see the story of a great American. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Franklin's life, and celebrate the work that he did on behalf of others.

After graduating from New Castle High School, Franklin answered his country's call to duty and went to serve in Japan during World War II. While there, he served honorably as a member of the 59th Ordnance Ammunition Company. Upon returning to Colorado, Franklin met Shirley, who would become his wife of 56 years.

Franklin will be remembered as a dedicated rancher and steward of the land. However, he was similarly devoted to service of the New Castle community. In 1957, President Eisenhower appointed Franklin to be the Postmaster of New Castle. His dedication to this post was legendary, and upon retirement, he received the Colorado General Assembly Award for his compassionate service. Franklin also served as Senior Warden for the St. John's Episcopal Church for 10 years, and was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, the American Legion, and the York and Scottish Rites of the Masons.

Mr. Speaker, Franklin's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community, our state, and this country. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to his loved ones during this difficult time.