

served with the 27th Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War. Another part of my heritage who served with the South during that long war was General Wade Hampton. These men were the Privates, Captains, Majors, Colonels and Generals. When the Revolutionary and Civil Wars were over, they were once again free.

They had paid the price with their lives, bloodshed, hardship and poverty. One of my ancestors, a second cousin, still lies in France, having paid the supreme sacrifice on September 27, 1918, for such freedom.

I am an American—Let me tell you why:

My patriotism can neither be contained nor displayed within the span of four (4) designated days every year. When I look at my country's flag, I see not only the Revolutionary War and Civil War, but ancestors who fought against injustice. I also see my ancestors who were on opposite sides of the Battle of the Wilderness, Chickamauga, and others. They smelled the gunpowder and heard the roar of musketry. Some of these men would never see another beautiful sunset, yet in each of their eyes were these same dreams of freedom and independence and a willingness to fight to the death for what they believed in.

Lest we forget: For those who have fought for it, freedom has a taste the protected will never know. As General Pershing said at this Memorial dedication:

“. . . there are many forces trying to destroy this freedom, so band together and dedicate yourselves to protecting that freedom you have so valiantly won on the battlefield.”

Never forget that the Ancient Romans sought freedom from responsibility and, as a consequence, lost all freedom.

My flag has flown over ancestors and fellow soldiers in distant parts of the world who were slain giving all their tomorrows for our todays. My flag flew over my best friend's hastily dug grave at Legaspi, Luzon, following his untimely death April 15, 1945. He gave his life to save five wounded comrades by crawling up under machine gun fire. An attempt to save a sixth man was rewarded with death. For my symbolic flag he knew he was expected to die. Like many others, my life was spared by the controversial atomic bomb. I came home carrying my flag. My best friend came wrapped in my country's flag. My flag went to Viet Nam and returned with some of my dear friends wrapped in it. My flag is the same flag that belongs to victims of the Bataan Death March as well as survivors. The attitude of those men is epitomized in the gallows humor of war correspondent Frank Hewlett which still echos amongst the jungle foliage:

“We're the battling bastards of Bataan.

No mamma, no papa, no Uncle Sam.

No uncles, no aunts, no nephews.

No nieces, no pills, no planes, no artillery pieces.

And nobody gives a damn.”

These are the men who have carried my flag. Later, in fighting on Luzon, I walked that hallowed ground on Bataan. I saw the refuse of war and the fox holes—many of which had been dug with bayonets. In the words of William Lindsay White, author of *They Were Expendable*, “Where do we get such men?”

Tribute on this day is paid to those fellow Americans who served in the Korean War, which ended fifty years ago. Over one hundred thousand men were wounded; fifty-six thousand two hundred forty six killed; nine thousand were captured; three thousand five hundred eight were repatriated; six thousand died as a result of criminal acts of the enemy. By the peace agreement in 1953, not one of the enemy was prosecuted. The odds

of death of those of us in the front lines in Korea were one in nine. By contrast the odds were one in eighteen in World War II and in Viet Nam the odds were one in twenty-three, a striking example of the dangers in Korea.

I fought through the Pacific War with one of the more noted Infantry Units the 158th RCT “Bushmasters.” We were comprised of twenty-two Indian tribes, Hispanics, Chinese, Japanese and men from thirty-eight different states. General MacArthur opined that “no greater combat team has ever deployed for battle.” Little known is the fact that Indians were finally given the right to vote in 1946. Strangely enough, not one black soldier was in our Infantry units!

I am an American—Let me tell you why:

To those Korean Veterans present and those of you who may read or hear what I have to say today, I want you to know as one soldier to another, we fought not for glory, for there was none, not for loot, for there was none. No crusading zeal drove us on. Our homeland was not threatened. Our countrymen at home made no comparable sacrifice. We fought and endured, while not understanding the geopolitics of that distant war and at a time when thousands of our fellow countrymen said we were engaged in a senseless war. We kept on much as we did in World War II. The real answer as to why we—the living and the dead—did this lies deep in the tissue of the substance which keeps America from becoming unstuck. It has to do with our parents, teachers, 4-H Clubs, Scouts, neighborhood centers, and belonging to a team; an implicit, unreasoned belief in our country and a natural belief in ourselves. To those present, to those now living, I bow to your patriotism. Many like myself were asked to again serve our country. I left behind two sons, one six months old and one three years old. Forty-eight hours after leaving Kansas City, I was again in the Korean front-lines.

Let me say now, for all to hear and know, as a rifle company commander of one hundred fifty to two hundred men, I personally led one of the first integrated companies in Korea. The twenty to twenty-five black soldiers I led served with honor, distinction and bravery. We cry the same salty tears and bleed the same red blood. Equally important, in our hour of need on the battle field, we do not care who rescues us or carries our stretcher. I shall never forget Lovell Page who gave his life at the Inje River. His beautiful smile is etched in my memory and will be throughout eternity.

These are the men who have carried my flag.

That same flag gave comfort and hope to those who endured horrors including war camp. It is the same flag the men and women carry who came home crippled and maimed so that the social class into which I was born would not determine the limits of my potential.

It is the flag that is seared into my memory as it lay draped over my dearest friends coffins while the echos of Taps were carried Heavenward on a windy day. It is the same flag that will someday drape over my coffin. I trust that you are as proud of that flag as I am. Protect it well. Protect it as I have.

Forty-Five million of us have served our Nation since 1776. We have never, ever, let our nation down. We took the Hill!!

I quote the last stanza of the poem by Billy Rose, which reflects the dedication of every American in their commitment to serve their country.

“I am the unknown soldier and maybe I died in vain, but if I were alive and my country called, I'd do it all over again. While I fought with and along side of the elite American Army troops, lest we forget, I should like to pay tribute to the troops of the twen-

ty-one nations that comprised the United Nations forces in Korea. The undaunted courage and bravery of the Turks, British and Ethiopians, to mention a few that I witnessed, shall forever be with me. Likewise, the bravery of Republic of Korea soldiers like Chung Mun Joe, who served in my company, will never be forgotten as they fought for the freedom we Americans almost take for granted. To those who have not served and to those who never will, I quote Prophet Micah, as is etched in stone on the North side of this Monument, that all God requires of us is that “we should do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God.”

You now see that:

I am an American—I have told you why.

In closing, I quote the Unknown Confederate Soldier's words:

“I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do great things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything that I had hoped for, almost despite myself.

My unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, richly blessed.”

I am indeed an American.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable non-profit organization located in my district. Southeast Mental Health Services was recently awarded the Silver Achievement Award from the American Psychiatric Association for being among the top mental health programs in the nation. I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that Southeast Mental Health Services has done for those suffering from mental illness.

Southeast Mental Health Services has developed a revolutionary approach to treating the mentally ill. Their program focuses on helping each individual patient to live the happiest and most fulfilling life possible. Southeast Mental Health Services has found great success with this program. The dedication and selflessness of the program's administrators and staff set a fine example to all mental health care professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress and our nation to the many contributions of Southeast Mental Health Services. The organization's programs have made a significant contribution to the quality of life of numerous Coloradans suffering from mental illness. It is with great pride that I rise before you to recognize Southeast Mental Health Services and the notable contributions they have made to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YEVGENY YEVTUSHENKO

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, "A poet in Russia is more than a poet." Yevgeny Yevtushenko was speaking of poetry's unique role in Russia, but the words apply equally to Yevtushenko himself—the world's most famous living poet, and also prose writer, photographer, filmmaker, congressman, professor, world traveler. In the civic tradition of Russian poetry, the poet is the voice of the people, the ombudsman, the champion of truth and justice, and the catalyst for social change. Because poets express the strivings and needs of the people, they are revered in Russia as nowhere else. In the Soviet Union, the message had to be elliptic, and poetry was read closely, between the lines.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, born in Zima Junction, Siberia in 1933, burst onto the scene when very young, his first poems published in 1949, when he was just sixteen. He and his peers, Akhmadulina, Voznesensky, Rozhdestvensky, drew enormous, agitated crowds to their readings, and their popularity could be compared only to that of rock stars. They shaped an entire generation, the generation of Gorbachev and Yeltsin, who began the changes that ultimately brought an end to the Soviet Union.

His famous poem "Babi Yar," against anti-Semitism, was written in 1961 and set to music by Shostakovich. In 1952, Yevtushenko wrote "the Heirs of Stalin," with a call to throw off the oppressive shadow of the tyrant. He began his nonpoetic political protest activity with a telegram to Brezhnev condemning the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968. Thirty years later, his political activity was channeled into a formal democratic role—he was elected a congressman with an overwhelming 74.9 percent of the vote (in a field of nine candidates). There was a national write-in-vote to select the cochairs to join Andrei Sakharov in leading the Memorial Society, dedicated to the memory of the victims of Stalinism. Yevtushenko was one of the three co-chairmen selected, further evidence of the faith in his integrity and appreciation of his outspokenness among his countrymen.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko traveled extensively, and he brought the world to the Soviet Union through his writing, but he also brought Russia to the world. In 1960, he was the first Russian poet to break through the Iron Curtain and to recite his poetry in the West, where he was befriended by Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst, Henry Moore, Federico Fellini, John Steinbeck, Graham Greene, Heinrich Böll, T.S. Eliot and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Over the years, Yevtushenko has toured 94 countries, all of the republics of the USSR, and all of the states of the U.S.A. He has recited his poetry in sports arenas from Russia to Santiago, Chile (where he appeared with Pablo Neruda), in the Opera di Roma, in London's Albert Hall, in the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, and National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and in Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Lincoln Center in New York. His

works have been translated into 72 languages. Eighteen of his books have been translated into English. Most of his readers in France, Cambodia, Africa, Greenland, Australia, Germany, and China—among other places—have never been to Russia but they know and love Russian poetry.

Yevtushenko has been in the center of the action for fifty years. Yet his insatiable curiosity about the human experience and his monumental energy remain at their highest levels. He celebrated his seventieth birthday in Moscow this July, reading to enormous, adoring crowds, and then continued the extravaganza across the country, reaching out to his readers. His life is heartening proof that one man's voice, raised high and often, can alter the course of events.

Welcome all over the world, Yevgeny Yevtushenko and his wife, Masha, have chosen to divide their time between Russia and the United States, where they are bringing up their family. He is Distinguished Visiting Professor at The University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and tenured at Queens College, in New York City. He has received numerous international prizes in literature and the arts. In addition to receiving four honorary degrees, he was elected an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a member of the European Academy of Arts and Sciences, was awarded The American Liberties Medal of the American Jewish Committee, and in 1999 was appointed Poet-in-Residence of the Walt Whitman House Museum in Long Island, New York. Naturally, he is writing poetry and a new novel and is in the finishing stages of a major anthology of Russian poetry. We are fortunate to have Yevgeny and Masha Yevtushenko in our country and even more fortunate to have them here at the Russian Fireworks gala.

THE IMPACT OF LEFT-WING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ON THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION PROCESS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce into the RECORD two more memos—written by Democratic congressional staff—that illustrate the extent to which liberal special interest groups are controlling the judicial nomination process. These groups have been allowed a virtual veto power over any nominee they dislike. For example, groups like the so-called People for the American Way have apparently been able to delay or block the approval of judges who do not share their antilaw enforcement views, while groups like the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) have been given a similar veto power over anyone who doesn't agree that parents shouldn't even be notified that their child is considering an abortion. One nominee, according to the memos, had to be cleared with "the gay rights groups" before he would even be considered. These memos show just how far the process has deteriorated—and are a wake-up call to anyone who wants to see fairness and objectivity restored to our Federal judiciary.

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Kennedy.

Subject: Judges—Schedule for the Year & Chairing A Hearing.

I. SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR AND THE SHEDD AND COOK PROBLEMS

As you know, during your meeting with the groups, you and Schumer discussed approaching Leahy regarding the Shedd hearing. You proposed telling him that because of the number of unpublished opinions and the divisiveness of the nomination (angering the African American community prior to the election), you think we should refrain from having a hearing on Shedd in June. Based on the groups recommendation, you were also going to propose an end-of-June hearing on another nominee. The following has happened in the interim:

Lott approached Daschle with an unreasonable request for nominations hearings before the July 4th recess. Daschle told him "no" but approached Leahy to discuss a more aggressive hearing schedule. The proposed schedule is as follows:

June 13th Rogers—(6th Circuit)
June 27th Shedd—(4th Circuit)
July 18th Owen—(5th Circuit)
August 1st Cook—(6th Circuit)
September 5th Raggi—(2nd Circuit)
September 19th Estrada—(DC Circuit)
October 3rd McConnell—(10th Circuit)

The August 1st Cook hearing is a surprise to us, and it will be a huge problem for the judges coalition. For many, many months they have told us that Cook is highly problematic—particularly for labor. Cook is consistently bad on labor/workplace injury cases, right to jury trial issues, civil rights and rights of criminal defendants cases. Her frequent dissents (from the moderate majority) show a pattern at least as egregious as Pickering. We must press Leahy not to schedule Cook (Cook is strongly supported by DeWine, but how many times did Hatch disregard your request to move DC Circuit nominee Alan Snyder?).

Regarding Shedd, Wade Henderson spoke with Mark Childress, Daschle's Chief Counsel and Childress is going to speak with Hollings' staff director. But, because we feel Leahy will not cancel the Shedd hearing unless Hollings backs off (and because several of the outside groups believe the same), we don't think you should expend a great deal of effort trying to change Leahy's mind about the Shedd hearing.

Instead, you should speak with Schumer, and the two of you should bring Durbin up to speed (since he couldn't attend the meeting in your hideaway). The three of you should approach Leahy as soon as possible and tell Leahy that:

You are very concerned about Shedd because he has numerous unpublished opinions and because his nomination will infuriate the African-American community before the SC election, but you understand the Hollings problem. If Hollings can be moved, you propose postponing the Shedd hearing.

You understand he is contemplating a more aggressive hearing schedule that includes a hearing for Debbie Cook for the 6th Circuit; and you believe she should not get a hearing this year. For months, labor and other groups have told us that she is highly problematic, and we should send her nomination back to the White House. We won't suffer publicly if we don't have a nomination hearing for her.

Ultimately, if Leahy insists on having an August hearing, it appears that the groups are willing to let Tymkovich go through (the core of the coalition made that decision last night, but they are checking with the gay rights groups).