

great-grandchildren crawling at his feet or sitting on his lap. You never heard him utter an unkind word. So many precious memories: Christmas, Easter, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, parties and more parties. perch fishing, darts, his gardens, homemade gifts like the wooden horses that held address plates for our homes, Pearl and Wersell streets, his dog Puck.

I can recall how he went out of his way for each of us. He would make such an effort to meet me along the Lagrange Street Parade route, year after year. Always there. If Hollywood were to cast a true husband and father, brother and friend, they would cast Hank in the leading role.

You still will find him with you—in unexpected moments. You will know he is there, and everything will be all right. I once asked a holy woman why God gave such trials to people who are so good. “To make us strong,” she said. Hank taught us love, joy, and perseverance. He has been a man for others, who showed us how to love life.

May God carry his soul gently in his passage to peace. We know God joins with us today as we pray, “Sleep well my good and faithful servant.”

HONORING COLLEEN ANN MEEHAN
BARKOW, THOMAS J. MEEHAN
III, AND JOANN MEEHAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colleen Ann Meehan Barkow, who perished in the attacks of September 11, as well as her father and mother, Thomas J. and JoAnn Meehan, who still suffer from her loss. The following is a letter sent to my office by Thomas J. Meehan III, which I want to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY: Colleen was an employee of Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 103rd floor. Her partial remains, the upper torso, were found on September 17, 2001, the date which was to have been her first wedding anniversary. My wife and I continue to be filled with the anguish of her death, the manner in which she died, her unviewable remains, dismemberment and the tragic death she suffered.

I am writing you today in regard to the legislation you have introduced calling for a federal study to assess the historic value of the WTC footprints and to assess the appropriateness and feasibility of national monument status for that immediate area.

This legislation is important not only to the families of those who lost family members, but to the Nation and the world, for September 11, 2001 is another day that will live in infamy, and has altered the course of world history.

There are those who dispute its parallels in history, but they cannot be disputed. Gettysburg, the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Normandy are events which have so affected the world, and have preserved for future generations the places of the lives lost and bloodshed, so that freedom and democracy will continue upon the world stage.

These historic events have warranted a national preservation of where American lives have been lost and sacrificed. So that their sacrifices would be remembered for future generations, and maintained by a grateful

nation, is the reason why this legislation should be enacted for the lives lost on September 11, 2001; they deserve nothing less.

The preservation of the footprints of the WTC buildings and the surrounding area designation as a national monument is needed to ensure that we as a nation keep our pledge to “Never Forget”. We must secure the site and preserve for future generations the ground which has been become sacred and hallowed by the loss of the blood of all the victims.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. MEEHAN III.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. MORGAN
DESHAWN KENNON AND THE
101ST AIRBORNE

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sgt. Morgan DeShawn Kennon of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, who was laid to rest in Memphis, Tennessee on November 14.

Morgan Kennon and the 101st Airborne were called to duty in defense of this nation. They answered that call with courage and honor. Staff Sgt. Kennon was killed while protecting his fellow soldiers from an ambush in the Northern Iraqi city of Mosul. He was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his bravery.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Morgan Kennon and the brave members of the 101st Airborne, I would like to submit for the RECORD letters Staff. Sgt. Kennon wrote to his sister Nicole Crawford in Memphis, as well as two articles from the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Amidst the “devastation of war,” the clarity with which Staff. Sgt. Kennon expresses himself makes all of us proud. These letters help us better understand the trials endured by our soldiers and the courage they demonstrate each day. I would urge my colleagues to read Staff. Sgt. Kennon's letters and join me in paying tribute to this exceptional young man and all of the heroes of the 101st Airborne Division.

[From the Memphis Commercial Appeal,
Nov. 14, 2003]

LETTERS TO A SISTER

From the war in Iraq, Staff Sgt. Morgan DeShawn Kennon of Memphis sent letters home to his sister Nicole Crawford. He often spoke of Crawford's 12-year-old daughter, Kayla, and his mother, Paulette Crawford-Webb.

April 12, 2003

“I am in Baghdad now. I don't know where I may be when you read this but I will probably still be here. It's been very different here, Niki. The reason for the war, or the ulterior motives that the government may have, regardless of all of those things, the one true thing I can say is that these people were very oppressed and impoverished under the rule of Saddam.

“The welcome we've received in the cities and especially when we got here was unbelievable and overwhelming. The people here have even been giving us information about the enemy and the bad guys. Right now, we are occupying a school, that is where we are operating from.

“We have been staying in abandoned buildings and schools since we came into Iraq.

This particular one is in the ghetto of Iraq; something like the projects. But the friendly neighborhood closeness makes it peaceful, there are some bad guys that live near (here) that the people told us about, but we've been sniffing them out and they've been scattering.

“I have seen a whole lot more and more each day. Every since the city collapsed there has been a lot of looting. On our way to Baghdad we saw kids, women covered up, men, everybody toting furniture, rolling tires, dragging refrigerators across the street. And the children, they are the most friendly and beautiful of all.

“It's still not too safe for comfort but fortunately the Good Lord has been with us so far. I have kicked in a lot of doors, been shot at by snipers. I haven't killed anyone but we've captured a lot of people and seized a whole lot of weapons and stuff. I have seen firsthand the devastation of war and I realize that in war, someone always suffers, in this case, a lot of people. But I will say that this whole campaign has been very surgical and precise in not killing a lot of people (innocent). I will just be happy to get back home, safe and soon. I have been hearing rumors that we may be coming back soon and being relieved by another unit but when I get details, I'll let you know. . . .

“Just keep your head up and be thankful everyday that all of us are waking up and loving each other. I saw a man shot over here and it really let me know how quick and unsuspecting our days can come to an end. So keep going 90 miles per hour with your life and know that your brother loves you, respects you and is proud and honored to have you as a sister. . . .

“How is everybody? Tell all of your friends that I said ‘hi’ and testify to the church that I am very thankful for their prayers. The presence of the Lord is undeniable and obvious.”

April 20, 2003

“How is my favorite sister? Fine I hope. . . . I am so happy to hear and feel the effort that you are putting into your life. I'm proud of you and hope you can continue to take good care because you know that no matter how much hardship or struggle I feel or go through, I'm fine as long as I know that you and mom and Kayla are OK.

“By the time you get this I will be in Northern Iraq near the Turkey border. . . . And once again thank you for taking care of my bills. I told you in the last letter that I might be coming home soon. Well, don't count on that; no one seems to know anything. I'll keep you updated.”

April 26, 2003

“I'm still up north but we've relocated. We now operate and live in a post office. Can you believe that? It's not that bad though. There's electricity and running water here, which is a huge improvement over some of the places we've had to live in. . . . I can speak a little Arabic now (smiley face). The people here are not as dangerous and the threat level is not as high as it was in Baghdad and the other previous cities but we still have to stay on our toes even though the war is “officially” over there are still a lot of rebel forces and fanatics and loyalists of Saddam and the party regime. . . .

“So how's the family? I still pray for everybody every single day. I don't know when I will be back but I've heard everything from June to September. . . .

“When I know that you all are comfortable and OK, I can deal with being uncomfortable. Y'all's convenience means a whole lot to me. Well, enough about that. I realize that God will continue to operate and provide for us (in his sometimes “weird” way) as he has been so I won't worry about it. He will make

sure the ball continues to roll for us as long as we keep Him first and continue to recognize and acknowledge Him. . . . The next time I write you I'll probably be living in a shoe store or a Mega-Market or something. But know that I'm OK and I am very grateful for God's grace and mercy. Keep taking care of yourself and I can't wait to see you again. Don't forget your vitamins!"

July 13, 2003

"Everything is still the same here. A couple of my friends broke down on the interstate here and they were attacked by hand grenades that were thrown at them from a passer-by. One of them got hurt pretty bad, he went through surgery but he is OK. He almost lost all usage of his arm; the other guys are also stable.

"The irony is that I had just left where they were and had talked with them. Other than that, everything is still the same. You don't have to worry about me. I am always alert and watchful, especially when I'm out in the streets here.

"By the time you get this (hopefully) we should start preparations to leave here. I really can't wait to get back. I want to see my "3 ladies" really bad: you, Mama and Kayla are more than enough inspiration to get back soon and safe."

July 25, 2003

"Things are all right with me over here; of course I could think of a million and one other things I could be doing other than being in Iraq but since I'm here, I'm dealing with it every day. I think I'm growing up a little bit. . . . I think I value life more now, so I'm content with small simple things and most of all my enjoyment and peace of mind comes from y'all being all right and safe. I think that means more to me than anything over here."

Sept. 13, 2003

"My dear sister, you have done so much for yourself and your daughter. Many people face adversity in their lifetime but very few of these people are able to keep climbing the high hills the way you have. . . . Love you Nik and thank you so much for giving me more wisdom than you ever know, helping me develop into a man. . . . P.S. Load up on Vitamin C and tell Mama to drink Concord grape juice. It lowers blood pressure by 40 percent."

[From the Memphis Commercial Appeal,
Nov. 14, 2003]

"HE WAS NOT AFRAID": BELOVED SOLDIER
FELT A PURPOSE

(By Shirley Downing)

In his letters home, Army Staff Sgt. Morgan DeShawn Kennon wrote about living in a war zone:

Camping in old buildings.

Dodging snipers' bullets.

Meeting friendly, beautiful children.

Kennon landed in Iraq in April with the 101st Airborne and a job to do. The Americans gained control of the country and then, for months, Kennon heard rumors that his Charlie Company might soon be headed back to the states.

Last Tuesday, Kennon surprised his family with the news that he would return to Memphis Nov. 19—not for good, but for a two-week furlough timed to celebrate his mother's 47th birthday.

Three days later Kennon, 23, was dead, fatally wounded while guarding a bank in Mosul. The Army said he'd died immediately of blunt force trauma to the head, while trying to protect the safety of his fellow soldiers.

Kennon's family is devastated at the loss of a son, a brother, uncle and brave soldier. He was a Christian who reminded his sister to pray—and to take her vitamins.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 this morning at N. J. Ford & Sons Funeral Home, with burial in the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at 4000 Forest Hill—Irene.

Kennon has been recommended for a Bronze Star, but to family and friends, he's always been a hero.

"I have never met anyone who disliked him," said his 26-year-old sister, Nicole Crawford, whom he called Niki or Nik. "He was funny and smart. He was just wise beyond his age, he really was."

Paulette Crawford-Webb, a pharmacy technician at University of Tennessee Bowld Hospital, said her son "was not afraid of dying for his country."

"He said the people of Iraq needed help. Conditions over there were deplorable and he didn't think it was a lost cause."

Kennon graduated from Central High School in 1997.

"He made great grades but he got an N in conduct," Crawford said. "He wasn't involved with gangs or criminal activity; he was the class clown. He liked to make people laugh and that kept him in trouble a lot."

After school, Kennon worked at Taco Bell, where he quickly rose to management. "He was just really smart and excelled in everything he did," Crawford said. "It might take somebody else five years but he just did it in a year or two."

He loved the Tennessee Titans and movies and wrestling, said girlfriend Corporal Ghana Jackson, 23. She met Kennon when both were stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. "He was awesome," she said. "He got along with everybody and he had no kind of enemies."

Kennon joined the Army at 17 and left for basic training at 18. After four years at Fort Hood, he re-upped and was assigned to the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The family last saw Kennon in February before he went overseas.

Baltimore Sun reporter Scott Calvert came to know Kennon well in the opening days of the war.

Kennon, he said, was the nuclear, chemical and biological expert for the Third Battalion's Charlie Company. His first sergeant said Kennon often worked overtime, and weekends, to make sure everyone was prepared for war.

"His job was to make sure everybody in the company, 130 soldiers, had the proper chemical masks and suits," said Calvert, who was embedded with Kennon's unit for seven weeks last spring. "His job was to make sure everybody was ready with protective gear."

Calvert first met Kennon at Fort Campbell the day the troops shipped out.

"It was chaotic," Calvert said. People were milling about, gathering equipment, saying goodbye.

In the midst of the crowd, Kennon approached Calvert. Did he have all his equipment? Did he need help? "It was a pretty nice gesture on his part," Calvert said.

Calvert said Kennon was a solid "stand-up guy" who always wore a bright smile.

The company was in Kuwait for a month, then it was on to Iraq.

Kennon called home sometimes once or twice a week. He asked about his beloved black Dodge Intrepid, which he let his sister drive with the promise she would not smoke up its pristine interior with her cigarettes.

His letters came regularly, handwritten on lined paper. Once he teasingly asked his sister to write more often about what was going on in his hometown.

"Where is the scoop? The gossip? The news? The sports news? Where is it? You slippin' girl."

He wrote about family and a man's obligations to care for his loved ones.

"There is nothing more impressive and respectful to me than a man that takes care of his family."

He wrote about happiness and God.

"I pray about that (happiness) too, but we gotta take one thing at a time and just be thankful that things have been good for us. . . ."

There were other letters, and phone calls. The last was Tuesday, Nov. 4, when Kennon said he'd be home in a few days. He was eager to see family.

Things in Iraq were getting "a lot worse," Crawford quoted her brother as saying.

The family had sent him a "care package" filled with canned fruit, but he hadn't received it yet.

Then came the final mission. At about 7 a.m. on Nov. 7, Kennon led a convoy of vehicles to an observation post. Kennon was killed during an ambush as he was trying to protect his fellow officers, Kennon's supervisor said in a letter recommending the Bronze Star.

Crawford said she never fully understood why her brother was in Iraq, but she accepts that he "went because he was doing something he loved. He loved being in the military."

Paulette Crawford-Webb said her son did not worry about his personal safety. "He said his only sadness would have been if something happened to him, what would become of me, his sister and his niece?"

Crawford said her brother truly was an exceptional person.

"He was a God-fearing young man. He was not afraid to die."

(By Shirley Downing)

[From the Memphis Commercial Appeal,
Nov. 15, 2003]

HOST OF MOURNERS BEARS SGT. KENNON HOME

Army Staff Sgt. Morgan D. Kennon of Memphis was given a hero's farewell Friday morning, a week after he was killed in Iraq.

"Death reminds us of the sovereignty of God, and the frailty of man," Rev. Arthur Snow, pastor of Greater New Shiloh Baptist Church, said to more than 500 mourners attending services at N. J. Ford & Sons Funeral Home.

Kennon's Bronze Star and Purple Heart were displayed next to his flag-draped coffin. Large sprays of red and white flowers surrounded the casket and the dais where dignitaries sat.

After the morning services, the funeral procession traveled past honor guards of firefighters and schoolchildren with signs as it made its way from South Memphis to the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery in southeast Shelby County.

Military honor guards gave folded flags to Kennon's mother and father. A 21-gun salute to the soldier, the first Memphian killed in the Iraqi war, broke the chilly fall air.

Kennon, who was 23, joined the Army at 17 and left for basic training at 18. After four years at Fort Hood, Texas, he rejoined and was assigned to the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The family last saw Kennon in February before he went overseas.

He was fatally wounded during an attack on an Army convoy guarding a bank in Mosul. The Army said he died immediately of blunt force trauma to the head, while trying to protect fellow soldiers.

Kennon has been described as a smart, friendly man who loved the Army, his family and God. He often wrote letters home telling relatives not to worry, he was not afraid.

U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Jr. said he was moved by Kennon's letters, portions of which were printed Friday in The Commercial Appeal.

"In the midst of all that was going on over there, the clarity with which he expressed himself makes all of us proud," Ford said, as he addressed Kennon's tearful family in the front pews at the funeral home.

A top Army officer from Virginia and members of the 101st Airborne attended services.

"We are here to be with the family, to respect and honor this great soldier," Maj. Gen. Russell L. Honore of Norfolk, Va., said before services began. "He served proudly and with distinction for our nation." Honore said he represented the Secretary of the Army and the Chiefs of Staff.

Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton thanked Kennon's family on behalf of the citizens of the county.

"We share your loss," he said.

Several of Kennon's friends spoke about his loyalty, honesty and his love for family and the military.

Snow's eulogy was so passionate the minister had to sit down for part of its delivery.

Kennon was "a good man who could have at the age of 23 been on the streets doing nothing, but he chose to do something positive and constructive with his life. It is unfortunate that he was cut down at an early age," he said.

Snow offered comfort for Kennon's mother, Paulette Crawford-Webb, his father, Morgan Kennon, and other relatives and friends.

"In spite of all that has transpired, God is still good," Snow said. "You need to know and understand today that Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal."

He said Kennon knew the risks of a military career, "but he trusted God."

Kennon was a soldier in the U.S. Army and a soldier in the army of the Lord who did not fear death, Snow said.

"He was prepared externally and he was prepared internally. He wasn't afraid of what could happen to him because he knew that with Jesus, he would be all right."

CONGRATULATING TO THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary team on an extraordinary season. On Saturday, November 23, 2003, the San Jose Earthquakes became the second team in Major League Soccer history to win the Major League Soccer Cup multiple times, thrilling soccer fans around the country and around the world.

The Earthquakes' 4-2 victory over the Chicago Fire showcased the team's explosive talent and demonstrated why soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in America today. This match featured more goals than a Major League Soccer championship has ever seen, including two from two-time U.S. National Team Player of the Year and MLS Cup MVP Landon Donovan.

The Earthquakes' rise to the MLS championship game provided soccer fans with endless high drama, including a five-goal comeback against the Los Angeles Galaxy to advance to the Western Conference final, and a 3-2 victory over the Kansas City Wizards, in which Landon Donovan sealed the championship birth with a golden goal in the 117th minute of play.

In the championship game itself, the San Jose Earthquakes showed a capacity crowd in Carson, California and a national audience four goals, one saved penalty kick, and 90 minutes of world-class soccer. Throughout that game, and throughout the season, the Earth-

quakes played aggressive, attacking, exciting soccer and delighted San Jose's growing legion of fans.

The sportsmanship and gamesmanship of the Earthquakes have helped bring success to Major League Soccer. Only eight years old, this league has already captured the hearts and imaginations of soccer fans around the country and provided the United States with some of the world's best players—many of whom were instrumental in bringing our country to the quarterfinals of last year's World Cup, held in Japan and Korea.

Today, the Earthquakes are the pride, not only of San Jose, but also of America's entire sports community.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2003 Major League Soccer Champions, and I congratulate the San Jose Earthquakes on a fantastic season.

CONDEMNING THE "GRAND THEFT AUTO: VICE CITY" VIDEO GAME: ANTI-HAITIAN RACISM AND STEREOTYPES HAVE NO PLACE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues, and to condemn in the strongest possible terms, a Rockstar Inc. video game entitled "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City." This game has no place as an amusement in this country because it purports to make "fun" using racist and stereotyped images of Haitians and Cubans.

This despicable video game portrays Haitians as ugly criminals and lower forms of human life who must be obliterated once and for all. In order to win the game, the player—an ex-convict—is hired to recover stolen drug money on the streets of Miami. In his pursuit, he faces police officers and gangsters from Cuba and Haiti. Armed with a machete, knife, gun and baseball bat, the game urges players to "kill the Haitians" and "kill the Cubans."

What makes this matter even more offensive is that, by its immigration policies and pronouncements, the Bush Administration fosters a view of Haitian asylum seekers as potential terrorists rather than bona-fide refugees.

It is hard to see how such contemptible acts could be seen as "fun," for this video game is scandalous and hateful and deeply offensive to Haitian and Cuban Americans and every decent American concerned about racism and violence in this country.

I ask this Congress and all people of goodwill to join me in condemning this hateful video game and to do everything possible to increase public knowledge of it and thereby to limit its acceptance in both domestic and foreign markets.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the largest Haitian constituency in the United States, and this video game is demeaning, demoralizing and deeply hurtful to hundreds of thousands of hard-working, law-abiding Haitian Americans and their families in South Florida and in this country. It does not take much to imagine the destructive impact that the repulsive images of

this game would have on youngsters, whether they are Haitian-American, Cuban-American, or not.

This video game symbolizes the very lowest of our nation's values. It is deeply disturbing, not only that the manufacturer would seek to profit by the sales of this game, but that people would buy it. I urge all my colleagues, and every American, to take a firm stand against such commercial trash and to rededicate ourselves to the principles of freedom and liberty that such hatred cannot destroy.

REMOVAL OF U.S. TARIFF ON ORANGE JUICE IMPORTS WOULD NOT ENHANCE FREE TRADE

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, three weeks ago the leaders of more than thirty nations around the Western Hemisphere gathered in Miami for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Eighth Ministerial meeting for the purpose of expanding free trade within the Western Hemisphere.

I watched with great interest as these negotiations progressed, fully cognizant of the significant impact that they could have on my state of Florida.

Free trade and free markets are essentially about making trade easier by allowing the market to balance needs, supply and demand. We are engaged in a battle to tear down trade barriers around the world in an effort to promote jobs, competition and greater prosperity for all countries involved. Since Adam Smith explained the benefits of free trade in his great work "The Wealth of Nations", thoughtful policy makers have understood the need to reduce these barriers. The famous economist Joseph Schumpeter once proclaimed that capitalism relies on the free flow of information and goods.

The talks in Miami generated positive movement towards greater economic integration in this hemisphere. Trade Ministers agreed to a baseline of minimum standards for a full and comprehensive agreement that takes into account differing levels of development among nations. This framework is a step forward that gives nations needed flexibility.

As we continue these discussions, I would caution the negotiators to find an acceptable balance between the need to open up to new foreign markets and to protect an industry that is vital to America's supply of fresh fruit and Florida's economic infrastructure: the Florida citrus industry.

There are only two countries that produce 90 percent of the world's orange juice: the United States and Brazil. Brazil currently sells to the United States and has a large market share in the European Union. Without competition from the Florida citrus industry, Brazil would enjoy a monopoly over world orange juice production.

The citrus industry in Florida generates revenues of \$9.1 billion each year and employs nearly 90,000 people without subsidies from the Federal Government. A collapse of this industry would not only cost tens of thousands of jobs, it would also cost the State and local governments of Florida up to \$1 billion in lost tax revenues.