

his fiancée Abigail Trusty, whom he planned to marry when he returned home from Iraq. These individuals were the heroes to a true patriot, so I rise today to honor them and recognize their sacrifice during these tumultuous times.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Reserve Specialist Michael J. Wiesemann. Specialist Wiesemann is the twenty-third service member from Indiana to sacrifice his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his passing comes as a difficult setback to a community shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Wiesemann will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

#### WELCOME HOME DUSTIN TULLER

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome home Army Staff Sergeant Dustin Tuller and to thank him for patriotically answering his nation's call to duty.

America has put our power at the service of principle. We believe that liberty is the design of nature, the direction of history, and that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty. Last, we believe that freedom—the freedom we prize—is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind.

By definition, the success of freedom rests upon the choices and the courage of free peoples, and upon their willingness to sacrifice. In the trenches of World War I, through a two-front war in the 1940s, the difficult battles of Korea and Vietnam, to battling the faceless enemy in the war on terror and in missions of rescue and liberation on nearly every continent, Americans have amply displayed our willingness to sacrifice for liberty and freedom.

Just two days before Christmas, Dustin had just positioned his squad outside a building in Iraq to provide security during the raid when the soldiers came under fire. Despite being shot four times in the legs and pelvis, he returned gunfire and started looking for a concealed position. Soon after, Dustin arrived at a hospital and learned that he would have to have both legs amputated. Having hopes of becoming a physical education teacher, the interruption in his life has not deterred his plans.

On a daily basis, we are reminded of the tremendous costs that freedom often requires. Throughout the history of the United States of America, men, woman and families have given their all to further our constitutional hopes and dreams.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress; we are humbled by and appreciative of men, women and families like Dustin Tuller's who are willing to answer their nation's call.

Thank you Dustin, Alisha, Dilyn, Zachery, Dammy, and Lexi. We all owe you a heartfelt debt of gratitude. Welcome Home.

#### RECOGNIZING FAITH IN ACTION

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Faith in Action, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the many dedicated individuals who serve in this interfaith volunteer caregiving program.

I had the pleasure of meeting with numerous volunteers from throughout my Congressional District during their visit to Washington, and I was uplifted and inspired by the stories they shared with me.

#### FAITH IN ACTION FOR CASS COUNTY

Esther is an 83-year-old woman who has osteoporosis and spinal fractures. She is a lovely lady who has lived alone for 30 years since her husband died, in a home built in 1908 in great need of repair. Esther has no children and is on a fixed income.

When she was diagnosed with spinal fractures, she was in a lot of pain and was told there was nothing she could do. She had lost hope. She first came to the attention of Faith in Action when the agency was told the water in her home was undrinkable. A septic system repairman told her he punctured her well and she should not drink the water. Faith in Action found a volunteer who brings her clean water every week. For years she used a flashlight to find her way in the bathroom, as the light fixture did not work. She feared asking a repairperson to help as another repairperson had taken her valuables. The Faith in Action AmeriCorps Vista Worker fixed her light fixture, and there is now a team of Faith in Action volunteers who takes her to the doctor, to the grocery store, and out to lunch. They clean her house, repair her furnace when needed and wrap her frozen pipes. Faith in Action is there for her whenever she needs help; she is always so grateful and occasionally pays \$5 or \$10 to Faith in Action.

Esther is determined to stay in her home so she can feed the deer and chipmunks. Faith in Action volunteers help to provide comfort and assistance so she can stay in her home as long as possible.

#### LAKES AREA INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS

Faith in Action in the Lakes Area received a call last fall from the wife of an 84-year-old veteran of 30 years and two wars. She stated that they needed a ramp because he is confined to a wheelchair, she has a bad back, and it is very difficult to get him out of the house. She even stated that she had dropped him down the cement front stairs onto the cement sidewalk the previous week.

This was in late November and within one week Faith in Action had six volunteers over and completed a ramp for them. It snowed the next day. Faith in Action received a nice thank you from her stating that they love the ramp, they feel much safer now, and her back feels much better.

Faith in Action also received a note a while ago thanking them for giving a woman a ride everyday for 18 days to see her husband in intensive care. She stated that without wonderful volunteers who brought her 30 miles in the morning and home again 30 miles in the afternoon, she would not have been able to visit her husband of 66 years before he died.

#### NORTHWOODS INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS ARE ESSENTIAL

Tessie has been a transportation volunteer for Northwoods Interfaith for nearly 4 years and has provided over 500 hours of priceless services to several Carereceivers. Not only has she made her car available when someone needed a ride to a medical appointment, to the bank, or to the grocery store, but she has also made herself available, as a friend, to each Carereceiver that she helps. When asking a Carereceiver what she thinks of Tessie, the Carereceiver responded:

"I consider Tessie to be my own special angel. I thank God for sending her every day. She is a true champion, and there's nothing she wouldn't do for me. For the past 3 years, Tessie has driven me to dialysis 3 times a week and even when she had to pick me up at 5:30 in the morning, she was always cheerful and kind. She helps me with errands, takes me out to eat when I don't feel good enough to cook a meal, and keeps me updated on our church news. She has shared her grandchildren with me, her pets, and her home. She is my family. I can't say enough about Tessie. She is a true example of volunteers at their extreme best."

#### FAMILY PATHWAYS SENIOR SERVICES

Every month volunteers are asked to report their activities with clients and turn in their mileage report so they can be reimbursed for their mileage and Family Pathways can tabulate statistics for funding sources. Vicki sent in her report and had driven 1,496 miles for the month. That was much higher than usual. The Volunteer Coordinator visited with Vicki and asked if she had to relinquish 2 of her 5 clients which ones would she be able to give up to another volunteer. After some discussion and consideration, she said, "Oh, I couldn't give up any of them." Her clients can't say enough positive things about Vicki and her unrelenting energy and willingness to help others. Vicki is 90 years old.

Family Pathways also assists a couple that lives in a trailer home in the country. He has severe dementia, she has diabetes and has left-sided weakness due to a stroke. Their children all work, and, although they live nearby, they wanted some company for their parents on a weekly basis. Family Pathways found an older couple that wanted to volunteer together. The Volunteer Coordinator brought the volunteer couple to their home to visit to see if it would be a good match. The couples began talking and visiting, and before long an hour had gone by. There was laughter, teasing, story telling and a whole bunch of good feeling around the room. Yes, it was a good match. This couple now goes out once a week to visit. They have driven them into town for shopping, helped plant flowers around their trailer and thoroughly enjoy their time together.

I am proud to rise on the floor today to commend these altruistic individuals and to recognize a program that is bringing together people of different faiths to care for their neighbors. Faith in Action was created in the spirit of community volunteerism and the nearly 1,000 interfaith volunteer caregiving programs that have developed across the country provide the balm of Gilead. The stories of changed lives as a result of their presence in the community has touched me and clearly provides hope to many individuals in need.