

and then as the first press secretary in Mayor Menino's administration.

Howard Leibowitz is a life-long resident of the City of Boston. He grew up in Brighton and Mattapan, attended Boston Technical High School, and currently lives in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood. Howard graduated from Brandeis University and worked in his first political campaign as a teenager.

He served the people of City of Boston and the administration of Mayor Thomas M. Menino admirably. His many accomplishments include authoring the Boston Neighborhood Investment through Capital Expenditures program and the Senior Home Repair Program, helping to draft the federal Community Housing Partnership Act, and providing national leadership through the city's participation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. Howard served as part of the teams that brought the Democratic National Convention, two annual meetings of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities' Congress of Cities to Boston. Howard is an active member of his community and is particularly committed to affordable housing and economic growth and development. He was a champion for city's legislative efforts to raise new monies through the Municipal Revenue Package.

Mr. Speaker, Howard was a tenacious and effective advocate for the City of Boston and its constituents during his tenure, developing and fighting for legislation and policies to improve the lives of Boston residents, at the federal, state and local level. I am extremely grateful for his efforts on behalf of many of my constituents and appreciate his hard work and dedication. He will be sorely missed. Howard, congratulations on a job well done.

REMEMBERING U.S. ARMY PFC.
JACOB S. FLETCHER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Army Pfc. Jacob S. Fletcher died on November 13, 2003, from wounds he suffered when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by an improvised explosive device. Throughout our nation's history we have triumphed over adversity because of the bravery of people like Pfc. Fletcher. In recognition of his sacrifice, I would like to have his mother's touching account of his life read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

My son, Jacob Samuel Fletcher, was born in Mineola, New York on November 25, 1974. He spent his childhood in Babylon, where he grew up with me, his stepfather Ray, stepbrother Scott and stepsister Tara. He graduated from Babylon High School in 1992. He played lacrosse in his younger years and varsity wrestling in his last year of high school. Jacob always drew and sketched, which was his natural talent. He was gifted with words and wrote eloquently. His passion for music eventually led him to play drums. Jacob gave great love to his family and was known as a loyal and caring friend. He would be there for anyone in need to listen to or help in any way he could. He loved children dearly and was moved by animals of all kinds.

Jacob first tried to join the Army when he was 8 years old by filling out applications in a magazine. He tried twice, but I sent the of-

ficers away when they called for Private Fletcher. He was about to be sworn into the Army when he was 23, but hurt his knee, keeping him out of the service. At 27 he finally joined the Army, with 9/11 being the catalyst to once again fulfill his calling to serve his country. Jacob's training in the Army was completed in Ft. Benning, GA. After his basic training he trained for his paratrooper wings, which he also received at Ft. Benning. He was originally stationed in Vicenza, Italy, where he stayed for 3 months before deploying to Iraq.

He parachuted into Iraq along with 999 other paratroopers in the dark of night. On March 26, 2003, he and the others seized an airfield in Northern Iraq and then went with the Kurds to Kirkuk, Iraq, where he patrolled and went on many missions. He was given 3 days of rest and relaxation in Qatar on November 9. On November 13, on the way back from Qatar, on Highway 1 in Samarra, a bomb hit the bus he was on. My beloved son, along with Joe Manucci was airlifted to a hospital where doctors tried to save him, but he soon died from his injuries.

I know that Jacob had a deep feel for the Iraqi children. He was saddened by the condition that the Iraqis were made to live in. It broke his heart to see the injustice. He had a strong sense of fairness and duty to serve his country. He truly understood what freedom is about and the choices we have to make as Americans.

Jacob is buried at Long Island National Cemetery. The words courage and compassion, which grace his headstone, will tell those who glance his way, that he was a passionate and brave young hero. He takes with him the essence of the Purple Heart, Bronze star, Combat Infantry Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Service Ribbon and Army Service Ribbon.

RESEARCH REVIEW ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following correspondence for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BARTON: I am writing concerning H.R. 5213, the "Research Review Act of 2004," which is scheduled for floor consideration today.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters concerning title XVIII of the Social Security Act. Section 4 of the bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the coverage standards that, under Medicare, apply to patients with inflammatory bowel disease, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with

respect to H.R. 5213, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. BILL THOMAS,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5213, the "Research Review Act of 2004," on which the Committee on Ways and Means received a named additional referral upon introduction.

I appreciate your willingness not to exercise your referral on H.R. 5213. I agree that your decision to forego action on the bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5213 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO J.D.
LUNSFORD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend J.D. Lunsford from my district as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement from the plumbing and heating business. Lunsford Brothers Mechanical Contractors of Grand Junction, Colorado, stands as a tribute to its founder and his 35 years of dedication to his community. It is my pleasure to congratulate J.D. before this body of Congress and this Nation on a job well done.

A devout member of the First Assembly of God Church, J.D. began his family business with a skill and a prayer. After almost a decade as an employee for another mechanical contractor, J.D. received his master plumber's license and began looking for an opportunity to go out on his own in the plumbing and heating business. With only \$2,000 saved for supplies and materials, J.D. founded Lunsford Brothers Mechanical Contractors. J.D. immediately went to work on a 42-unit condominium in the Colorado Mountains shortly before the beginning of the ski season, coming through in the clutch and firmly establishing a reputation for solid workmanship. Growing Lunsford Brothers into a successful business is the realization of a powerful dream and the beginning of a family tradition of service to the Grand Junction community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring J.D. Lunsford to the attention of my colleagues before this venerable body. I would like to join Lunsford Brothers' 45 employees in wishing J.D. luck in what hopes to be a happy and productive retirement. Small businesses like Lunsford Brothers are the backbone of our Nation and encompass the spirit of American enterprise. Congratulations, J.D., and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.