

The three graduates of Ballou, Eastern, and Dunbar High Schools in the District were working or in college when they were called to serve. They spent nearly a year in Iraq exposed to great danger. Two of the three may be redeployed this year.

Just as these three soldiers stepped forward without hesitation to go overseas in time of war, they step forward now to speak for the cause of democracy at home. These three men welcome the enthusiasm of many Iraqis as they prepare to elect voting representatives to their national legislature on January 30. All three know that the coming elections in Iraq and the successful elections held in Afghanistan in October were made possible by the service and sacrifices of the members of their company, and other coalition troops, the great majority of whom were American citizen soldiers, and members of today's volunteer military.

Today these three young men ask that their hometown be afforded the same voting representation that their service will help bring to Iraq. They do not expect to have the same voting representation tomorrow that they will see in Iraq on January 30th. However, the people of the nation's capital could get a vote as the 109th Congress convenes on January 4th for its new session. By rule of the House, the Congress could put the District on the path to full voting rights.

During the 103rd Congress, the District of Columbia had a vote on most House business by rule of the House and by vote of the House, as affirmed by the federal courts. With the change of controlling parties in the 104th Congress, this vote was withdrawn. Our country and most democracies would find the withdrawal of voting rights intolerable anywhere in the world. Eliminating a vote fairly won is also unacceptable here. As we are reminded time and again, all countries must meet the same standard—Iraq, Afghanistan and the United States, as well.

Specialists Gray, Kosh, and Lewis and their families are tax paying citizens of the United States and of the capital of our nation, but they have given more than most of us. They are soldiers who have gone to war for our country. I ask the House to honor their service and to heed their call for voting representation in this House. I also ask unanimous consent to place in the record their own words petitioning their government for voting representation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.  
WILLIAM GOTSCHALL

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Mr. William Gotschall has served his community and state as the Governor's Regional Representative for Economic Development in Region 10 of East Central Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Gotschall provided his services as Columbiana County Commissioner, during which time he received the Ohio Department of Transportation Outstanding Local Leader Award; and

Whereas, Mr. Gotschall's service to the people of Ohio and Columbiana County earned

him the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Calcutta Chamber in St. Clair Township, Columbiana County, the Honorary Citizen Award for Byesville, Guernsey County, and a key to the village of Byesville, Ohio. He should be commended for the help that he provided to the residents of Columbiana County and the surrounding area.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebration of Mr. William Gotschall's service to East Central Ohio.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A.J.  
RICHARD

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of A.J. Richard, a vital member of the New York community. Throughout his life as a successful businessman, dedicated family man, concerned citizen and creative innovator, A.J. Richard defied the odds in keeping his family business running and growing when other community competitors were closing their doors. Today his legacy lives on in the type of business he left behind: it is owned and operated by family; it is as much a part of the community as it is a service to the community; and it places customers ahead of profits. A.J.'s business is a reflection of a certain value system, a value system we rarely see in today's largely faceless corporate culture. That value system is about community, family, work ethic, optimism and integrity. While A.J. has passed, his business and that special value system live on. We are all thankful for this legacy he leaves with us.

In his honor, I would like to share the following obituary of A.J. Richard as it appeared in the N.Y. Times on January 5, 2004:

"A.J. Richard, whose contagious enthusiasm for new gadgets transformed P.C. Richard & Son from a hardware store into a major retailer of consumer appliances and electronics, died on Dec. 28 in West Islip, N.Y. He was 95 and lived in Bay Shore and Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The cause was pneumonia, said Alan Meschkow, the company's advertising director.

Although Mr. Richard's father, Peter Christiaan, started the business, it was A.J. who in 1924, at the age of 15, insisted on selling newfangled electric irons alongside the store's kerosene lamps and plumbing supplies.

"It's beautiful, look—it's chrome, it's polished, it fits your hand," went Mr. Richard's sales pitch, Mr. Meschkow said. "And look at the tip, the point—you can go right in between the buttons." He asked his first buyer to pay 50 cents a week toward the total cost of \$4.95, and other customers soon followed.

Over the next six decades, including several years he spent living above his store in Ozone Park, Mr. Richard sold New Yorkers all kinds of new electric devices, from toaster in the 1920's to the Walkman in the 1980's.

His methods were often ingenious. In the early 1930's, when people seemed content to scrub clothes on washboards, he sent salesmen door to door offering families \$5 to try out washing machines. In the 1950's, he let peo-

ple watch Friday-night boxing matches on a television displayed in the store's window, and some inevitably bought their own 10-inch black-and-white set, which cost nearly \$400. In the 1980's, the company offered cooking classes to demonstrate microwave ovens.

P.C. Richard & Son now reports annual sales of roughly \$1 billion, making it the country's largest family-owned and operated seller of appliances and consumer electronics. Based in Farmingdale, N.Y., it has grown to 49 stores in New York and New Jersey, even as competing regional chains like Crazy Eddie and Newmark & Lewis have closed. Many people can whistle its five-note advertising jingle, "At P.C. Richard."

Much of the advertising still carries pictures of A.J. and his two sons: Gary, son the company's chief executive, and Peter, who is executive vice president. A grandson, Gregg Richard, recently became president, and a granddaughter, Bonni Richard, is head of human resources.

Alfred Joseph Richard was born in Brooklyn on Oct. 11, 1909, the same year his father, a handyman who emigrated from Amsterdam, opened the family's first store in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn.

"I waited on customers when I was 7," he told The New York Times in a 1995 interview. "I was a 100 percent hardware man by the age of 9."

He was also a tinkerer, and he started the store's service department after learning to repair radios as a teenager. He took over the company in 1947.

His wife, the former Vicky Himmelman, died in 1997. He is survived by his sons, Gary and Peter, both of Long Island; eight grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren."

HONORING DARRYL WORLEY OF  
SAVANNAH, TENNESSEE

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, country music mega-star Darryl Worley "Has Not Forgotten" his community or his country in his rise to the top of his profession.

By practicing what he preaches in his Gold Record #1 hit Have You Forgotten, he has spent many days each year traveling to the Middle East and entertaining and encouraging our troops.

He has also never forgotten his friends and neighbors. He sponsors and performs at the "Darryl Worley River Run" each year in his home county, which raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities, this year expanding to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

And he has not forgotten his family. This year he presented the Hardin Medical Center with a check for \$40,000 in memory of his grandfather who suffered from cancer. In his honor the recently renovated hospital named a new wing the "Darryl Worley Outpatient Chemotherapy Clinic."

Darryl Worley is a great American, and a true hometown hero to Savannah, Tennessee, and today we honor his commitment to our great nation.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL  
BRIAN P. PARRELLO

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a New Jersey citizen who served with dignity and honor as a soldier in Iraq. I join his family, friends and members of his community in mourning this great loss.

On Saturday, January 1, LCpl. Brian P. Parrello, 19, of West Milford, NJ, was killed in Al Anbar Province, Iraq as a result of hostile fire. Lance Corporal Parrello was assigned to Small Craft Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC. Parrello was attached to a Marine Swift Boat unit that patrolled the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

A resident of West Milford, New Jersey, Parrello attended West Milford High School where he was a member of both the football and hockey teams. Following high school, he was so deeply affected by the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon that he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. His teachers, coaches and peers have called him a real leader and a role model, someone who always gave 150 percent, a person who led by example and with a big heart.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their Nation called them to duty to preserve freedom and the security of our neighbors, they answered without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to recognize the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of New Jersey. LCpl Brian P. Parrello was an honorable defender of liberty and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

ARTICLE HONORING CORPORAL  
KEVIN JOHN "JACK" DEMPSEY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following statement by Jennifer Dempsey. Jennifer's brother Jack died bravely serving our nation in Iraq on November 13, 2004.

CORPORAL KEVIN JOHN "JACK" DEMPSEY DECEMBER 9, 1980—NOVEMBER 13, 2004—A SON, A BROTHER, A FRIEND

I would just like to say a few words about my brother, Jack. As a young child, Jack was always on the move. From a very young age he was involved in team sports. His nickname was Tiger because of his fearless personality. He excelled in every sport he

played because of his natural ability and drive to be the best. As a son and brother he was loving and protective. He has a great love for animals. Our mom took us to every zoo and animal park she could find. Even as a Marine, he showed that love. There was a stray dog at Camp LeJeune that Jack used to feed and take care of.

Jack is loved by many people. He had a great smile and an even greater laugh. He was a sweet kid who always wanted to do something great with his life. My brother was a wonderful man who accomplished many great things. He excelled in the Marines and felt he was truly part of a brotherhood. My mother and I are incredibly proud that he was able to do this for himself and his country. We love him dearly and this loss is tremendous to us. But we are extremely proud of the man he became. He was a sweet soul with the courage of a tiger. My brother Jack made the ultimate sacrifice to protect all of us. Honor him well.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PADRON  
CIGARS

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 2004 marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of Padron Cigars and I rise to honor and congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

Padron Cigars was founded on September 8, 1964 by the Padron brothers—Jose Orlando and Rodolfo. Throughout the last 40 years, the Padron family has worked to grow their business and continue providing new products to their loyal customers throughout the world.

Of course, the success of Padron Cigars did not come without significant challenges over the years. In fact, their factory in Nicaragua was destroyed as a result of civil war.

Through endless commitment and leadership, Padron Cigars was able to survive and grow, despite the serious challenges they faced.

Today, Padron Cigars continues their commitment to quality through their consistent approach to the lengthy process of manufacturing cigars. In fact, they claim: "Our primary mission is the exceptional quality of our product, not the quantity produced."

Headquartered in Miami, Florida, Padron Cigars is clearly an industry leader that has epitomized the success of small family businesses throughout America. The success story of Padron Cigars is nothing short of the American Dream and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Padron family on this anniversary.

LEGISLATION ON EXCHANGE OF  
LAND FOR A SCHOOL ON ST. JOHN

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to address a long held concern of my constituents on the island of St. John, Virgin Islands; the need for the

National Park Service and the government of the Virgin Islands to agree on an exchange of land so that residents of St. John can build a school to accommodate students from K-12.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in the Virgin Islands have been wrestling with this issue for several years now. Since the 1970's, enrollment in public schools on St. John has grown considerably and the local government has no more land on which to expand either of the two current St. John public schools.

Just last month a 7-year-old boy by the name of Javon Alfred was struck and killed by a delivery truck, as he was on his way home from the only public school on St. John. The Julius Sprauve School, where Javon was a second grade student, is located in an urban area with significant vehicular traffic. With the significant increases in population that St. John has witnessed in recent years, the location of the Sprauve School is not the most suitable at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, St. John is an island only 28 square miles in size, two thirds which comprises the Virgin Islands National Park. Without an exchange of land between the National Park Service and the government of the Virgin Islands, there is no place to build a school on St. John. While the residents of St. John have benefited from a boom in tourism on that island, they have had to give up many long held traditions, including the right to fish in local waters. The exchange of land for a school on St. John is a matter that is long overdue. It is high time that this issue be resolved. The residents and students of St. John deserve nothing less.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that the attached letter, requesting excuse from the floor on January 6, 2005, be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I have also submitted the letter to Leader PELOSI's Office.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*January 6, 2005.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEADER PELOSI: I respectfully request to be excused from the floor, today, on legislative business.

Were I able to be present on the floor today, I would vote to ensure that the electoral will of the people is respected in every state. If there is any perceived electoral irregularity, those who have been aggrieved must be afforded the opportunity to have their concerns redressed, in the appropriate manner and forum, as expeditiously as possible.

The hallmark of our Democracy—lasting and cherished for over two centuries—is that we respect and abide by Constitutional principles. The right of franchise, purchased with the blood and toil of our civil rights leaders, must not be idly relinquished. We must fight to make all voices heard in that noble and great enterprise that is America.