HONORING CORPORAL JOHN T. OLSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corporal John T. Olson of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Corporal Olson was killed by enemy action while conducting combat operations on 21 February in Nassir Wa Al Salam, Iraq. It was Corporal Olson’s third tour of duty in Iraq.

He graduated from boot camp from the San Diego Marine Corps Depot in 2002 and was deployed to Iraq in January 2003 for his first tour. His third tour of duty was with the Alpha Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

John Olson was a graduate of the Elk Grove High School, Class of 2001, graduating six months early. He was a student at Harper Community College when 9/11 changed his life, he enlisted shortly afterward and was deployed to his first tour in Iraq. At the time of his death, he was driving a truck just outside his base when a bomb exploded. He died while medics tried to save him.

Corporal Olson was a young man of 21 when he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Our deepest sympathies go to his beloved family—his mother Diana, his father John R., and his sister Courtney—as well as to his other family and friends. The entire community joins in mourning John’s loss.

We honor the memory of Corporal John T. Olson and the dedication and bravery with which he served our Nation and the people of Iraq.