

mortal head and bodily injuries and trying to regain as much strength as he can, Matthew Drake's dream of becoming a physical therapist have turned to dreams of gaining inches of recovery day by day. He had always planned to work in a profession where he could be of help or service to other people. Yet his commitment to his family, his feeling responsible to protect his younger siblings brought him to a most dangerous place. He felt he had a job to do, and he did it.

How many times have we heard that sentiment echoed by the families of the more than 11,000 service members injured in Iraq? Matthew Drake joins the 6,050 of those who were not able to shortly return to duty and whose future in service to America and their God will take another form.

Matthew faces struggles of rehabilitation most of us cannot imagine. Even swallowing whole food is still not possible. Matthew's story represents one family's heroic struggle multiplied by more than 11,000 families whose loved ones have been injured and the over 1,550 who have had to lay their loved ones to rest.

Our government must assure that we properly care for and fully compensate these young people through their entire recuperation and lifetimes. Why should a family have to have spaghetti dinners in order to have the funds necessary to travel to be with one of these severely injured veterans who have come home?

Matthew is a quiet and shy young man who loves to laugh, especially enjoys children and animals, and who joined the Army to make the world safer. He represents the citizenship ideals of hundreds of thousands of service members whose value we should not forget.

The explosion that so injured Matt on October 15, 2004, killed all his colleagues but him. His injuries were grave. He was never expected to live. Matthew Drake survived by miracle and support of his family. His mother, Lisa, has never left his bedside since he has returned Stateside, and his father Tom has traveled time and again to be with him.

On April 18, 2005, with his mother and father by his side, along with his immediate family and friends, Matthew was awarded the Purple Heart. Matthew had made a promise to his parents that no matter what he would try to stand dressed in his uniform to receive this special honor. He needed help to do that, but he did it.

Four Star General Douglas Brown, who presides over the Special Operations Units for all branches of the military, was given the honor of presenting the Purple Heart Award to Specialist Matthew T. Drake.

Our hearts swell with Matt and his family, not only because he was awarded such a prestigious and significant medal but because he lived to receive it and understands the meaning of words duty, honor, and country.

Congratulations to Matt. We love you.

[From the Toledo Blade, Oct. 19, 2004]

SYLVANIA SOLDIER SURVIVES SUICIDE ATTACK; NORTHVIEW H.S. GRAD IS IN COMA, WITH SKULL FRACTURE, INJURIES TO ARM, SHOULDER

(By Elizabeth A. Shack Blade)

A Sylvania soldier was seriously hurt in a car bombing in Iraq on Friday that killed four other people, and his family and friends are anxiously awaiting word on his recovery.

Pfc. Matthew T. Drake, who is in an Army Psychological Operations unit based at Fort Bragg, N.C., arrived at Ramstein Air Base in Germany last night on his way to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

On Friday, Private Drake was driving a truck near the town of Qaim near the Syrian border. Two other psychological operations soldiers, a Marine, and an Iraqi translator were killed in the suicide attack.

Private Drake was in a coma when he reached a military hospital and also has injuries to his head, right arm, and shoulder, including a fractured skull.

"It's an unbelievable miracle that he survived," his aunt, Linda Marie Domini, said.

He has had several surgeries for his head injuries and will have more surgeries when he is in a more stable condition. He will eventually be transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Private Drake graduated from Sylvania Northview High School in 2001 and attended Bowling Green State University for a year. In October, 2002, he left to join the Army.

He wanted to protect his younger siblings, Heather Schuster, a sophomore at Northview, and Michael Schuster, a sixth grader at Arbor Hills Junior High.

"He really felt called to serve," his aunt said. "He wanted to go fight the terrorists over there rather than have them come over here."

A member of the 9th PsyOp Battalion, Bravo Company, Private Drake left for Iraq on Sept. 7, two days after his 21st birthday, assigned to a three-man psychological operations unit. He drove an armored six-ton truck with a speaker.

His aunt said he felt that he had a job to do and he was going to do it, and he promised his mother, Lisa Schuster, that he'd come home. His father is Thomas Drake of Toledo. "He's coming home a Purple Heart veteran," his aunt said, her voice breaking.

Private Drake, who was a wrestler his junior and senior years in high school and is a certified personal trainer, was thinking of becoming a physical therapist, Mrs. Domini said.

Friends and family described Private Drake, who belongs to Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania, as a kind, funny, and generous man.

Matt Serror, who has known Private Drake since they played soccer together in elementary school, said he was quiet and shy in high school but always helped people out, whether he was shoveling snow for an elderly neighbor or dropping a dollar in a can by a cash register.

"It's the little things you might not think about," Mr. Serror said. "He's one of those people that doesn't come around every day."

When his aunt's 150-pound Rottweiler was recovering from surgery, Private Drake carried him outside when needed to go outdoors.

In an e-mail to his mother a week before the attack, he wrote that he had befriended a feral dog that ran around the encampment where he lived with two other men in a room the size of a two-car garage.

"We pray that when he does come out of his coma that he's still Matthew," Mrs. Domini said.

Sky Bank branches are accepting donations to the Matthew T. Drake fund. His aunt said that if he doesn't survive, the money will go to families of other wounded soldiers.

But she said their family is one of strong faith, and they believe he's going to make it.

"We certainly ask for people who believe in prayer to pray for his recovery," Mrs. Domini said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### SMART ENERGY POLICIES, NATIONAL SECURITY AND IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, later this week the House will vote on energy legislation that concerns every man and woman in America. This energy bill presents a terrific opportunity to reduce our Nation's continued dependence on petroleum by promoting clean and renewable energy sources. But instead of encouraging the use of renewable energy, this Neanderthal legislation promotes the interest of corporations through tax breaks that encourage air pollution, water contamination, and the general destruction of our environment.

This energy legislation will harm more than our environment. American's continued reliance on fossil fuels is the single largest factor that contributes to our national insecurity. That is because we obtain most of our fossil fuels from the Middle East, a region where democracy is about as common as desert oases. By spending billions of dollars annually on foreign fuels, the United States supports autocratic regimes in countries like Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Venezuela.

The citizens of oil-rich countries run by despots rarely, if ever, receive even a dime from these oil sales. More often than not, these riches line the pockets of fat-cat leaders and their cronies, instead of paying for projects that would help improve the lives of all the people in the country.

This drastic gap in wealth between the upper and lower classes, in turn breeds hostility and despair among the local populace. This hostility, combined with the militant form of Islam that is encouraged by the fat-cat leaders, creates the conditions in which terrorism runs rampant.

If the United States were to become fully energy independent, we would essentially pull the plug on the supply of money that flows to the Middle East much like oil through a pipeline. Therefore, the most effective measure we can take to address global terrorism