I look forward to continuing to work on these and other important issues in the 109th Congress.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GENERAL LOUIS H. WILSON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late General Louis H. Wilson, a World War II veteran, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and 26th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. General Wilson was also a recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for "exceptionally distinguished service" during his four-year tenure as Commandant and his contributions as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He leaves his wife, the former Jane Clark of Pearson, Mississippi and one daughter, Janet. Our country lost a strong leader, courageous Marine, and dedicated patriot upon the passing of General Wilson.

Born February 11, 1920, in Brandon, Mississippi, General Wilson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. In May 1941, he embarked upon his path of commendable service in the Marine Corps Reserve, as he enlisted and was commissioned a second lieutenant. As a young Marine, Wilson participated in the fierce battle to liberate Guam. His actions during fierce combat on Guam, which was heavily occupied by the enemy for 32 months, earned him the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for heroism and leadership. Wilson was promoted to the rank of Captain while serving overseas with the 9th Marines in 1943. His tour in the Pacific Theater took him to Guadalcanal, Efate, and Bougainville. In December 1944, he was transferred to Washington, D.C., where he served as Detachment Commander at the Marine Barracks and was presented the Medal of Honor by President Truman.

The Medal of Honor was but the first accolade bestowed upon General Wilson during his service in the Marine Corps. In March 1970, Wilson was promoted to Major General. General Wilson was also awarded two additional Legion of Merit medals and the Korean Order of National Security Merit, GUK-SEON Medal, 2D Class and the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander) for his service in those countries. On July 1, 1975, General Wilson received his final promotion to General when he assumed the office of Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As Commandant, General Wilson advocated modernization of the post-Vietnam Marine Corps for the protection of his corps. His indomitable leadership and relentless dedication enhanced the highest traditions of our country. I join the millions of Marines and their families in mourning the passing of this honorable man. General Wilson will always have a special place in the hearts of the people of Guam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 23, 2005, owing to an important family matter, I regrettably missed recorded vote number 306.

HON. GREG WALDEN
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic action of one of our brave soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Brandon Sabetti of Mosier is a member of the National Guard from my home state of Oregon. He was called to active duty with Alpha Company of the Third Battalion of the 116th Cavalry and conducted training exercises at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and Ft. Bliss, Texas before transferring to Iraq at the end of last year. I had the honor of meeting with many of the citizen soldiers who comprise Alpha Company when I visited both forts during their training.

Since that time he conducted regular mobile infantry missions to secure dangerous areas of Iraq and to help Iraqis rebuild their country after decades under Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime. On the morning of June 3rd, he was traveling in a convoy toward Forward Operating Base Warrior near Kirkuk as part of a road-clearing mission when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by a roadside bomb.

Spc. Sabetti, the gunner and designated combat lifesaver in his vehicle, was sitting in the open turret at the top of the Humvee and was ejected upon impact. He immediately got back on his feet and began triaging his wounded companions—dressing their wounds and administering intravenous fluids. He quickly ran to the second vehicle in the convoy to report the injuries and share the need for a quick medical evacuation.

He jumped into the third Humvee, which was pulling into position to provide security to the injured when a second bomb detonated, destroying that vehicle as well. Undaunted, Sabetti again went to work administering medical care to those wounded in the second attack and assisting in their evacuation after additional support arrived.

Sabetti's heroic courage under fire and willingness to attend to the wounded out of his comrades' deadly risk to himself was central to ensuring that none of the ten Oregon Guardsmen injured in the attack lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this young man exemplifies the honorable character of the men and women who have answered duty's call throughout our Nation's history. His willingness to serve and sacrifice for our country and his fellow soldiers is a clear demonstration of the courage and professionalism that distinguish our armed forces. This grateful Nation owes Spc. Sabetti and his compatriots in arms serving around the world a profound debt of gratitude. I am proud to call him a fellow Oregonian and I thank him deeply for his service.

God bless America.