

time, I was on official business attending a regional hearing held by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in Atlanta, Georgia, on behalf of the 118th Air Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 341, the King amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 342, the Herseith amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 343, the Hooley amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 344, the Souder amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 345, the Davis (FL) amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 346, the Lee amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 347, the Sanders amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 348, the Rangel amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 349, the Souder amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 350, the Garrett amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 351, the DeLauro amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF THE  
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD'S 1487TH  
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHRNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. BOEHRNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the soldiers of the Ohio National Guard's 1487th Transportation Company. I would also like to pay my respect to their families and their employers who remained strong and supportive during their absence.

The 1487th Transportation Company was mobilized in January 2004 and spent a year supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, providing truck transportation in the theatre of operation. The company logged over 230 missions, traveling over four million miles.

The Iron Camels earned eight Purple Heart Awards, ten Bronze Star Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Bronze Star Medals with Valor Devices, forty-three Army Commendation Medals, twenty-three Army Achievement Medals, 121 Drive Badges, and twenty Mechanic Badges.

Although their friends, family, and community celebrated the company's return stateside earlier this year, the 1487th will be honored this Saturday, July 2, 2005 as Preble County celebrates "1487th Day." The residents of Preble County have organized "A Tribute to America and Her Veterans," and in addition to honoring our veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Preble County will also be honoring veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War era, and Desert Storm.

Mr. Speaker, all of us here in Congress are grateful and humbled by the magnificent work our men and women in uniform have accomplished in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Southeast Asia. Their professionalism, dedication, and patriotism are shining examples of our American values, and we are grateful they stand between us and our enemies. The soldiers of

the 1487th Transportation Company performed outstanding service for our country, and I am grateful for their service and for their return.

I would also like to acknowledge the strength exhibited by the family and friends of our deployed soldiers, who have endured quiet moments of fear and uncertainty while they present a brave front to their loved ones who are separated from them by distance and danger. I am grateful husbands and wives, parents and children, fiancés, siblings, and friends are reunited to celebrate our Independence Day together.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the employers in my district who bore the burden of their employees' absence without complaint and who supported their families with material support throughout the length of the 1487th's deployment.

To the 1487th, my message to you is simple and heartfelt: Thank you. Thank you for your service, your patriotism, and your professionalism. God bless you and your loved ones in your future endeavors.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF  
SECOND LIEUTENANT MATTHEW  
S. COUTU

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave soldier, in Iraq, 2LT Matthew Coutu, a great citizen who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Monday, June 27, Lieutenant Coutu died in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by enemy small-arms fire while investigating a bombing. He was serving with the 64th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, out of Fort Hood, Texas. The son of two native Rhode Islanders, Lieutenant Coutu grew up near Chicago and had a lifelong dream of joining the military. It was no surprise that he chose his college, the University of Maine, primarily for the strength of its ROTC program and the ability to be commissioned when he graduated. He was the top cadet in his graduating class, choosing to train with the military police at Fort Hood as soon as he was commissioned. Remembered by those close to him as a remarkable man and born leader, he planned to serve his country as a soldier in the Army or in federal law enforcement. He is survived by his mother, Donna Coutu-Freeland, his father, Michael Coutu, his brother Derek, and both of his grandmothers.

The loss of Lieutenant Coutu should make us pause and reflect upon the courage embodied by our men and women in uniform on a daily basis, as they work to protect freedom around the world. They chose to answer the call of duty to their nation without hesitation, dedicating themselves to the preservation of freedom, liberty and the security of others no matter the cost. We must remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, but as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. 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.

We will continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD P.  
CRONIN

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the accomplishments of Richard P. Cronin, a Specialist in Asian Affairs with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service. Dr. Cronin is retiring after 30 years at CRS and is beginning a new position at the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, DC. Over the past three decades, the Congress, and especially the Asia Pacific Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, has benefitted from Dr. Cronin's expertise, analysis, insights, and timely responses on a wide variety of political, security, and economic issues.

Dr. Cronin's tenure spanned 15 Congresses and a succession of events in Asia that held important implications for U.S. interests. He was invited to testify before congressional committees and, in 1995, was seconded to the House Committee on International Relations. While there he not only facilitated a close working relationship between the Committee and CRS, but he worked on specific legislation and hearings that had far-reaching effects. He helped draft legislation that governed U.S. policy related to the North Korean nuclear program, was instrumental in forming legislative initiatives that sought to adjust the Pressler Amendment, and was the primary staff person responsible for hearings on South Asian security issues, the civil war in Sri Lanka, U.S. relations with South Korea, and U.S.-Japan security issues.

Dr. Cronin has diligently sought comprehensive approaches to international problems. His Ph.D. in history and South Asian Studies from Syracuse University along with his Bachelor's degree in economics provided the foundation for him to address issues using methods that were multi-disciplinary and far reaching. While at CRS, he provided expert advice and analysis to Congress on countries, such as India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, China, Iraq, and Somalia, and on the regions of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Northeast Asia. Whether the topic was security, intelligence, the military, economics, terrorism, or politics, Dr. Cronin could address it with authority.

Dr. Cronin also served as head of the Asia Section at CRS and where he supervised work for Congress on U.S. policy toward Asian countries. His supervision, guidance, and review of research projects contributed to the high quality of reports authored by other CRS analysts. He received numerous citations and special awards. In addition to his work for the Congress, Dr. Cronin taught courses at local universities and published extensively. He wrote a book, five chapters for other books,