

and future needs for prescription drug coverage.

I wholeheartedly agree with the message in H. Res. 802. To that end, I have worked diligently to notify my constituents of this new program wherever I go. I am pleased so many seniors have chosen to participate in this program and that so many are saving money.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL GONZALEZ

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Correctional Officer Manuel Gonzalez.

Officer Gonzalez served for sixteen years as a correctional officer, dedicating his life to protecting the rights of the public and safeguarding our communities from criminal activity.

Manuel was born in East Los Angeles, California in 1961. He attended Rio Hondo College and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army in 1982. In the Army, he started his law enforcement career, serving in the United States and overseas in Germany.

In 1987, he married Silvia Ortiz. Together, they settled down to raise a family.

He joined the California Department of Corrections in 1988, and was assigned to the California Institution for Men in Chino in 1996.

On January 10, 2005, Manuel was killed in the line of duty while working his shift in the reception center of the institution. He was stabbed to death by an inmate known to be gang affiliated, who was already serving 75 years-to-life for the attempted murder of a peace officer.

Correctional officers who risk their lives to protect our safety should be commemorated today.

This week, Officer Gonzalez's name is being added to the Correction Officer's Memorial Wall. The wall is dedicated to the Correctional Officers, Employees, Jailors, and Deputies who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, communities, and to their families.

Officer Gonzalez may be lost, but he is not forgotten. His unmatched love for his family, sense of humor, and dedication to his professional career are qualities we will never forget.

Today, my thoughts are not only with his family, but the families of all correctional officers who have died in line of duty.

Please join me in honoring Officer Gonzalez, his family, and all those who have given their lives in noble service to their community.

HONORING ROBERT SCHWANINGER, 2006 MASON DISTRICT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Schwaninger, the 2006 Mason District Citizen of the Year.

Robert Schwaninger became involved in Mason District community activities in 2001 by

joining with his neighbors to participate informally in local land use issues. Through his involvement, he found that shaping the future of Mason District was an ongoing process that required engaging citizens at various levels.

He continues to work with members of his community to spur greater community involvement and voter participation. He authored and sent thousands of letters to residents of Mason District in order to encourage their participation in community development, local services and public cooperation. During the past two elections, Mr. Schwaninger worked the polls in his precinct, providing support and information to voters.

In 2005, Robert Schwaninger accepted the position of Chairman of the Area Plan Review Task Force. In doing so, he took on the responsibility of providing a forum for citizens to offer input regarding future land development throughout the District. Mr. Schwaninger guided the APR Task Force in an efficient and open manner, allowing for the timely and fair completion of the task.

Also during that time, Robert Schwaninger offered his expertise in the area of telecommunications law to Mason District and Supervisor Gross on issues related to emergency communications interoperability in support of first responders, land use issues related to the construction of radio towers and broadband infrastructure as well as other matters that fall within his practice specialties. As a widely-published, and often-quoted authority in the telecommunications field, Robert Schwaninger's consulting services have been a valuable contribution to Mason District.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Robert Schwaninger for all of his efforts on behalf of Mason District. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his selection as the 2006 Mason District Citizen of the Year.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CORPORAL HENRY D. CONNELL: AN HONOR LONG OVERDUE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday it was my privilege to attend the funeral of Cpl. Henry D. Connell. It was a heart-warming, emotional and unique experience. This funeral was particularly moving since Corporal Connell was only 17 years old when he died on the battlefield in the small village of Unsan in the Democratic Republic of Korea. It was here that his regiment fought with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army for four long grueling days, and where he, and more than 1,000 members of the 8th Regiment, lost their lives.

It was November 2, 1950 when the United States Army declared Corporal Henry Connell to officially be missing in action. And 43 years later, on July 12, 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned over the remains of 17 soldiers believed to be unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. Corporal Henry D. Connell's remains were one of the 17 soldiers recovered.

All told, this Springfield soldier was missing in action for 55 years. He enlisted in the Army

at age 17, eager to serve in the Korean War, and served for only 8 months before he died, not living to see his 18th birthday. During his brief tenure in the army, he earned a Bronze Star and was promoted to corporal. Henry Connell was born in Springfield, MA and was the son of the late Robert F. Connell and Beatrice (Creamer) Connell Lanzillo. And this past Saturday, his remains were buried alongside his late mother in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Tinkham Road in Springfield.

Mr. Speaker, this was a unique and moving ceremony, and I feel fortunate to have been able to attend. I thank everyone involved who made this appropriate remembrance possible, and extend my sympathies to Thomas W. Connell, Henry's brother, and his wife Patricia and their family at this difficult, yet special time.

I would also like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the official obituary that recently ran in the Springfield, Massachusetts newspaper honoring the life of Corporal Henry D. Connell. May Henry Connell now rest in peace.

[From the Republican, May 7, 2006]

CPL. HENRY D. CONNELL

1933-1950 SPRINGFIELD.—Henry D. Connell, 17, a Corporal serving with the United States Army L Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division under the command of Major General Herbart Gay, was declared missing in action on November 2, 1950. He was born in Springfield, MA the son of the late Robert F. Connell and Beatrice (Creamer) Connell Lanzillo. Henry was educated from the Springfield School: System, attended Cathedral High School, and joined the U.S. Army shortly after his 17 birthday. He was injured during combat on September 8, 1950, near the town of Taegu, R.O.K., and was evacuated to the 35th Station Hospital at Kyoto, Honshu, Japan. Shortly after he rejoined his unit, the 8th Cavalry Regiment fought a pitched battle for four days with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army near the village of Unsan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was during this battle that over 1,000 soldiers serving with the 8th Cavalry lost their lives, Cpl. Henry D. Connell being one of them. The United States Army declared him missing in action on November 2, 1950. On July 12, 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned over 17 soldier's sets of remains believed to be unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War near Unsan. Cpl. Henry D. Connell remains were one of the 17 soldiers recovered, and missing in action, for over 43 years. Henry leaves his brother, Thomas W. Connell and his wife, Patricia (LeDoux) Connell of Stuart, FL; as well as several nieces and nephews living in Stuart, FL; and the Greater Springfield area. He was the brother of the late Audrey (Connell) Spencer of West Springfield, who died in 2004. His funeral with full military honors will be held Saturday, May 13, 2006, at Sampson's Chapel of the Acre, 21 Tinkham Rd., Springfield. During this service Henry's brother Thomas W. Connell, will be presented with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for Henry's valor and dedicated service to a grateful nation by the United States Army. Rites of Committal will follow in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Tinkham Rd., Springfield, where Henry will be buried next to his late mother and sister in the Connell family lot. Contributions in his memory may be directed to your nearest chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.