

freedom and protect democracy. They face countless dangers as they serve under the most difficult of conditions. We remember our family members, friends and neighbors across Wilson County and Tennessee who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. And it is with great pride and admiration that we support the Tennesseans who continue to serve their Nation overseas.

Tonight's Patriot Day Community Candlelight in Mt. Juliet is an opportunity to personally thank our local heroes—both at home and overseas—for their dedication and sacrifice. It is a time to remember those patriots we have lost, and it is a chance for us to renew our own patriotic spirit.

NAVY MASTER DIVER CARL
BRASHEAR REMEMBERED

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American warrior and patriot. Master Chief Carl Brashear passed away on July 25, 2006 at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth. His legendary accomplishments, however, live on in Navy lore today and for generations to come.

As a 17 year old, Brashear joined the Navy in 1948, shortly after the service had been officially desegregated. At age 23, he applied for, was accepted to and graduated from the Navy Salvage Diving School. Twelve years later, an accident aboard the salvage ship *Hoist* nearly cost Brashear his career and his life. Brashear's left leg was amputated below the knee, a crippling debilitation for anyone but worse for a man whose dream was to be a master diver in the finest Navy in the world. He refused to give up.

In 1967, Brashear became the first Navy diver to be restored to full active duty as an amputee, and his focus returned to the sea. By March 1968, he was back to work at the NAS Norfolk where he served as the lead diver.

In June 1970, less than 4 years after the accident, Carl Brashear made history again. He became the first African-American to be certified as a master diver in the United States Navy and the only amputee deep-sea diver to ever achieve that status. Brashear would also go on to become the first black man to ever become Master Diver of the U.S. Navy, a position he held from 1975 to 1977. Brashear retired from the Navy in 1979 after 31 years of devoted service.

"Carl, a man with such humble beginnings, has touched so many people," said retired Master Diver J. Lamont King—the fifth black American in history to earn the title. "He represented African-Americans. He represented people with disabilities. He represented the United States Navy. He represented veterans. He was the best of the best of what was truly American." For many, Carl's courage broke barriers and helped changed attitudes, but his legacy is not that of an amputee or of an African-American but rather of a seaman who overcame disability and racial prejudices to join a long blue line of American heroes.

As the Command Master Chief of NAB Little Creek Hakim Diaz remarked, "We pay tribute

to a seaman, a Sailor in whose chest beat the most valiant heart of all." MCBM Brashear's son, Phillip Brashear, an Army chief warrant officer 4, said it best, "He taught people worldwide that your race, your gender, your religion, none of that makes any difference. You can achieve your goals, you can be held accountable to your characteristics as a person, not by the color of your skin."

Countless stories of MCBM Brashear's bravery, determination, courage and friendship show that he was more than a man with a dream; he was a sailor whose skill and dedication make him a hero. Brashear was the recipient of multiple awards and commendations including the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Nearly 800 people gathered last week to honor MCBM Brashear as he was memorialized. To their words I can add only that through the actions of Master Chief Carl Brashear, we are a better nation today. Without the resolve of sailors like Carl Brashear, a man whose boundless determination inspired every walk of life, our country and its people could never truly understand dedication and sacrifice.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RICHARD
STEPHEN GEBELEIN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Richard Stephen Gebelein upon his retirement from the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps after 26 years of faithful and distinguished service.

Colonel Gebelein's legal career began upon his graduation from Villanova University School of Law in 1970. After law school, Colonel Gebelein served as a law clerk on the Delaware Chancery Court, deputy attorney general for the State of Delaware, State Solicitor of the Delaware Department of Justice, and as the Chief Deputy Public Defender. In 1979, Colonel Gebelein began his military career when he became a member of the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps with the HHC 261st Signal Command of the Delaware Army National Guard.

After serving as Delaware's Attorney General from 1979 to 1983, Colonel Gebelein was appointed to the bench of the Delaware Superior Court. Colonel Gebelein's appointment to the bench required that he become what's known as an M-Day Soldier, or a part-time drilling soldier. However, Colonel Gebelein continued to bolster his already impressive credentials by graduating from the United States Army War College and earning a degree in Islamic Studies at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Colonel Gebelein has also been integral in improving services provided to soldiers in the Delaware Army National Guard. Colonel Gebelein devised the system used for processing administrative discharge boards and courts martial at the Delaware Army National Guard.

In 2004, Colonel Gebelein was called-up and went to Afghanistan and served as the

Rule of Law Officer for the Staff Judge Advocate Combined Forces Command—Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Colonel Gebelein served in Afghanistan for 8 months and shortly after his return to the Delaware Superior Court, his expertise as a premier international jurist was recognized; based on the quality of his character and knowledge in international legal matters, Colonel Gebelein was invited to address the United Nations forum on International Humanitarian Law and Peacekeeping Operations. Colonel Gebelein currently serves as an International Judge for War Crimes and Organized Crime and Economic Corruption on the Criminal and Appellate Divisions of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my deep personal thanks to Colonel Gebelein for his service to the United States Army, the Delaware Superior Court, and the citizens of Delaware. Colonel Gebelein's distinguished career is a testament to his impeccable character, intelligence, and integrity. I'm proud to call him a friend, but I'm grateful that he is a Delawarean.

TRIBUTE TO MONTY BROOKS AND
THE IMPORTANCE OF BASIC
FIRST AID TRAINING

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the importance of basic life-saving skills such as CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver. One of my constituents, Monty Brooks, recognizes the importance of these skills following a frightening experience in August.

On this warm Indiana evening, Monty Brooks and his 9-year-old daughter, Carrington, were spending time together on their porch. Carrington had prepared some leftovers from dinner and after a lull in the conversation, Monty realized something was terribly wrong with his daughter. Carrington clutched her neck indicating that she was choking.

Mr. Speaker, Monty Brooks knows first-hand the importance of basic life-saving skills. Monty is the director of health and safety for the Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross. His experience with Carrington only serves to highlight his long-time understanding that these skills are important.

Monty Brooks put his basic life-saving knowledge to use on that warm August evening. He performed the Heimlich Maneuver on Carrington, dislodging the food and allowing her to breathe freely once again.

I rejoice with Monty Brooks that Carrington is well after this frightening episode. I also commend Monty for his dedication to educating and training others in basic life-saving skills through the American Red Cross preventing the unnecessary deaths of his fellow Hoosiers. Along with Monty Brooks, I encourage Hoosiers and all Americans to get trained and become familiar with basic life-saving skills.