

HONORING THE TOWN OF BURLINGTON, CT ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Town of Burlington, Connecticut, on the occasion of its bicentennial.

The Town of Burlington emerged from its incorporation in 1806 as a dynamic community. Although the young town relied heavily on agriculture through its small farms, it was also home to several mills and factories, producing goods ranging from muskets to mantel clocks to cider brandy. Today, as many small businesses continue to grow and prosper in Burlington, I would like to commend the many generations of hard-working people who have helped to set such high standards of entrepreneurship and initiative throughout the town's history.

Many outstanding individuals have hailed from Burlington over the past two centuries. Among them were Samuel Monce, inventor of the glass cutter; Colonel Ralph L. Gezelman, who was responsible for organizing the supply shipments for the D-Day invasion; and Herman Humphrey; whose leadership at Amherst College helped transform that school into the fine institution that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this fine community for its innumerable accomplishments over the course of its first 200 years. As one of the fastest growing towns in Connecticut, Burlington not only has a rich history behind it, but a promising future as well.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARY'S LAW SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an institution that prides itself on excellence, distinction and integrity—my alma mater St. Mary's Law School.

Located in San Antonio, Texas, St. Mary's Law School is a community of faith and an independent Catholic institution that instills in its students a commitment to public service, and a profound moral and intellectual obligation to the public that its students will someday serve.

I am proud to say that I graduated from St. Mary's Law School in 1987, and the great education of the law and public service that I received there built the foundation for my career as a Member of Congress.

Recently, St. Mary's Law School dedicated their new Center for Terrorism Law. The St. Mary's Center for Terrorism Law is committed to the study of the legal issues associated with both antiterrorism and counterterrorism, with a particular emphasis on cyberterrorism and information assurance technologies.

Through its exceptional curriculum, the Center for Terrorism Law is dedicated to increasing the professional and public understanding of terrorism law, and the balance between en-

suring global security and protecting the civil liberties of all Americans.

As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee and a St. Mary's alumnus, I am encouraged by their commitment to these complex and crucial issues that are at the foundation of America's national security. The education they are providing their students, and the work they are doing in the field of terrorism law will make America a safer place.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST
IGNACIO RAMIREZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Specialist Ignacio Ramirez, who was killed on August 9, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ignacio "Nacho" Ramirez was born in Los Angeles on August 23, 1983. He spent the majority of his youth in Henderson, Nevada. He was involved in athletics throughout his youth, playing youth baseball and high school football. He graduated from Basic High School in 2002, and joined the United States Army shortly after graduation.

Specialist Ramirez was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division of the United States Army based out of Friedberg, Germany. He lost his life when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle.

Specialist Ramirez was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the Army to help the United States fight the Global War on Terror and he will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was.

Ignacio's warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends. He is survived by his loving parents, Marina and Robert Vance; and six siblings, Ofelia Espinoza, Sidney Jimenez, Ivan and Jasmine Ramirez, and James and Tia Vance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of United States Army Specialist Ignacio Ramirez. Specialist Ramirez made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while defending democracy and freedom. He was a true patriot who served the United States of America with valor and courage. I am saddened by his loss and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM WAR VETERAN WILLIAM REES, JR. OF LEVY COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Rees, Jr. of Williston, Florida, a purple heart Veteran from the Vietnam war.

Mr. Rees was wounded in action in April of 1968 when a mine exploded near his station.

As part of the 3rd Squadron, 11th armored cavalry regiment, Mr. Rees and his fellow soldiers faced the enemy in battle many times throughout that fateful month.

During April, his squadron destroyed seven hundred and twenty-five enemy bunkers and recorded forty-nine vietnamese soldiers killed in action. Additionally, Mr. Rees and his fellow troops confiscated significant weapons caches, numerous documents, utensils, food, and medical supplies.

Veterans of the Vietnam war made tremendous sacrifices in the name of freedom. More than 300,000 brave soldiers were wounded during the war, many of them disabled for life.

This level of sacrifice required a great amount of courage, strength, and devotion to the preservation of the American ideals of democracy and freedom for all. It is by remembering their sacrifices that we can celebrate the end of such a difficult conflict.

Mr. Speaker, veterans like William Rees, Jr. should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to have presented Mr. Rees with his long overdue purple heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BONNIE REESE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mrs. Bonnie Reese. I can truly say that Bonnie is a dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizen. I have known Bonnie for many years, and she is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the community. Bonnie has served her community of Jasper County in some political capacity for 35 years, and her overall service to the community is immeasurable. For many years, Bonnie has been a constant fixture in the Jasper County Democratic Party. For her efforts, she will be honored at an event hosted by the Jasper County Democrats on Friday, September 8, 2006, at the American Legion Post #406 in Wheatfield, Indiana.

Bonnie Reese began her career with the Jasper County Democratic Party in 1971, at which time she served as the Party's Secretary. After serving 4 years in that position with unwavering professionalism and dedication, Bonnie was named to the position of Vice Chair. For over 30 years, Bonnie has maintained this post, and she has done so with complete loyalty to the Democratic Party and to the people of her community. When called upon to address the needs of the community, Bonnie has always been a willing servant. Because of her commitment and care for the citizens of Jasper County, Bonnie was also elected First District Vice Chair in 2004. In addition, she has the distinction of being the first female elected to the Jasper County Council. However, not only was Bonnie the only woman on the Council, but also the sole Democrat. Bonnie's knowledge of the government and her willingness to serve have made her very successful in all of the positions she has held.