

has shown dedication and professionalism in her efforts to free and secure Iraq.

Army PFC Emily S. Pettigrew has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for her continuing support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This Medal of Honor is awarded to those in the Army who have distinguished themselves through exemplary service and meritorious achievement. Important objectives of the mission include, but are not limited to, peacekeeping, security, support, force protection and acquiescence throughout the strenuous transition process of the Iraqi Government.

Emily Pettigrew is the daughter of Richard and Dottie Pettigrew, residents of Country Hill, Keller, Texas, in the heart of my congressional district. As a soldier in Iraq, Army PFC Emily S. Pettigrew serves as a member of the Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division stationed at Camp Liberty. While in Iraq, the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood advances operating bases and performs duties at numerous camps. Combat missions assigned to the Fires Brigade have been completed successfully on account of the soldiers' devotion, altruism, and commitment to our country.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize Army PFC Emily S. Pettigrew as a truly generous and outstanding individual, not only in the eyes of her family and friends in Keller, Texas, but also in the heart of this nation. I am proud to represent her and her family.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN JOSEPH MENNELLA OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Mennella of Hernando County, Florida. Joseph has done something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Born September 2, 1906 in the "Little Italy" section of New York City, New York, Joseph lived and worked there for many years before moving to Florida in 1991. Joseph has fond memories of attending school as a child, although he readily admits that not everyone else agrees with him on that issue.

When he was young, Joseph was very ill and taken to the hospital. While recuperating, he was cared for by an Italian immigrant nurse named Mother Cabrini. Mother Cabrini later was canonized as the well-known St. Cabrini of today. In 1918, Joseph and his mother came down with the Spanish influenza, which killed 53 million people throughout the world, including approximately five thousand in New York. Joseph gives credit for his long life to those tough experiences as a child growing up in New York City.

Completing his formal education at the sixth grade level, Joseph went to work as a plaster contractor, and eventually opened a wheels and rims business that he ran for more than fifty years. Given his background, Joseph's advice to young people is to, "get an education." Following his marriage to Josephine in 1929, the happy couple was blessed with two healthy sons and two grandchildren.

In 1991, at the age of eighty-five, Joseph moved to Hernando County and built his own home that he still lives in today. He says he loves Hernando County because of the warm weather and sunshine. His goal now is to live to be 110, and says that "if he doesn't make it, then sue me."

Asked about the proudest moment in his life, Joseph recounts that reaching 100 years old and having the St. Petersburg Times do a front-page story on him was his best experience. Joseph enjoys reading the newspaper, and says that he would not change a thing if he had the chance to do his life over.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Joseph Mennella for reaching his 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as him.

IN MEMORY OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, Dr. King brought the civil rights movement to every living room in this country. He marched for freedom in the face of unspeakable racial prejudice, yet preached a message of non-violence, civility and tolerance. It took Dr. King's forceful movement and powerful words to bring about real and lasting change to this country.

This will be the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day since the passing of Dr. King's wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a legendary civil rights advocate who's memory we honored at a community wide march last year in Miami. During a time of national grief and unrest following Dr. King's assassination, she became a symbol of her husband's struggle for peace and unity. On this day, we also honor this wonderful matriarchal figure, a role model who helped lead the struggle for equality.

Minority communities face obstacles every day—poverty, unemployment, lack of healthcare, and access to housing. It is a tragic waste that 1 in 5 children live in poverty, including more than one-third of African American children.

Dr. King paved the way for so many people, including me, to assume roles of influence in this country. And for all this work, he created a more just society and made this country an even better place to live. On this day, let us work even harder toward fulfilling Dr. King's legacy of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOLORES "DEE" BENSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Dee Benson, whose fierce dedication to family, friends, faith and community serves as a model for all who have been blessed by her presence.

Born in Altoona, Pennsylvania to Edward and Maggie Heintel, Dee demonstrated her

strength and determination from an early age. When she was only a year old, Dee wandered on to a scorching floor grate that severely burned her feet; pneumonia set in during her bed rest. With the support of friends, family and many faiths, Dee recovered and went about dedicating her life to the forces that helped her preserve it.

In 1945, fate introduced Dee to Private Bud Benson, and a year and a half courtship culminated in their 1947 marriage. Dee and Bud moved to Cleveland, Ohio to put down roots and start a family, giving birth to Robert, Patrick, Jacqueline, Mary, Elizabeth, Denise and Christine. Dee never wavered from her family, in fact she redoubled her efforts in the most trying times. During Bud's battle with health problems, she never left his side; when her granddaughter needed open-heart surgery, Dee kept vigil by her side.

Dee's generosity of spirit extended to her friends and the larger community as well. Dee has never passed up an opportunity to help a friend or even a complete stranger. All the while, Dee has sustained herself with the abiding commitment to faith that delivered her from her early challenges. When her sons served in Vietnam, prayer supported her; when she herself battled health problems later in life, faith carried her through. She even helped found Saint Anthony of Padua Parish.

Moreover, Dee has committed herself to civic engagement and community empowerment, embodying the ethic that "all politics is local." Dee has served as precinct committee-woman and has held numerous leadership positions in Democratic institutions throughout Northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dee Benson, whose generosity, kindness and vitality have and will continue to inspire all who cross paths with her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TROOPER CALVIN W. JENKS

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS. Madam Speaker, earlier this week Tennessee lost one of its bright, honorable young men in a senseless tragedy. I rise today to honor the name and spirit of Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Calvin W. Jenks. Mr. Jenks of Culleoka, Tennessee was taken from his family, friends, and the countless Tennesseans he swore to protect during a traffic stop in West Tennessee. I don't want to dwell on the tragic event; instead I want to honor the life of a man who loved serving the public.

Trooper Jenks, a native of Lansing, Michigan, moved to the Culleoka Community in Maury County, south of Nashville, in 1989. A 2000 graduate of Culleoka High School, he excelled in baseball as a four year starter for the Culleoka Warriors baseball team.

A member of the Tennessee Highway Patrol for two years, his duties began in the 7th District of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, headquartered in Lawrenceburg. In July 2006 he transferred to the 4th District in Memphis.

Many friends and family members say Jenks, a newlywed, was a man of values and