

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL SHAWN HENSEL, US ARMY, OF LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of U.S. Army Corporal Shawn Hensel, of Logansport, Indiana, who died on August 14, 2007 from wounds sustained during an enemy attack in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Washington. Just twenty years old, Shawn lived a life worthy of admiration and respect.

Shortly after learning about his death, Shawn's father David spoke of the love for Shawn among his family, "Shawn had two sisters that really loved him." Observing the crowd of people at a memorial service for Shawn one week later, Shawn's sister Autumn noted "It's nice to know that he was loved this much." Shawn was indeed deeply loved by his family and by his community.

Married just eight months ago, Shawn was also loved by his wife, Laci. Laci noted of Shawn, "The love he had for his country was unbelievable." This observation was reinforced by Jeff Strite, the preacher at the Church of Christ, "He was privileged to wear his uniform, and he wore it wherever he could." This love of country, this pride in service, played on another quality of Shawn's. His friend Chuck Porter remarked "Shawn just had a way of getting into your heart." Shawn's life and service now leaves him in all our hearts.

The button Shawn's mother Beth recently has been wearing reads "Our Hero, 1987–2007." Our hero. This is most certainly what Shawn is now. We are used to speaking of twenty-year-olds, of those recently married, of having lives full of promise and possibility. But Shawn also had a great love of country. And this young man is honored for his sacrifice, for putting that promise and possibility on the line in service to his country.

"I talk to Shawn all the time and ask him to give me strength," Beth said recently. And Shawn would want us all to be strong. Today I honor Corporal Shawn Hensel's strength, patriotism, and sacrifice. As I register a Nation's gratitude, it is my regretful duty to also note our grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends. We join with his wife Laci, his father David, and his mother Beth to mourn his loss. Shawn's spirit will always be with us. May God Bless Shawn and all those he loved.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANNETTE GRIFFIN UPON BEING NAMED 2007 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ROTARY CLUB

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Annette Griffin, superintendent for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, as recipient of the 2007 Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Club. Her foresight and dedication to the students, the teachers, the parents, the administrative staff and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch community is unparalleled and worthy of recognition.

Dr. Griffin earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Master's Degree in Reading from Louisiana State University. In 1985, she received her Doctor of Education Degree in Administrative Leadership at the University of North Texas. Never known to rest on her laurels, she continually stays abreast of current activities in her field through post-doctoral classes at Harvard University and Columbia University.

Dr. Griffin began her career as a teacher in the Special Education Department of the Richardson ISD and after four years was promoted to principal within the Richardson ISD. In 1986, Annette joined the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD advancing to become an assistant superintendent until 1990. Dr. Griffin's career then led her to serve consecutively as superintendent of the Carroll ISD and then in the Duncanville ISD. But as fate would have it, in 1997, Annette was offered the superintendent position of CFB ISD where she remains a steadfast champion for education today.

Annette is an active member in community organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Irving Baylor Hospital Board, Texans CAN! Academy and the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce. Many accolades have been bestowed upon Dr. Griffin, most notably the Paul Harris Fellowship, the Texans CAN! Academy Mother of the Year, the University of North Texas alumni of the Year, the Texas Superintendent of the Year and the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. She especially enjoys volunteering at the Rotary International Four Way Test Speech Contest where she can hear what local high school students have to say about important issues.

Annette and her husband, Allen, have been married for thirty-five years and have a daughter, Alana, and a son, Tim.

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and the community are very fortunate to have Dr. Griffin leading our young people to a brighter future. She is a strong advocate for excellence in education and has continually enhanced the lives of many through her sense of commitment and progressive vision. It is truly an

honor to represent Dr. Annette Griffin in the 24th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING PHIL DIEBEL ON RETIREMENT

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Phil Diebel upon his retirement after over 27 years with the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

In 1981, Mr. Diebel joined the UNT family as controller, and soon became vice president for finance and business affairs, his role for over 20 years. By 2001, he held the position of vice chancellor for finance for the UNT System. His long and distinguished career meant that he worked for North Texas State University, before its official name changed to the University of North Texas.

During his tenure Mr. Diebel worked with two chancellors as well as three presidents of UNT. He watched the UNT system grow from what was largely known as a commuter school to a thriving public university system; one of only six in Texas. Under his tenure, the student size dramatically increased, the university purchased and constructed seven new residence halls, the UNT Dallas Campus opened, involvement in the present effort to secure a UNT law school in Dallas took place, and the UNT health science campus in Fort Worth became a significant asset in the university system.

His decades at UNT were not simply a matter of Mr. Diebel's official positions. He served and gave leadership in many UNT efforts over the years, including serving as chair of the responsibility center management (RCM), tuition review, and capital projects planning committees. He was executive sponsor of the Enterprise-wide Information System (EIS), and served on the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, SACS, reaffirmation team and as a chair for committee with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

But Mr. Diebel's giving nature was not only directed at UNT. An active member of the north Texas community, he served on the Denton advisory board for the Salvation Army; governing board of the North Texas Public Broadcasting, KERA; advisory board of the Denton Regional Medical Center; governing board of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation; governing board of the United Way of Denton County; Board of Trustees of the Selwyn School; redistricting committee of the Denton Independent School District; and Denton County Housing Finance Corporation.

So with great respect I extend sincere congratulations to Mr. Phil Diebel on his much-deserved retirement. He is a true friend of UNT and the Denton community and I have been honored to know him as a friend and wish he and Polly much satisfaction in retirement.

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