

force. Remaining behind in a hailstorm of enemy fire, Petty Officer Dietz was wounded by enemy fire. Despite his injuries, he bravely fought on, valiantly defending his teammates and himself in a harrowing gunfight, until he was mortally wounded."

Second only to the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross is the Navy's highest award for military heroism. Since it was established in World War I it has only been awarded 6,923 times to members of the Armed Services and to only 4,544 members of the U.S. Navy. To date, in the Global War on Terrorism, 17 Marines and 6 members of the Navy have received the Navy Cross. Three of those Navy awards went to Petty Officers Dietz, Axelson, and Luttrell.

In addition to the 3 Navy Crosses and 4 Purple Hearts awarded to the four men in a single action, Lieutenant Murphy was also posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. I hope that all Americans will take the time to reflect on the sacrifices of these brave men—and indeed all of those serving our Country around the world.

HONORING OLIVIA HARRINGTON
RETIREMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Olivia Harrington upon her retirement for her volunteer work and community involvement in Duncanville, Texas.

Mrs. Harrington has been working with youth and volunteers for 25 years. She was the YW Teen Director for the YWCA for 13 years and also created and served as the Duncanville Teen Court Volunteer Coordinator for 12 years. Teen Court allows teens, who have committed Class C misdemeanors, to be judged by their peers in an authentic court setting with actual sentences being handed out. Teen volunteers serve as attorneys, clerks, bailiffs and jurors. Many students have contributed their success in adulthood to the lessons they learned from Mrs. Harrington's guidance participating in Teen Court.

Besides Teen Court Coordinator, Mrs. Harrington is involved in other numerous volunteer organizations. She's a charter member of Theta Pi Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Alpha service fraternity, the Duncanville Genealogy Club, the Ellis County Genealogy Society, and the Duncanville Book Review Club. In addition, Mrs. Harrington is a life member of the Ellis County Art Association, the Historic

Waxahachie Inc. and United Methodist Women.

Mrs. Harrington has been recognized for her achievements when the Duncanville Teen Court received the TICA Spotlight Achievement Award for outstanding Teen Court in Texas in 2001. She was also honored by the Duncanville High School naming the Olivia Harrington Outstanding Volunteer Award for her in 2005.

Mrs. Harrington has a husband, Fred, and two beautiful daughters, Angie and Teenya.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Olivia Harrington for her community activism which has enriched the lives of so many in Duncanville, Texas. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Over the past two days wildfires have exploded across Southern California, causing loss of life, and tens of thousands of acres of property and forest damage in San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and Orange Counties.

In the Inland Empire, fires have burned many acres of land across the northern part of my district in Lytle Creek, 300 acres in the Sierra Lakes neighborhood of North Fontana and 160 acres in Ontario. Thankfully those fires have now been fully contained and no homes have been reported damaged.

Unfortunately, there are currently more than 5,000 acres of land still being consumed by fires in the Mountain communities adjacent to my district. At last report, more than 136 homes have been destroyed and evacuations continue in this area. Schools in San Bernardino, Fontana and Ontario have all been closed. Children and families, friends, and even some of my staff have been affected.

Evacuees are receiving shelter at the National Orange Show which is down the street from my district office in San Bernardino. At last count there were around 1,800 evacuees being housed there. Unfortunately we are hearing reports that not everyone affected by this disaster is receiving shelter. The center is being administered by the American Red Cross but they are only accommodating evac-

uees from designated evacuation areas. Those that are homeless and victims that are evacuating themselves from non-designated areas filled with smoke are not being serviced. We should not allow self-imposed regulations to prevent service to people that are in need. We must serve all residents, including homeless individuals, regardless of identification or citizenship status.

All told, an estimated 350 homes will have been destroyed by these devastating fires. This means there are going to be many homeless families that will need food and shelter. In addition, we fear that our hospitals will see an influx of people with respiratory problems.

The Inland Empire is a major railway and highway transportation hub but these fires have practically shut down access to many affected communities by closing down Highway 330 and HWY 18 leaving only one road, HWY 38 available for vehicles to go up and down the mountain. We need help containing these fires so that rescue and recovery personnel can get to these communities.

The San Bernardino County's Department of Public Health has issued an air quality warning because of high soot levels in the air caused by the fires and the high winds. Inhaling these dangerous chemicals will undoubtedly create respiratory problems for many of our residents. I hope the American Red Cross and other federal assistance is available to our local first responders to ensure the public health needs of all affected individuals are met.

I thank President Bush for his quick response in declaring a state of emergency in the areas affected by the wildfires. In a letter sent earlier today, I asked that he gives all federal support possible, including personnel, equipment, and funding, necessary for a speedy recovery.

I also thank the brave men and women on the ground, who continue to fight the wildfires and evacuate those in harm's way. Throughout the day, I will be meeting with individuals from the U.S. Forest Service to remain as informed as possible on the coordination of federal and local activities. We are working to determine the best possible course of action to prevent further spread of the wildfires, and determine what future steps must be taken to ensure a quick and full recovery for those individuals and families whose lives are affected.

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry I plan to hold hearings to explore what lessons we can learn from these fires to be better prepared in the future and what steps we must take from here to ensure the fastest recovery possible.