

The Old Senate Chamber doubled as the Supreme Court Chamber while the Supreme Court was under construction. It was in the Old Senate Chamber that *Plessy v. Ferguson* was decided, the Old Supreme Court Chamber. Of all of the decisions made in that room, it is known for two decisions under Justice Taney's leadership: *Dred Scott* and the *Amistad* Africans.

So whether it is the Rotunda, from Columbus to the Wright Brothers; whether it is Old Statuary Hall where people visit our Capitol and are taught about the acoustics of the building and not about how States were admitted to the Union to keep the balance between North and South or why all the Confederate generals have their statues in Statuary Hall; whether it is the Old Senate Chamber, Charles Sumner getting beaten, caned half to death by Preston Brooks and the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision; or whether it is the Old Supreme Court Chamber, where *Dred Scott* and the *Amistad* Africans, Joseph Cinque and the others, were told they could go back home, only parts of the story are told, when they are told.

Mr. Speaker, it is the emancipation process, process, process, not an event, not a date, not a time, it is the emancipation process that led to the 13th, the 14th, and the 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

And as descendants of slaves, we believe that as Americans are better educated on this history, that that process, that American process, that process that we cannot change, it is part of our history, as more Americans are educated about that process, that it will lead to our 28th Amendment, our 29th Amendment, our 30th Amendment: health care for all, education of equal high quality for all, a cleaner environment for all, fixing our Nation's voting system for all, providing equality for all people, especially women. It is our Nation's historical process, and only that process that can provide emancipation for all. Not liberty. Emancipation.

Mr. Speaker, interpreting Lincoln's work and his life is extremely important. Recently there have been questions raised as to whether Lincoln should be credited with freeing the slaves. The argument goes, given some of Lincoln's history, his racial attitudes and statements, his moderate views on the subject, his noninterference with slavery where it already existed, his one proposed solution of colonization, his gradualist approach to ending the institution, his hesitancy with respect to issuing the emancipation and using colored troops in the war, his late conversion to voting rights for blacks and more, why should he be given credit for freeing the slaves?

Some have even argued that it was the various actions taken by the slaves themselves, including the power given to the Union causes as a result of the moral calls for overturning slavery, plus the actual military role of work-

ing and fighting in Union campaigns that actually freed them. By forcing the emancipation issue on to the agenda, first of military officers, then of Congress, and finally of Lincoln, it was their actions that led to freedom.

Clearly, just as Congress and Lyndon Johnson would not have been able to sign the civil rights legislation of the 1960s apart from a modern civil rights and human rights movement, so too the military commanders, the Congress and Lincoln, would not have been able to achieve what they did without agitation and movement from the slaves and their allies. On the other hand, the slaves would not have become freed men, apart from what these leaders did.

Because historical interpretation has played up the role of white male leaders, while playing down the role of mass movement and leaders of color and women, our understanding of history has been skewed.

Some of the current putdown of traditional historical interpretation is legitimate rejection and reaction to this past limited and distorted understanding and interpretation of our history. The search now, it seems to me, should be for more balanced interpretation, which includes striving to put many forces and multiple players into proper balance and perspective. That, I think, is what is at issue with regard to the question that did Lincoln free the slaves.

Mr. Speaker, but for Abraham Lincoln and the answers for which he so nobly fought and advanced, we today would be without the capacity of building a more perfect Union for all Americans. The naming of Emancipation Hall is an extraordinary event on behalf of all Americans. We begin the process now of broadening the education of all Americans to make the Union more perfect for all.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, by just saying this: I shall never forget the movie "Roots." There was a great scene in the movie "Roots" when Kunta Kinte was being told by a slave master that his name was Toby. And he kept saying no, my name is Kunta Kinte. And he said, no, your name is Toby. He said Kunta Kinte. Toby.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kinte made an extraordinary contribution to saving this Union, to preserving it, and his descendants are making a contribution and making it more perfect. Congratulations to all Members of Congress today who voted to name the great hall Emancipation.

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HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) is recognized for 27 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all those men and

women whose service and sacrifice preserve and protect the foundation of liberty that has made this Nation great. They come from all walks of life, and yet they are unified by their willingness to risk their very lives in service to America. They are America's veterans.

It is often said that we owe a great debt to our veterans, which is true; but that debt can never be fully repaid. What is the value of our freedom and how can the sacrifice of a person's life be measured out and counted? It is altogether fitting and proper that we thank veterans and that we honor them with their own holiday. But such honor and gratitude toward our veterans should be a permanent part of our everyday lives.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak of every veteran in every war to whom great thanks and honor are owed, but I can speak of those nearest to me and to my home of Indiana.

Since the commencement of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 23 soldiers, marines, and airmen from Indiana's Second Congressional District have fallen in service to their country. The names of the first 15 will remain with us forever: Specialist Brian Clemens; Private Robert McKinley; Sergeant Craig Boling; Staff Sergeant Mark Lawton; Specialist Michael Wiesemann; Sergeant David M. Heath; Lance Corporal James Swain; Staff Sergeant Marvin Lee Trost, III; Sergeant Paul M. Heltzel; Specialist Jeffrey Corban; Sergeant Rickey E. Jones; Corporal Aaron L. Seal; Private Nathan J. Frigo; Sergeant Kraig Foyteck; Sergeant Major Jeff A. McLochlin.

Each of these patriots is missed. Their families and hometowns will never forget them, and our country will be forever in their debt.

While 15 young men and women have died in the service of their country from 2003 through 2006, I have had the tragic duty of comforting the families of eight more fine young men in just this past year.

In memory of those eight heroic individuals and in honor of their sacrifice, I would like to share with this body and with the American people just a little bit about each of these great Hoosiers.

On February 18, Private Kelly Youngblood was killed by a sniper's bullet in Ramadi, Iraq. Although he lived in Mesa, Arizona, at the time, I believe Kelly's early years growing up in Westville, Indiana, and his grandparents continued residence there, made him a son of our beloved State.

After graduating from high school, Kelly set his sights on military service. His lifelong dream was to serve his country in the military; and shortly after his 18th birthday, Kelly achieved that dream by enlisting in the Army. Following basic training, Kelly was sent to Iraq as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. He is survived by his mother

Kristen and sister Melaney, and his grandparents, my good friends, Charlie and Jean Herrold of Westville, Indiana, and many, many friends all around the country.

Kelly was known as a loving and kind young man with an excellent sense of humor. His grandmother told the local paper: "That young man was so much fun. He made a joke out of everything." His grandparents will always remember his last Christmas when he worshipped at the Westville United Methodist Church with them. As a soldier about to enter combat, we can be assured that Kelly prayed for peace in Iraq, for his fellow soldiers, and for his country. His loss will long, long be felt among the many people who loved him.

Less than 2 months later on April 8, Army Private David Neil Simmons of Kokomo was killed when his convoy was ambushed and his Bradley Fighting Vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. This loss hit home because Neil was the kind of young man that everybody in Kokomo loved. With his big smile and his enthusiasm, he made life enjoyable for everyone around him. As one who deeply loved his family and knew what it meant to be a great friend, he made life better for everyone.

He was a grateful man, returning to his high school often to visit friends and to thank teachers and other mentors for their impact on his life. During one of those visits just a couple of weeks before he was set to deploy to Iraq, he ran into Ms. Lovelace, a secretary at Northwestern High School where David went to school. When Janet gave David Neil a hug and thanked him for his service, he became teary-eyed.

Upon hearing about his son's death, Neil's dad David said, "Freedom is very expensive. You don't know how expensive until something like this happens. My heart goes out to all the families that have to go through this."

In the midst of so much sorrow, Neil's dad David remembered all of the other families and that is truly remarkable and it serves as an example to all of us who might become self-absorbed in times of trouble.

I was privileged to speak many times with Neil's mom, Teri Tenbrook. Her courage and resolve during so tragic a time impressed me considerably. She is a wonderful mom and a wonderful example for all of us.

Only 4 days after the loss of Neil, Corporal Jason Beadles of La Porte died on behalf of his country while fortifying a base in Baghdad. Jason loved Johnny Cash, and he loved country music. He loved taking his nieces and nephews swimming. He loved fooling around with them and playing games with his brothers and cousins in the backyard. Like many Hoosiers, he loved motorcycles and he hoped to eventually turn this passion into a career. In many, many ways Jason always was, as his parents said, a big child at heart.

But Jason also loved his country. Moved by the events of 9/11 and inspired by his dad and grandfather who had served before him, his brothers and uncles, Jason joined the Army. This lovable big guy became an honorable young man. He became one of America's soldiers. And as one of his friends in the Army said, one of the finest things you could say about Jason, he smiled, laughed and said, "Jason was just Beadles." What a wonderful young guy.

Hoosiers lost another honorable young man when Air Force Technical Sergeant Ryan Balmer, native son of Mishawaka, was killed on June 5 in Kirkuk, Iraq, when his Humvee, leading a three-vehicle convoy, was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Ryan was stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Utah where he lived with his wife, Danielle, and their two children, Anthony and Gabby. His family, including his mom, Patricia, was anticipating his scheduled arrival home five days later when they were informed of his death.

Danielle had made posters, buttons and banners to welcome Ryan home. He was this close to his last day in Iraq. They had planned to line the road to the house with American flags. She had made a shirt for Gabby that read, "My daddy is finally home." Sadly, Danielle saw the Air Force uniformed officers come to her house first. They included Ryan's saddened commanding officer. She learned that her beloved husband was not coming home. According to Danielle, "Ryan died doing what he loved," serving the country he was so devoted to.

Shortly after graduation from Mishawaka High School, Ryan joined the Air Force where he became part of the Office of Special Investigations. His mission was to help identify, investigate and neutralize criminal terrorists and espionage threats. It is one of the most dangerous assignments in the United States Air Force. At the time of his death, he was serving as a liaison between the Iraqi police and the U.S. military officials in Kirkuk. His commander, General Dana Simmons, called him a warrior who made the ultimate sacrifice in his brave performance of duty.

In honor of Ryan, American Legion Post 161 in Mishawaka just this past Sunday rededicated itself on Veterans Day as Ryan A. Balmer Post 161. I was privileged to attend this wonderful tribute to such a fine young man with Danielle and Pat and the rest of the Balmer family.

On June 18 of this year, the wonderful city of Elkhart lost one of their native sons when Specialist David Wilkey, Jr., died of wounds suffered while he patrolled the streets of Baghdad. David grew up in the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He loved the outdoors, and as his step-mom, Margaret, put it, "His passion was nature. If he had to pick where he was going to live, he would have picked a

cabin in the middle of the woods with a pond nearby." The pond was for fishing, for David loved to both hunt and to fish.

As much as he loved the woods, though, he loved his family even more. From his niece whose eyes got big whenever he arrived, to his aunt who misses his smile and wink most of all, family was at the heart of David's life.

According to his wife, Melinda, he wanted a big family and he was a wonderful family man. He married Melinda in December 2005. His dream of a big family took root. That love showed immediately. It showed in the way that he treated his stepson Christian as his own. It showed in the birth of his son Blayke, and it shows today in the brand new baby girl Melinda had on October 7. Some months after his death, little Alexea was born.

David was a truly remarkable man, a remarkable American. In his love of nature and family, he displayed this every day. And he also displayed it in his sense of duty.

David was laid off from work just as he married Melinda, and he wanted to make sure his family was taken care of. He wanted a secure future, so David chose service in the Army. Where so many are content to let others provide for them, that was unacceptable to David. His determination, his courage, his sense of duty to his family, those are the qualities, the simple and small touches of everyday nobility that make this country great and made David such a fine, outstanding young man.

Just a few months later Army Corporal Shawn Hensel of Logansport died on August 14 from wounds sustained during an enemy attack in Baghdad. Shortly after learning about his death, Shawn's dad, David, spoke of the love for Shawn among his family, "Shawn had two sisters that really loved him."

Observing the crowd at a memorial service for Shawn just one week later, Shawn's sister Autumn noted, "It's nice to know that one person could be loved so much." He was loved by his family and by his community.

Shawn had been married to his wife, Laci just 8 months before his death. Laci noted of Shawn, "The love he had for his country and his family was unbelievable." This observation was reinforced by Pastor Strite, the preacher at the Church of Christ in Logansport, "He was privileged to wear his uniform, and he wore it wherever he could."

□ 2200

This love of country, this pride of service played on another quality of Shawn. His friend, Chuck Porter, remarked, "Shawn just had a way to get into your heart." His life and service now leaves him in all our hearts.

I was there on the day of Shawn's funeral for one of the most remarkable sites you could ever see in this country. As he was being escorted to the cemetery, we drove through the City of Logansport, and from one end to the

other, five deep on either side of the road, people standing there with one hand over their hearts, the other hand holding an American flag, and tears being shed at every corner. It was a remarkable tribute from a remarkable city to a remarkable young man.

Sergeant Nicholas Patterson of Rochester was killed on September 10 in an accident while his team was returning from a raid in western Baghdad. Like many people in the Army, Nick was a spectacular athlete. A 2001 graduate of Rochester High School, he led his basketball team in scoring his senior year, and in Indiana that is quite an accomplishment. He played second base for the baseball team, proudly wearing number 10 in both sports. His former teacher, Rob Malchow, said, "Nick had such an outgoing personality. He had so much energy, you couldn't help but get to know him." When he joined the Army, shortly after graduation from high school, he set his sights on becoming a paratrooper. He was thrilled to become a member of the storied 82nd Airborne Division, and treasured the camaraderie of his men and his brothers. His widow, Jayme, said Nick was "very, very proud to be part of the unit he was in." Nick described it as a high-speed team. Fellow soldier Sergeant Blake Bagbay noted, "Nick could always be counted on to pick you up and make you smile. His concern for his fellow soldiers and his friends will be missed by all."

Nick and Jayme shared their loved with their 4-year-old son, Reilly, and he valued the daily contact with his family by phone, e-mail, and even Web cam from Iraq. He made sure to e-mail Jayme every day, and the last thing he said in every e-mail he sent to her were the three words, "I love you."

He was close to his dad, Jim, whom he affectionately called Pops. Father and son shared a love of the Chicago Cubs, a difficult passion under any circumstances, the Indianapolis Colts, IU basketball, and fishing in Nyona Lake.

Everyone in Nick's family continues to mourn his loss; his mom and stepdad Jane and Scott Holmes, his stepmom Virginia Patterson, sister Tai Johnson, and stepbrother Kyle McLochlin, as well as the entire close-knit community of Rochester.

Mr. Speaker, our most recent loss in Indiana's Second Congressional District occurred less than 2 weeks ago when Army Captain Tim McGovern of Idaville, Indiana was killed October 31 while serving in Mosul, Iraq. Tim was leading his troops in a mission clearing the roads of IEDs when his group came under fire and his truck was hit by a roadside bomb.

After moving to Idaville as a teen, Tim graduated from Twin Lakes High in 1997, where he excelled in honors classes and was a star in both football and track. Even at that point, it was clear what Tim was going to do with his life, as his former football coach commented: This young man was made for the Army. "It didn't surprise me at

all when he joined the Armed Forces and also when he became an officer. That was just the kind of guy he was, born to lead."

It probably didn't surprise anyone, for a career in the Army was in Tim's blood. Just a year before he graduated from high school, his dad, Bill, retired from the Army having achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Tim started on that path immediately following high school when he joined ROTC while attending Purdue University. Less than 2 years after his graduation from Purdue in 2001, Tim set off to serve the first of his two tours of duty in Iraq. He was on his very first tour when the war in Iraq started, and when he came home he did not hesitate to do another, according to his Uncle Mike.

Although Tim was in the process of buying a home in El Paso, Texas, his heart remained with his family in Idaville and with the Chicago Bears. During his second duty in Iraq, Tim was given a 2-week pass to return home to the United States. He made sure to return home for the Super Bowl, and Tim's parents will never forget the very last moments they spent at home with their beloved son. "Tim was a Bears fan from the word go," his mom Jonell said. "In Indiana, he was one of the very few rooting for the Bears. He and his grandfather together. That is going to stay in our minds forever."

But if his heart was with his family, his passion and purpose was with the Army. As captain of a 90-member company, Tim showed exemplary dedication to his duties and to the safety and well-being of his men. His mom noted, "Tim said the thing he was most proud of was that he had never sent anybody home injured, and that nobody had been killed from his group. To him, that meant he was doing his job and taking care of his men." Safety did not mean staying away from where the action was in his area.

He assumed command of Company E from Captain Tim Hudson, who observed, "We both chose to go to El Paso and Fort Bliss, and we both came here for the same reason; and that was to come out here and command soldiers, keep an eye out for them and protect them and bring them home safely."

Having commanded Company E for 20 months, Captain Hudson could only praise Tim's work upon assuming command in June. "I put my heart and soul into this company," Hudson said, "and after Tim took over, Echo Company only got better."

What was Tim's secret to being such an excellent commander? He may well have shared it with First Lieutenant Michael Holbrook. "He told me there was no greater honor than leading American soldiers. I am going to remember that until the day I hang up my uniform."

The button Shawn Hensel's mother, Beth, wore after his death said, "Our hero, 1987 to 2007." Our hero. This is

most certainly what Shawn was and is now. This is what all of these men are to all of us in this country.

We are used to speaking of young men as having lives full of promise and possibility, but all of these young men put their promise and possibility on the line in service to their country. For that, we honor them as heroes.

But we are also left with their absence. Nicholas Patterson's dad, Jim, expressed the paradox well. "I am so proud. He is my hero. But it hurts so much." This is the truth for those families, for all of those that love these young men and so many more in our country. By their sacrifice, these men and the women who share duty with them are all heroes. But that does not erase the pain of all of us who mourn their loss.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower called upon all the citizens of the United States to observe the first Veterans Day in 1954, he gave the following instruction, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

Mr. Speaker, today I have done my duty to remember those who have fought so valiantly this past year, and those from northern Indiana who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation. Having honored America's veterans, having honored those who gave their lives, may we all remember our duty as national leaders to promote a peace both enduring and just.

At this time, I would like to conclude by saying how grateful we are to have had them with us during their brief lives, and we will never forget them. God bless America.

AMERICA'S ENERGY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again on this House floor to talk about an issue that I think is the most important issue that this Congress should be dealing with and that this administration should be dealing with.

Six short years ago, we had \$2 natural gas and \$16 oil. Most of our lifetime we have had gas that was less than \$2 per thousand and oil that was around \$8, \$9, or \$10 a barrel. That is how America grew, cheap, affordable energy. Now, we have lots of other sources of energy, coal, hydro, wind, solar, renewables of all kinds, but the majority of our transportation fuel has always been oil. Four weeks ago, I rose to speak on this House floor. Oil was \$82, and most of us were panicked. Can our economy handle \$82 oil?

Just a few months ago, I met with an Assistant Secretary of State whose role is to deal with energy. He shared