

I keep the photos of the fallen in all of my offices here in D.C. and in Texas, and the noble few who have died for the rest of us in the Second Congressional District of Texas are on this chart, Mr. Speaker. They are:

Russell Slay, Staff Sergeant in the United States Army, from Humble, Texas. He was killed on November 19, 2004, at the age of 28.

Wesley Canning, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from Friendswood, Texas, killed November 20, 2004, at the age of 21.

Fred Maciel, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from Spring, Texas, killed January 26, 2005, at the age of 20.

Wesley Riggs, Private First Class, United States Army, from Beach City, Texas, killed May 14, 2005, at the age of 19.

William Meeuwssen, Sergeant, United States Army, from Kingwood, Texas, killed November 23, 2005, at the age of 24.

Robert Martinez, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from Cleveland, Texas. He was killed December 1, 2005, at the age of 20. And a post office in his hometown is named in his honor.

Jerry Michael Durbin, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, from Spring, Texas, killed January 26, 2006, at the age of 26.

Walter Moss, Tech Sergeant, United States Air Force, from Houston, Texas, killed on March 30, 2006, at the age of 27.

Kristian Menchaca, Private First Class in the United States Army, from Houston, Texas, killed June 16, 2006, at the age of 23.

Benjamin Williams, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, from Orange, Texas. He was killed at the age of 30 on June 20, 2006.

Ryan Miller, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from Pearland, Texas, killed September 14, 2006, at the age of 19.

Edward Reynolds, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, from Groves, Texas. He was killed on September 26, 2006, at the age of 27.

West Point graduate Michael Fraser, Captain, United States Army, from Houston, Texas, killed on November 26, 2006, at the age of 25.

Luke Yepsen, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from Kingwood, Texas, killed December 14, 2006. He was 20 years of age.

Dustin Donica, Specialist, United States Army, from Spring, Texas, killed on December 28, 2006, at the age of 22.

Ryan Berg, Specialist in the United States Army, from Sabine Pass, Texas. He was killed January 9, 2007, at the age of 19.

Terrance Dunn, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, from Houston, Texas, killed February 2, 2007, at the age of 38.

Anthony Aguirre, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from

Houston, Texas, killed February 26, 2007, at the age of 20.

Brandon Bobb, PFC, United States Army, from Port Arthur, Texas, killed July 17, 2007. He was 20 years of age.

Zachary Endsley, Private First Class, United States Army, Spring, Texas, killed on July 23, 2007, at the age of 21.

Kamisha Block, Specialist, United States Army, from Vidor, Texas, killed August 16, 2007. She was 20 years of age. She is one of our female warriors who was killed in combat.

Donald Valentine III, Corporal in the United States Army, from Houston, Texas, killed September 18, 2007. He was 21.

Jeremy Burris, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, from Liberty, Texas, killed October 8, 2007, at the age of 22.

Eric Duckworth, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, from Plano, Texas, killed October 10, 2007. He was 26.

Scott Mackintosh, Corporal, United States Army, from Humble, Texas, killed March 10, 2008, at the age of 26.

Shawn Tousha, Sergeant, United States Army, from Hull, Texas, killed April 9, 2008. He was 30.

Mr. Speaker, these 26 warriors represent the best of our Nation. They are the sons of liberty, the daughters of democracy. These few, these noble few, on this chart are American warriors who take care of the rest of us.

In the words of George Orwell, "We sleep safe at night in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would try to do us harm." The American soldier. And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this coming Monday, Americans will gather to do what so many families wish they did not have to do. That is to mourn the dead who have fallen in battle.

Certainly there will be many who will come simply to honor them as heroes, but many of the families will have the fresh memories of young men and women who have recently fallen in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I rise to take this opportunity on behalf of the 18th Congressional District, of the people of Houston, Texas, to acknowledge and respect and pay tribute to the soldiers of this Nation that have fallen in battle throughout the centuries.

For it is, in fact, true that our freedoms are vested in the willingness of young men and women who take the oath to give the ultimate sacrifice so that our Constitution and our values may be preserved. And I take their oath very seriously and believe it is important that, as Members of the United States Congress and the Commander in Chief, that when we send Americans into battle, it must be based upon thought and prayers and reason.

But this coming Monday, we will embrace these families, some who are freshly mourning, others who have long memories. We will commemorate the missing in action, the POWs, all who have suffered at the hands of the violence of others.

In Houston, Texas, we commemorate Memorial Day at our Veterans Cemetery. It is in my congressional district. And I have over the years enjoyed the fellowship with the families and the sacred spirit of what occurs. This Memorial Day I will place a memorial wreath in Europe in honor of those troops who have fallen. My staff will represent me at the memorial commemoration. But they will also be present and my community will be present on Sunday as they place small white crosses to acknowledge the number of soldiers who have now died in Iraq.

Memorial Day is a time for the Nation to come together. It is not an accusatory time. It is to recognize everyone's fallen life equally, with appreciation and deep gratitude.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I have risen today to assure those families who mourn for the recent loss, those who are mourning of memories past, that America remains a grateful Nation. And on behalf of those of the 18th Congressional District, to the fallen soldiers and those families who mourn, I offer them my deepest and most sincere debt of gratitude and sympathy.

Let this Memorial Day be a reminder of the preciousness of life, the soldiers who serve us, but as well the ultimate cost that is paid in war. And let it remind us that, yes, we have valiant heroes, but that we as a Nation should continue to work as hard as we can to achieve peace not only amongst us but around the world.

May God bless those who have fallen, God bless their families, and God bless America.

□ 2230

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.