

this remarkable young man whose life was cut tragically short in Iraq last month.

Today, I want to take to the floor to share with my colleagues and with the American people this young man's story and his untimely sacrifice.

So, who was this young man? He was a proud member of Delta Co., 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Mad Dog 5th Platoon stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. His awards and decorations include: National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; and Weapons Qualification, M4, expert. At his memorial service, Wisconsin Army National Guard BG Mark Anderson presented the family four medals, including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

He was devoted to family and a caring son to his mother, Michell, herself having served in the Air Force. According to Michell Christofferson, he was an older brother who loved his siblings and earned their respect. And, in her words, he deserved it because "he was kind and he was thoughtful, and he was a caring young man."

According to his mother, in e-mail exchanges with her, he said he would be her angel. She praised him for being a best friend to his younger brothers—Dakota (17) and Dillon (11)—as well as defending them when needed or taking action to keep them on the straight and narrow if called to do so. He was caring, positive and respectful, a protector of his family.

He grew up too fast and was taken too soon.

He was also a valuable member of a community. Christofferson was a 2006 graduate of Cudahy High School, where he was a member of the football, wrestling and track teams. He will be sorely missed. His Cudahy High School Principal, Christopher Haeger, remembered encountering Steven the day he enlisted in the Army. "He was very, very excited," Haeger said. "I know it was an important part of his life." Or as his brother Dakota put it, "He felt like he had to do something, go help people."

He deployed to Iraq in September. But he kept in close touch with his family. According to media reports, he spoke with his mother and brother just hours before his death.

I can find no words more appropriate than those of Steven's own mother to sum up my brief remarks on this remarkable life. At his memorial service earlier this year, his mother closed—expressing the sentiments of a community and a grateful Nation—with these words: "Fly with the angels, my baby boy. We miss you lots and love you more."

The Bible says we should give honor to those whom honor are due and respect to those whom respect is due. Today, I rise to honor this young man and to ask that the balance of my time be reserved for a moment of silence as a mark of tribute to Specialist Steven Christofferson and of support for his family.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on August 4 of this year, the name of one of the great military leaders of our time will pass on to the retirement rolls. I am speaking of my good friend, GEN Richard Cody, the 31st vice chief of staff of the United States Army.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose one of its greatest warriors. GEN Dick Cody has commanded American soldiers for 20 of his 36 years of service. In 1991, then Lieutenant Colonel Cody personally led Task Force Normandy, the joint aviation task force that fired the opening salvos of the gulf war, and, as GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf recounted, "plucked out the eyes" of Saddam Hussein's air defenses. Cody went on to command the First Cavalry Division's Aviation Brigade; the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; the fabled 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles"; as well as commanding in our Nation's most elite special operations unit.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose a gifted strategic leader. With 1.3 million men and women serving around the globe, there are few organizations in the world as large and complex as the United States Army. For 6 years, spanning the tenures of 3 Army Chiefs of Staff, 4 Secretaries of the Army, and 3 Chairmen of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, Dick Cody has provided stalwart leadership to our Army. He has overseen the day-to-day details of a plethora of daunting tasks. He oversaw the Army's transformation from a Cold War-era, division-based force, to a modular, brigade-centric force. He revitalized and modernized the Army's aviation forces. He supervised the transformation of the reserve component from a strategic reserve to a part of the operational Army. He is the architect of the Army's growth and restationing plans, which will eventually relocate over one-third of the Army. He has also completely revitalized the outpatient care systems for our wounded warriors and their families.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose one of its "straightest shooters." We in Congress rely on senior uniformed leaders to give us apolitical, straight forward assessments based on their years of military experience. No one shoots straighter with the Congress and the American people than Dick Cody. Going back to his first testimony before the Congress in 1999, when he warned the Nation to "beware of a 14 division mission with a 12 division Army," he has never flinched from hard questions, and he never sugar coats the truth.

On August 4 the head of a wonderful Army family will retire, a man who is just as proud to be known as "Vicki's husband" and "Tyler and Clint's Dad" as he is proud of the stars on this shoulders. The Cody boys, with six combat tours between them, will continue to serve. Vicki Cody will never stop advocating for soldiers and their families, and Dick Cody's own personal "Rendezvous with Destiny" will continue.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a 36 year career of heroic and selfless service, one that reflects all that is good and right about our Nation and her Armed Forces. On behalf of the United States Congress, we say "thank you" to a man and a family who place the well-being of the American soldier ahead of their own ambitions and dreams. God Bless Dick and Vicki Cody, their sons Tyler and Clint, and God Bless the American soldier who they love so much.

HONORING NEWLY INDUCTED COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME COACH, COACH W.C. GORDON

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and accomplishments of one of America's most prolific icons in college football history, Coach William "W.C." Gordon.

Coach Gordon's career in college football began at Tennessee State University, TSU, where he played wide receiver and earned All-Mid Western Conference honors. He was also a 4-year baseball letterman at first base and team captain for the TSU Tigers. After graduating from Tennessee State University in 1952, he went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955.

After serving in the military, Gordon returned to sports as athletic director and coach for Eva Gordon High School, in Magnolia, MS. He also served at Temple High School, in Vicksburg, MS, in 1966, where he coached his team to the High School Football Negro Big 8 Conference state championship with an 11-0 record in 1966.

From 1967 to 1994, Coach Gordon led and mentored at Jackson State University in a multitude of coaching capacities. Though most known for football, Coach Gordon served as head baseball coach from 1971 to 1972, leading the Tigers to the Southwestern Athletic Conference, SWAC, baseball title in 1972.

As interim and head football coach, Gordon became one of the most winning coaches in the history of college football with 28 consecutive league victories and a career record of 119-47-5. Gordon coached 65 JSU players into the National Football League. Gordon was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994.

Gordon coached the Tigers to eight SWAC Championships and was awarded SWAC Coach of the Year honors six times. He has been inducted into Mississippi Conferences Hall of Fame & Museum in 1977 and most recently was enshrined in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, IN on July 18-19.

Again, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and honor one of America's finest legendary football icons and true patriots of the game, Coach W.C. Gordon. His legacy not only left a mark on Black college football but also on college football at-large.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on July 16, 2008, by voice vote the House passed H.R. 5959, the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2009. I did not support this legislation and would have voted against passage had a roll-call vote been held.

THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Today we also honor the memory and sacrifice of the nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots who were forcibly removed from their homes, the 5,000 Cypriots who were killed during the invasion and the nearly 1,500 Greek Cypriots who remain missing to this day.

Cyprus and the U.S. share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, human rights, and the international rule of law. As that commitment is tested, we must draw on our common values and mutual democratic vision to promote stability, prosperity and peace.

The United States has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation. We will continue to work together with the people of Cyprus toward their goal to reunify the island as a bicommunal and bi-zonal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

By working together and building on our common values and interests, the people of Cyprus and the United States can achieve a united island that fulfills the promise of peace and democracy for which a generation of Cypriots have paid so dearly.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. LOBDELL

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert C. Lobdell of Menlo Park, California, who passed away on Monday, July 7, 2008 at the age of 82. He leaves his beloved wife Nancy to whom he was married for almost 56 years; his four children, Jim, John, Terri and William; and 11 grandchildren.

Born in Mankato, Minnesota in 1926, Robert Lobdell moved to Manhattan Beach with his family in 1942. During World War II he served in the Army Air Forces and later attended Stanford University where he earned a law degree in 1950. He married Nancy Lower in

1952 and they lived in Long Beach, California for more than 30 years before moving to Menlo Park in 2004.

After receiving his law degree, Mr. Lobdell went on to work for the Los Angeles Times and the Times Mirror, the newspaper's former parent company, from 1965 to 1986. During his time there, Mr. Lobdell served as vice president and general counsel, successfully argued numerous major media cases, and developed a reputation as one of the Nation's leading First Amendment attorneys. Among his many important media cases, Mr. Lobdell successfully argued that a newspaper had the right to control the content of advertisements it publishes and won a landmark media case in 1982 brought by the Federal Trade Commission, which tried to stop the practice of media companies giving discounts to frequent advertisers. He also worked to free Times reporter Bill Farr in 1973 after he was jailed for refusing to reveal his source to a judge in the Charles Manson murder case.

Mr. Lobdell received numerous accolades from his peers and earned their respect, admiration and affection. He was known as a hard-working, kind colleague, and a fine lawyer who advocated hard-hitting journalism and fiercely tackled legal challenges to protect and support the editors and journalists at the Times.

Mr. Lobdell was a devoted husband and father and when he wasn't working, he spent time with his wife and children. An active member of the community, he served on the boards of numerous organizations. He had a love of the arts and at age 60, he became part of the student body at Cal State Long Beach, taking classes including Italian, literature and history, as well as a study abroad program. His family remembers his great enthusiasm for life which lasted until the end.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Robert C. Lobdell and in extending my deepest sympathies to his entire family during this difficult time. As an exceptional lawyer and free speech advocate, a loving husband, father and grandfather, he has left lasting legacies which have made our country stronger and better.

HONORING THE FEDERAL DRUG  
AGENTS FOUNDATION**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Federal Drug Agents Foundation and its work to support and recognize federal agents, task force members and their families.

The Federal Drug Agents Foundation is a Long Island-based, not-for-profit organization that provides many services to the men and women who risk their lives to make this country safer and drug-free. The organization also provides these services to the family members of these men and women, as well.

The Foundation serves as an anchor of support for the American law enforcement community. It provides bereavement support and financial assistance for families of agents and task force members who die in the line of duty, including individual grants. The Founda-

tion also provides support to agents and task force members who become injured in the line of duty.

When agents and task force members experience grave financial loss or severe trauma or encounter situations for which there is no other source of assistance available, the Foundation steps in to provide relief. This support is essential for those agents who put their lives on the line to keep Long Island safe.

The Foundation has also established a scholarship fund for agents and task force members who wish to pursue degrees in criminal justice, political science, law and related areas. This helps ensure our law enforcement community can benefit from the knowledge and experience of these hard-working, dedicated men and women. Funds like this make it possible to encourage future generations of committed agents in the criminal justice sector.

The Federal Drug Agents Foundation also makes charitable grants to Federal, State and local law enforcement related agencies. Among the organizations supported by the Foundation are the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, and various State and local law enforcement agencies and support groups.

I am honored to recognize the generosity and compassion of the Federal Drug Agents Foundation for the services it provides on Long Island. I applaud the Federal Drug Agents Foundation for their steadfast support and dedication.

## TRIBUTE TO LARRY REIS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Reis for reaching an important milestone as a public servant to the people of Winneshiek County, Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Larry has served on the Winneshiek County Conservation Board (WCCB). Before working on the County Conservation Board, he grew up in Lime Springs, Iowa, where he followed in the footsteps of his parents and grandparents by enjoying his time with nature and becoming a passionate outdoorsman. Larry's first job was a campground manager in Little Sioux, Iowa.

In 1983, Larry became the WCCB naturalist and maintenance technician. Ten years later, another staff person was hired, which allowed Larry to primarily work as the county naturalist. In this past year, WCCB again hired another staff person, and Larry began spending part of his time working as the natural resource manager as well.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Larry Reis for his service to Winneshiek County. I consider it an honor to represent him in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in his future work with the Conservation Board.