

IN MEMORIAL OF OFFICER
PATRICK McDONALD

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, Officer Patrick McDonald, an 8-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department and a constituent of the 13th Congressional District, was murdered after pursuing a previously convicted felon. The shooter was wanted for a recent altercation with the police. The pursuit ended in a shootout that also injured 12-year veteran Officer Richard Bowes.

Officer McDonald, 30, was assigned to the Highway Patrol Division. He was known to his colleagues as a "stand up guy," the type of person who would "go out of his way for anybody." Another officer called him "a great cop."

Protecting the public was a McDonald family tradition. His father, Captain Larry McDonald, spent 34 years with the Philadelphia Fire Department. Families like the McDonalds are the backbone of Philadelphia's law enforcement, guardians who are willing to put themselves in harm's way for others, some of whom make the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of our city. The McDonald family's loss is a loss for all of us.

Officer McDonald grew up in Morrell Park. He graduated from Archbishop Ryan High School in 1996 where he played football and basketball. The toughness that he exhibited as a cop was developed on the football field. Glen Galeone, his coach, said Officer McDonald "always gave his all."

Officer McDonald dedicated his entire adult life to serving and protecting the people of Philadelphia. He worked as a paramedic before joining the Philadelphia Police Department in 2000. After he joined the force, Officer McDonald constantly worked to better himself by taking night and weekend classes at St. Joseph's University where he earned a degree in Criminal Justice in 2005. He was a role model for his neighbors and his fellow officers.

Officer McDonald joins Gary Skerski, Chuck Cassidy, Stephen Liczbinski, and Isabel Nazario as Philadelphia Police Officers from northeast Philadelphia killed in the line of duty since May 2006. The loss of these officers saddens and outrages me and my constituents. I ask that the House of Representatives extend its condolences to the McDonald family and the Philadelphia Police Department for their significant loss.

HONORING PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT
RICKE PETERSON OF LAND
O'LAKES, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who was wounded in service to our Nation during the conflict in Iraq. Master Sergeant Ricke Peterson is a member of the United States Army who served with honor

and distinction on the battlefield. It is truly an honor to present this brave patriot with his Purple Heart medal.

Born in Melrose Park, Illinois, Mr. Peterson currently resides in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A decorated non-commissioned officer (NCO), Mr. Peterson comes from a long line of military service members. With a grandfather who served in World War I, a father who was in the Air Force, Reserves and Guard, an uncle who served in the Navy in Korea, two brothers who served, and a nephew who was seriously wounded in Iraq, no one can question the Peterson family's commitment to military service.

A soldier who spent his entire career in the United States Army, Mr. Peterson was just less than a month away from completing his twenty-eighth year of service when he was gravely wounded in Iraq. Indeed, Mr. Peterson had already completed his service commitment when his unit received orders to deploy to Iraq. Instead of leaving the Army prior to his deployment, Mr. Peterson requested to stay with his unit so that he could go to Iraq and share his years of expertise with the younger Army men and women.

On October 6, 2004, at the age of forty-four, Mr. Peterson was serving as the Force Protection NCO for the Army HHC, 4th BDE, 1st Infantry Division, assigned to Tikrit, Iraq. While traveling with his fellow soldiers, an anti tank mine tore off the front of his vehicle. The blast came through the floorboard, tearing through his legs and hitting him square in the chest. Mr. Peterson was peppered with shrapnel in his face, thighs, inner arms, feet and ankles, and he was eventually rendered unconscious.

Today Mr. Peterson is still recovering from his extensive injuries. Suffering from severe head trauma, he undergoes comprehensive physical therapy and is slowly getting better. Thankfully he has the support of his wife of twenty-seven years, Chung, as well as their two grown children, Ricke, Jr. and Sara.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Ricke Peterson who joined the military to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men like Mr. Peterson were wounded fighting for freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones know that this Congress will always remember his bravery and commitment in battle.

TRIBUTE TO JOY SEITZ

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, during our time in Congress we all have benefited from the efforts of our staffs. I certainly have been blessed with the services of wonderful people through my career. One of those individuals, Joy Seitz, has been with me throughout all of my congressional tenure and helped me in my time in the Missouri State Senate.

Joy came to work for me on the State senate staff in 1974. She has been the anchor of my office in Jackson County, Missouri since it was opened in 1977. She has handled countless constituent calls and letters and has been an able advocate for them as an ombudsman and caseworker. She has for several years been the principal bookkeeper for my office. She has been competent and professional al-

ways and has always demonstrated a warm personality reflecting her wonderful parents and small town values.

It has been my great joy to witness her transition in life. She married Jim Seitz, the son of my long time good friends Ed and MaryBelle Seitz. Jim and Joy have raised two wonderful children, Michael and Rebecca both of whom have served as interns in my Washington office and are outstanding young adults.

Joy has been the model for what a Congressional staff member should be. She has been a calm voice in responding to constituents who were often frustrated with some aspect of the government. Her work in solving constituent problems has won many accolades and has made the government work better.

Joy Seitz will be retiring from Congressional service as we begin the new Congress in January. With this statement I want to recognize her 32 years of service to our country and to wish her many, many happy years with Jim and their family. While she will not answer the phone in my Blue Springs office she will continue to be a cherished friend.

HONORING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESS MEETING IN PRINCETON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for supporting my resolution, H. Con. Res. 351, commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Continental Congress meeting at Nassau Hall in Princeton, New Jersey.

On June 19, 1783, 80 soldiers defected from the Third Pennsylvania Regiment stationed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in order to "obtain justice" from the Continental Congress. Outraged by the lack of compensation for their service during the Revolutionary War, these soldiers marched to the Nation's capital recruiting new troops to join them in their cause. By the time they reached Philadelphia two days later, the number of disaffected troops had swollen to 300. The Continental Congress held an emergency meeting at the Philadelphia Statehouse to decide how to counter this uprising only to emerge to an angry and armed mob ready to take by force the back-pay owed to them by their government.

With the Nation's finances in disarray, the Continental Congress took refuge from the riot, and Continental Congress President Elias Boudinot ordered the body to reassemble in Princeton, New Jersey, on June 26 "in order that further and more effective methods may be taken for suppressing the current revolt, and maintaining the Dignity and Authority of the United States."

Congress descended upon the small town of Princeton, a village with little more than 60 homes, 300 residents, and three taverns which doubled as churches. In regard to the commotion brought to town by Congress, 19-year-old Princeton University student Ashbel Green, who would go on to serve as the President of the University, remarked "The pace of things is inconceivably altered in Princeton within a fortnight. From a little obscure village, we have become the capital of America."