

has been a staple holding the community's transportation needs together, and his services will be greatly missed.

Bob Ahrens selfless, hardworking Iowa mentality has set a lasting standard for the people of the Ogden community. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Ahrens for his service. I consider it an honor to represent Bob in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF PETTY OFFICER
JOSHUA T. HARRIS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of former Petty Officer First Class Joshua T. Harris, who was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan last week. Joshua was a native of Lexington, North Carolina, and was deployed to Afghanistan from an assignment at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group in Dam Neck, Virginia.

Joshua graduated from Lexington Senior High School where he distinguished himself as an outstanding linebacker earning both all-county and all-conference honors. He enrolled in Davison College in Davison, North Carolina, where he studied studio art before pursuing graduate studies in architecture at the University of North Carolina.

After enlisting in the Navy on August 23, 2000, Joshua attended Navy SEAL training in California.

Joshua Harris is survived by his mother Evelyn, his father Sam, his twin sister Mary-Maria Kirstin and his older brother, Sam Ranchor. He will always be remembered by his family and friends as a competitive athlete with a passion for art and design.

I would like to share with my colleagues a poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell in memory of Petty Officer First Class Joshua Harris, recognizing his heroism and sacrifice to America. The poem titled "Thou Art" reads as follows:

THOU ART

A thing of Beauty . . .
A sheer work of art . . .
Can only come but from deep inside one's heart . . .
From only deep down inside one's soul . . .
All in the brush strokes of a lifetime so . . .
All on the canvass of a life behold . . .
To all hearts and minds, and souls . . .
A thing of faith and courage, so!
A thing of beauty . . .
A work of art . . .
To warm all hearts as we grow old . . .
As was your fine life Josh, so . . .
All in courage's quote . . .
All in the seeds of freedom you so sowed . . .
As left behind, to all hearts which spoke . . .
All upon your fine canvass of life as lies such hope . . .
Which but means the very most . . .
That so touches all of our hearts and souls . . .
Is but your fine portrait of life, that which you so wrote!
Painted, all there by your oh so magnificent heart of gold . . .
All in this your Honor's Code . . .
Is but left a fine reflection of your very soul!

Bringing Light!
Bringing Hope!
As in the darkest days of war you fought . . .
Such a thing of beauty Joshua, as you Thou Art!
Are but the colors of your heart . . .
All in this your life's design!
Reminds us all, how against all odds your courage climbed . . .
As against the darkest of all evil's you so shined . . .
All in your Seal of Honor burning bright . . .
To win that day, that night!
Shining, all in your most sacrificial light . . .
Burning bold, burning bright . . . blessing all of us here this night!
For Joshua, how so you lived and died . . .
Brings such tears, even to The Angels eyes!
As so surely, it was but Heaven Joshua you'd find!
As we gaze upon this Masterpiece, all in the life you so left behind!
Mount Up Seal . . . Your new battle has begun . . .
It's your new war to be won!
All as an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my son!
Now with wings of courage full . . .
A thing of beauty . . .
A work of art . . .
Joshua, my most magnificent of all sons . . .
You are Thou Art!
Amen. . .

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THE PATIENT ADVOCATE ACT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well being of our citizens. With 46 million uninsured, including 9 million children, and many more underinsured, we must focus on strengthening our existing system as we continue to work to assure that quality health care is available to all. The Patient Advocate Act will assist patients, particularly those with a chronic illness, in successfully meeting the challenges brought on by their illness.

Patients battling a life-threatening illness are generally ill-equipped to negotiate with insurance companies, hospitals and other medical providers. Advocates will be available to assist with job retention and other debt crisis matters, while the patients are dealing with the reality of their illness at the same time. The limited network of existing patient advocate programs have proven their value and cost effectiveness. It is in the best interest of the patient to have someone available to advocate on their behalf while suffering from chronic illness.

Madam Speaker, the Patient Advocate Act would establish a demonstration grant program for State, local, tribal and non-profit entities to develop and operate patient advocate programs. The programs will assist patients in resolving health insurance, job retention, debt crisis and other problems related to the patients' diagnosis and illness. Specific services include negotiating pre-authorization claims, expediting the appeals process on contested claims, resolving billing errors and other bill issues, resolving debt crises, brokering resources to supplement limits to insurance, gaining access to services for the uninsured,

and addressing other problems related to the patient's illness, at no cost to the patient. The grants will be made available to existing and new patient advocacy programs.

Madam Speaker, to ensure that patients facing serious illness are able to effectively address the major issues that confront them during their illness, it is vitally important that they have access to professional case management services. The Patient Advocate Act will provide communities with the ability to establish patient advocate programs to assist patients as they negotiate the challenges of serious illness. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOWELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Jerry Howell, organist at the Maxwell Church of the Brethren and Loring United Methodist Church of Maxwell, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his church and community.

For the past 50 years, Jerry has contributed his time and talents to his church community. He began piano lessons at the age of 11. In 1958, the organist at Santiago Methodist Church in rural Mitchellville retired, and at the age of 14, Jerry was called up to the organ bench. In 1989, Jerry and his wife Opal transferred their church membership to Loring United Methodist Church in rural Maxwell, Iowa. The organist at Loring retired, and Jerry was back on the organ bench. For the past 10 years, he was the organist for both Loring and Maxwell Church of the Brethren.

It is estimated that in the past 50 years, Jerry has played for 2,700 Sunday morning services, 120 funerals and 25 weddings. Unfortunately, Jerry's career has been cut short with his diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration that has caused blurry vision that makes reading and playing the music difficult. Although he no longer plays the organ at church, the memories of Jerry's musical contributions live on, and he continues to be an active member of his community.

Beyond retiring from his service at church, Jerry also retired from his job as an accounting technician at the Iowa Department of Transportation a year and a half ago, and he has taken the opportunity to travel around the country while his vision remains strong enough. I consider it an honor to represent Jerry Howell in the United States Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement as he continues to serve his community and travel around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RON LEWIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable RON LEWIS for his service to the people

of Kentucky and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman LEWIS has represented the 2nd Congressional District of the state of Kentucky for the past 14 years.

RON was born and raised in South Shore, Kentucky. He graduated from McKell High School and worked his way through Morehead State University before transferring to the University of Kentucky, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science. Following graduation, he worked as a salesman and then taught at a business college in Louisiana. He returned to Morehead State and earned a Master of Arts in Higher Education and then attended Southern Baptist Seminary and became an ordained Baptist minister.

RON has long been an ardent supporter of our national defense. In 2005, he and the entire Kentucky delegation successfully fought the closing of Fort Knox, one of our nation's premier military installations employing nearly 9,000 personnel. Due in large part to RON's leadership during this most recent round of base realignment, Fort Knox was designated to remain open and to keep the majority of our nation's gold reserves.

From his post on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, RON has been a champion for farmers in his heartland district. He sponsored the Rural Communities Investment Act, which provides tax incentives to make interest income on farm real estate and certain rural housing loans exempt from federal taxation. He has also worked to develop alternative fuels made from crops grown in his district, sponsoring legislation to promote increased use of ethanol and biodiesel, made from corn and soybeans.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Kayi; his two children, Ronald Brent and Allison Faye; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

RON will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MISS ALLISON
SCHMITT UPON HER ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BRONZE MEDAL
IN THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Miss Allison Schmitt upon her achievement of the Bronze Medal in the Women's 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay in the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Allison Schmitt was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 7, 1990. At the age of 9, she began her swimming career with the Plymouth Canton Cruiser in Canton, MI. Allison then went on to join the Ann Arbor Swim Club at the age of 12. During her high school career, Allison swam Varsity all four years she attended Canton High, and was also acknowledged by her team as the MVP all four years.

During her time at Canton High School, Allison was named All-State a total of eight times, two per year of attendance, and was named Michigan High School Swimmer of the Year in 2006. In her senior year, Allison was Canton High's Swim Team Captain. Allison is a ten time All-American athlete and holds two Michigan State High School records.

In December of 2007, Allison began training with Club Wolverine's High Performance Group, under Coach Bob Bowman. In January 2008, Allison graduated from Canton High School to train for the Olympic trials. On July 2, 2008, Allison made the USA Olympic team and subsequently achieved a national age group record in the 200 meter freestyle.

On August 14, 2008, the United States Women's 4x200 meter Freestyle Relay team consisting of Allison Schmitt, Natalie Coughlin, Caroline Burckle, and Katie Hoff broke the American record and swam the relay in 7:46.33, achieving a third place finish and a bronze medal.

Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Allison every success as she attends the University of Georgia, where she will continue her swimming career during the fall of 2008; and in congratulating and thanking Miss Allison Schmitt upon her winning the bronze medal as a member of the United States Women's 4x200 Freestyle Relay Team for making us all so proud.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican earmark standards, the following are detailed finance plans for each of my requested projects in H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Homeland Security.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Chesterfield County, VA.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9901 Lori Road, Chesterfield, VA, 23832, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$250,000 to enhance perimeter security at the Chesterfield, VA Emergency Operations Center to assure the safety of personnel during response efforts, as well as the protection of our emergency response critical infrastructure. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a highly sensitive public safety agency. The function of the EOC is to provide information to public safety providers and citizens on a range of items to include criminal activity, terrorist activity or natural disasters. In the event of a terrorist or an individual(s) who may want to hinder or interrupt the public safety system in the County, the logical place to strike is the EOC. In order to mitigate the risk of sabotage or criminal activity, providing physical security to our facility is necessary.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$9,990,000 to make Industrial Access Improvements at Main Gate 15 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Mandatory vehicle access control at military installations is a Department of Defense (DoD) requirement per DoD Directives 5200.8 and 5200.8R. Based on a Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment conducted in October 2006, the entrance and guardhouse configuration at Gate 15 are inadequate for both industrial access and from a security/safety standpoint and require upgrading. This project provides for industrial access improvements of Gate 15 including the truck and private automobile inspection area, Pass Office Renovations and counter terrorism measures at Gate 15.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Pickett.

Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Pickett, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$2,950,000 to be used to construct a Multipurpose Machine Gun Range for training purposes with a variety of firearms and weapons for the Virginia National Guard and other Army and Guard units along the East Coast. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee.
Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$90,000,00 to construct a standard-design training barracks complex for advanced initial training for Army soldiers. This project supports the increase in trainee requirements at Fort Lee as part of the increase in permanent end strength of the Army. The estimated and intended use is 1200 soldiers. All existing adequate facilities are being fully utilized to support current operations. If this project is not provided, there will not be sufficient adequate permanent facilities to support the Grow the Force initiative and soldiers will continue to work out of temporary and/or relocatable buildings which have limited operational capabilities and limited useful life expectancies. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee.
Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$10,300,000 to provide a dining facility to support an increase in the number of soldiers who will receive Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee. This project supports the Grow the Force initiative. It will enable the Army to meet the greater training throughput requirement that will result from the increased size of the