

Duffy was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle in eastern Baghdad.

Sergeant Duffy was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He had served in Iraq since November, where he provided escort security for a general, a colonel and other high-ranking Army officers.

Sergeant Duffy graduated from Cozad High School and then the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a criminal justice degree. He rose to supervisor at a Kearney manufacturing plant before joining the Army in May 2008.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Sgt. Duffy's family and friends. He was known as "The Shepherd" because of his concern for others. This trait drove him to protect even those he didn't know.

We all owe Sgt. Duffy a debt of gratitude we can never repay. His courage, love of family, and strength should set the bench mark for us all.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST P. KLINE

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Ernest "Ernie" P. Kline, the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania and a tireless public servant.

Since his days as Class President of Rostraver High School, Ernie always took charge to organize and lead in the groups of which he was a member.

Ernie was indefatigable in his work for the people of Pennsylvania. Beginning his political career as a councilman in the City of Beaver Falls, PA, Ernie was elected to the State Senate in 1965 and then as Lieutenant Governor in 1970.

As Lieutenant Governor, Ernie chaired commissions on education and energy, showing his devotion toward creating a better world for future Pennsylvanians.

Beyond public life, Ernie and his beloved wife Josephine were always involved in the community, be it establishing the Ronald McDonald House of Hershey Medical Center or umpiring softball games. Ernie was also president of Kline Associates Ltd., a government consulting firm, which allowed him to continue to serve the State of Pennsylvania after leaving elected office.

Devoted to his Catholic faith, the Democratic Party, and his country, Ernest P. Kline was committed to serving the Commonwealth. Madam Speaker, please join me, Congressman HOLDEN, and all Pennsylvanians, in honoring this great man, whose public service legacy will be fondly remembered by many.

SAVANNAH GARCIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savannah Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Savannah Garcia is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savannah Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Savannah Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 248TH MEDICAL  
COMPANY

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 248th Medical Company, which is scheduled for deployment to Balad, Iraq on Friday, June 5, 2009, after a month of training at Fort Lewis in Washington State. The 248th is stationed at the Marietta National Guard Armory in my hometown, Marietta, Georgia. As a physician, this group of citizen soldiers holds a special place in my heart as their primary mission while in Iraq will be to treat any medical problems or issues that their fellow troops may experience. The unit includes doctors, nurses and physician assistants who will trade their white lab coats for Army green fatigues to help care for those on the frontlines in the Global War on Terror.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the courage and bravery of each member of the 248th and thanking them for their service to this country. Know that you and your families will be in our thoughts and prayers, and please do not hesitate to contact my office if there is any way that we can assist you over the next twelve months. God Bless you and your families and God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARKS

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bill to authorize the seven National Environmental Research Parks (NERPs) at Department of Energy (DOE) sites, including the Los Alamos Environmental Research Park in my district. These parks are unique outdoor laboratories that offer secure settings for long-term research on a broad range of subjects including, wildlife biology, ecology, climate change effects, environmental remediation, and maintenance of freshwater ecosystems. The parks also provide rich environments for training future researchers and

introducing the public to environmental sciences. They are located within six major ecological regions of the United States which cover more than half of the nation.

In the mid-1970s, DOE developed a policy for current and future research parks. The mission of the parks is to: conduct research and education activities to assess and document environmental effects associated with energy and weapons use; explore methods for eliminating or minimizing adverse effects of energy development and nuclear materials on the environment; train people in ecological and environmental sciences; and educate the public. The Parks maintain several long-term data sets that are available nowhere else in the U.S. or in the world on amphibian populations, bird populations, and soil moisture and plant water stress. These data are uniquely valuable for understanding wildlife biology, ecology, and for the detection of long-term shifts in climate.

The federal government's interest in and need for ecological research evolved after World War II as we sought security and safety by producing nuclear weapons in isolated regions surrounded by large buffer zones of undeveloped land. DOE's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, AEC, recognized a need to track both radioactive fallout from the testing of nuclear weapons and inadvertent radioactive releases from nuclear weapons production facilities into the environment. Out of the radionuclide research grew new technologies for quantifying the movement of natural materials such as nutrients and fluids and of introduced pollutants through the ecosystem. The maintenance of the Parks by DOE conforms with statutory obligations to promote sound environmental stewardship of federal lands and to safeguard sites containing cultural and archeological resources.

In 1972 AEC established the first NERP at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. The plan for a research park emerged during a formal review of the environmental research activities at Savannah River. The review team consisted of scientists, representatives from other Federal agencies, and members of the newly formed President's Council on Environmental Quality.

The Los Alamos NERP was designated in 1973. Its 40 square miles include the entire site of Los Alamos National Laboratory and a landscape of canyons, mesas, mountains, and the Rio Grande providing a diverse range of ecosystems to explore. The Park's ongoing environmental studies include: interaction between its local ecosystems and the hydrologic cycle; contaminant transport; elk, deer, and raptor population dynamics; landfill cap performance; woodland productivity; and long-term data sets developed to monitor climate change effects, soil moisture, and fire ecology providing valuable baseline reference information. Over 125 publications related to the ecology and interaction between lab operations and the environment have been written about Los Alamos and the Pajarito Plateau it rests on.

The National Environmental Research Parks have been conducting critical activities for our nation and the world's environmental research portfolio for decades. They are one of our nation's most valuable environmental research assets, and it is time for them to be recognized in law and explicitly provided the resources they need to continue their valuable work. This legislation offers guidance for the