

This young man had been active in his Scout troop, holding various positions, including assistant senior patrol leader, chaplain's aide, and junior assistant scoutmaster. Shane had applied to continue with his troop as an assistant scoutmaster. He was also a youth representative to the Brockway Borough Council.

Shane was a multi-sport letter winner at his high school. He was part of the 2009 District 9 boys basketball team champions, but he was also involved in the spring musicals and a member of the student council. He planned to attend Pennsylvania State University and continue on to law school.

He was a member of St. Tobias Roman Catholic Church of Brockway and was active with youth ministry. My thoughts and prayers are with the Horner family as they seek solace in their memories of a son who gave them so many reasons to be proud.

□ 1915

IN HONOR OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate two schools in my congressional district: Our Lady of Grace in Edina and Thomas Jefferson Senior High School in Bloomington. They were both recently named 2009 National Blue Ribbon Schools. They were just two of 314 schools nationwide to receive this honor.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors elementary, middle, and high schools that display superior academic achievement or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Both of these schools are carrying on a proud tradition we have in Minnesota. Our students consistently score at the top in national assessments and tests, and our educational experience from birth to adulthood rates among the best in the Nation.

The Blue Ribbon Schools designation is one of the highest awards the school can ever receive. I congratulate the students, the teachers, the administrators, and the parents who've earned this honor for both Our Lady of Grace and Thomas Jefferson Senior High School.

THE LITTLE FELLOW FROM THE
DESERT AND HIS ITCHY FINGER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the little fellow in the desert has been at it again. Iran's usurper President Ahmadinejad that calls the Holocaust a myth has made it clear he wants nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles to destroy Israel and

the United States. And now the tiny tyrant is in New York City spreading hate at the U.N.

A leaked document says that Iran has all the elements they need to build a nuclear weapon. They have been working with North Korea on missiles, missiles with more distance and more accuracy.

The unstable situation demands that we put a complete missile defense system in place. We are leaving ourselves and our allies vulnerable, but the administration last week scrapped our missile defense system that's based in Poland, and they also cut our radar systems in the Czech Republic. Believe it or not, this country cannot stop a missile fired at us. One would think that would be a priority.

Why are the American people left vulnerable to any tin pot totalitarian with an itchy trigger finger? The government's main job is to defend the American people, even from gun-toting little thugs who are determined to have an international shoot-out with the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

LISTEN TO OUR COMMANDERS ON
THE GROUND

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, our military men and women are fighting in Afghanistan to defeat terrorists overseas and protect families here at home. Having visited my former unit, the 218th Brigade of the South Carolina Army National Guard, during their year-long deployment, I know firsthand that our servicemembers in Afghanistan are doing incredible work along with the Afghan police and army units they train.

In March, when President Obama announced his strategy for Afghanistan, I commended the President for moving forward with the plan based on the counsel of military leadership on the ground. In light of the recent reports that General Stanley McChrystal has requested additional forces, I hope we continue to heed the advice of our commanders in Afghanistan. We must provide the level of force and resources necessary to help our brave military complete their mission. We cannot allow the terrorists to establish a safe haven from which to attack America and our allies.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Under the speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WE NEED AN EXIT PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN—NOT AN ESCALATION PLAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, a report written by General McChrystal, the commander of American and NATO forces in Afghanistan, was leaked to the press yesterday. In this report, General McChrystal warns that the conflict in Afghanistan "will likely result in failure" if we don't send in more troops.

The leak was an apparent attempt to put pressure on the White House and the Presidency to escalate the conflict. But, to its credit, the administration didn't go there and did not cave in.

President Obama said that he is skeptical that sending in more troops will do any good. And he said, "I'm certainly not somebody who believes in indefinite occupations of other countries."

Madam Speaker, I'm relieved that we have somebody in the White House who will think long and hard before sending America's men and women into harm's way. But the President will certainly face a lot more pressure in the coming weeks to increase troop levels. I urge him to resist the idea for three very good reasons.

First, there is no military solution in Afghanistan. We tried it for over 8 years. Our troops have fought with incredible skill and courage. But sending in more troops will only fuel anti-Americanism, and it will convince the Afghan people that the United States is an occupying force that must be resisted.

Second, poll after poll shows that the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to sending more troops to Afghanistan, and the majority now believe that the war in Afghanistan is simply not worth fighting.

Third, Madam Speaker, we cannot afford to keep pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into this conflict. We need every one of those dollars to meet our urgent domestic needs here at home. We need to use our resources to dig out of the recession, not dig into a quagmire in Afghanistan.

For all these reasons, the President and his advisers must rethink our mission in Afghanistan and look at changing our strategy.

The Rand Corporation has produced a study of extremist groups that should help us develop the right strategy. Rand studied the history of 648 extremist groups, finding that military force was effective against these groups only 7 percent of the time. Two strategies that work better were negotiated political settlements and the use of intelligence and police agencies to dismantle extremist networks. Combined, these two strategies were effective 83—83 percent of the time. That's about 12 times better than the military option.

Rand also applied its analysis to the current situation in Afghanistan and