

REMEMBRANCE OF NAVY PETTY
OFFICER ZARIAN WOOD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Navy PO Zarian Wood, who died May 16 while serving in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense.

Petty Officer Wood of Houston was a 1999 graduate of South Houston High School who had served as a youth minister and tutor before enlisting in the Navy. Known to friends and family as a giving young man, he followed his father's footsteps in service to his country.

Petty Officer Wood was deployed to Iraq as a hospital corpsman from 2007–2008 and upon returning home he volunteered for a second combat tour in Afghanistan. He was assigned to India Company, as a hospital corpsman in the Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

On May 14, 3½ weeks into deployment, Petty Officer Wood sustained wounds when an improvised explosive device detonated during foot patrol in the Helmand Province.

I know his father, family and friends are devastated by this loss, but they should be proud of the great man Zarian Wood had become and that he died a hero while serving his country.

His loss will be felt by all of Houston, our state, and our nation, and I ask that you remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

I would like to submit for the record this article on Officer Wood that appeared in the Houston Chronicle on May 18.

[From the Houston Chronicle, May 18, 2010]

SAILOR SERVED AS "DOC," VOLUNTEERED FOR COMBAT

(By Lindsay Wise)

Volunteer: Petty Officer Zarian Wood died Sunday of wounds suffered in Afghanistan.

Before he deployed to Afghanistan last month, Zarian Wood visited his father and brother for a week at their home in south Houston. The three men played video games, dined on steak and shrimp and lounged on camping chairs in the driveway. It was like a mini family reunion, recalled his father, Daniel Wood.

"Just before he left, he told me, 'Dad, take care of yourself and everything, and I'll be back,'" he said.

The 29-year-old Navy petty officer third class from Houston died Sunday of wounds inflicted by a bomb blast during a foot patrol in Helmand Province. He had only been in Afghanistan about 3½ weeks.

"He was a good honest Christian man," said his father, a 63-year-old Vietnam veteran. "He thought he went over there to help children and help the country better itself, and wham."

The father took a shaking breath, still stunned by the news.

"Ah well, he's with the good Lord, you know," he said.

Nicknamed "Z," Zarian graduated in 1999 from South Houston High School, where he'd competed on the wrestling team.

YOUTH PASTOR, TUTOR

He worked as a youth pastor and tutor for troubled kids on Houston's northeast side

and a merchandiser for Coca-Cola before enlisting in 2006. His decision to undergo rigorous training to become a hospital corpsman was very much in character for him, his relatives say.

"He was a very giving young man and my mother taught all of us that when you have nothing to give you have yourself to give," said his sister, Teresa Robertson.

Zarian deployed to Iraq from 2007–2008. His relatives said he volunteered for his second combat tour, this time a seven-month stint in Afghanistan, where he served as "Doc" on the front lines alongside Marine infantrymen from Camp Pendleton, Calif. He was assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

"He was taking care of other folks," his father said. "He was doing what he wanted to do, and he was doing it for his beliefs. He didn't want younger men to have to see and do what he'd seen and done over there."

Zarian was the third Texan and third member of this Marine battalion to be killed in Afghanistan recently. Cpl. Jeffrey Johnson, 21, of Tomball was also killed May 11 by an improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol. Sgt. Kenneth B. May Jr., 26, of Kilgore, also died in that attack. Johnson and May served in Weapons Company.

The close-knit Wood family gathered on Tuesday to make funeral arrangements and remember the fallen corpsman.

"He had a good heart, very outgoing, worked out at the gym every day," said his older brother, Zachary Wood. "He cared about his looks."

"He was very meticulous about that," his father said with a laugh. "He was a handsome man."

WANTED TO BE A DENTIST

He was an honest man, too, even to the point of being blunt, his brother said.

"Yeah, he'd tell you in a flat minute if you were wrong," his father said. "Then again, he'd stand up for you in a flat minute if you were right."

He said his son dreamed of going back to school someday.

"He wanted to study radiology and then after he got that degree, he was going to try to become a dentist," he said.

"He was all about living life, living life to the fullest," his brother said.

Zarian was preceded in death by his mother, Nellie Sue Wood. He is survived by his father, Daniel Wood, and siblings Zachary Wood, Krista Hamilton, Teresa Robertson, Victor Robertson and Micah Dixon. Funeral arrangements are pending.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF
BRIG. GEN. HARRY "HEINIE"
ADERHOLT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Brigadier General Harry C. Aderholt. General Aderholt's life of dedicated service to this country throughout times of conflict and times of peace is truly remarkable. It is a great privilege to recognize him on this day.

General Aderholt was the epitome of a military officer, and he will always be remembered for the type of man he was—a natural leader, always ready to go above and beyond the call of duty. Growing up in Birmingham, Alabama

as one of seven children, there is no doubt that his strong character began to take root during his childhood, fully blossoming into the virtues of integrity, discipline and diligence.

General Aderholt's illustrious career as an Air Force officer is filled with numerous leadership and command positions throughout the world. From serving as a young pilot during World War II to being assigned Commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand, General Aderholt was a patriot that bravely served this country for over 30 years. Through his distinguished and decorated career, General Aderholt earned many awards including the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguish Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, and the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

On behalf of the United States Congress, Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the life and deeds of Brigadier General Harry C. Aderholt. A true patriot, a committed community leader and loving family man—he will be missed by many, but his memory will remain. My wife Vicki and I extended our prayers and thoughts to the entire Aderholt family.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF DAVID ROHR
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Assistant Chief of Operations David Rohr, who is retiring from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and will take over as Fire Chief for The City of Fairfax Fire Department.

Native to Vienna, Va., Chief Rohr developed an interest in fire fighting at an early age. He became involved with his local volunteer fire department at the age of 16. It did not take long for Chief Rohr to realize this was to become his life's pursuit. Upon graduating from high school, he began working for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Annandale Station. After four years, Chief Rohr was promoted to driver and later Sergeant. Over the next 18 years he continued to move up the ranks to the position of Assistant Chief of Operations.

Chief Rohr is an accomplished firefighter and leader in one of the finest and most respected fire departments in the country. Besides its superb service in Fairfax, the department has a world-class urban search and rescue team that has provided critical assistance during the aftermaths of major catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina, the Indonesian tsunami, and earthquakes. The team most recently spent several weeks in Haiti searching for victims of that devastating quake.

Chief Rohr's skills as a firefighter are grounded in rigorous education as well as a lifetime of experience. Chief Rohr earned a Bachelor of Science degree in technology and management/fire science from the University of Maryland. He is a graduate from the National Fire Academy's executive fire officer program and has also completed the University of Virginia Darien Business School Senior Executive Institute and Leadership Development Institute.