

HONORING DR. JOYCE HEDLUND,
PhD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joyce Hedlund.

The former president of Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, Joyce is now the president of Washington County Community College in Calais.

A native of Fort Kent, Joyce has dedicated herself to education for the past 36 years, having started her career in higher education administration at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, then at the University of Maine, Husson University, and finally at Eastern Maine Community College in 1987 as president for sixteen years. Joyce has been credited as a visionary leader and an integral member of her community. She is a member of the Maine Higher Education Council, the state committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Secretary/Treasurer for the Maine Compact for Higher Education, a member of the College Board's New England Community College Advisory Committee, a Commissioner on the ACE Commission on Lifelong Learning and board member for Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and the Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

An accomplished academic, Joyce holds a PhD from the University of Maine, where she also received her master's and bachelor's degrees in personnel services and counselor education. She is a graduate of the Delta Class of Leadership Maine and is the recipient of the 1998 Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award, granted by the Alumni of Leadership Maine.

Joyce is recognized as one of New England's most outstanding college leaders; I am confident she will continue her track record of excellence in her new role with the Washington County community college system. Joyce has left a lasting mark on Eastern Maine Community College and surrounding areas. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Joyce for her excellent work; I would also like to offer my continued support and best wishes.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Joyce Hedlund for her continued commitment to the education of Maine's students.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE: SGT
KENDRA COLEMAN, 173RD SPECIAL
TROOPS BATTALION, AIRBORNE,
THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Georgia's finest! On May 11, 2010 in Charkh Afghanistan, an American Hero named Sergeant Kendra Coleman of The 173rd Special Troops Battalion Airborne, United States Army almost lost her life in an IED explosion. Clinging to life, and

losing her leg she had a choice to make, give up or get up! She chose to get up and begin her run to recovery! In just a few short months she traveled so far and so fast in her recovery. The strides she has made, have taught us all so much, and will continue to bless us all. She is a shining example of the type of women and men who serve our Nation in The United States Armed Forces, and their families quiet courage who help them to recover. Kendra and her husband Brandon, are rebuilding their life at record pace, and they make us all proud to be Americans. I ask that this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE

Stride,
Stride by Stride!
Step, Step by Step!
All within a fine heart resides. . . .
All in what, a heart of honor so excepts. . . .
So excepts, so deep down inside!
This gift from God!
That which so brings tears, to even the Angel's eyes. . . .
Our Nation blesses, with all of your most selfless sacrifice so yes this. . . .
As yes you Kendra, are but where courage lies. . . . where Courage Crest's!
A Hero who goes off to war. . . .
All for our God and Country Tis of Thee, as was your burden bore!
When, all in the midst of most evil war. . . .
A hero lies bleeding, clinging to life. . . . As Such Strength In Honor. . . .
Faith In Heart's, she is so needing!
As when you looked down, and saw what this war had found!
As when, your most courageous heart began to pound. . . .
With only one leg now!
As you hit the ground running, for nothing was going to hold you down!
Wiping those tears from your most beautiful eyes, and as you began to stride!
Step by Step! Stride by Stride, as defeat you would not except! RISE!
Going The Distance, When Courage Crests!
To Teach Us! To So Beseech Us! To All Hearts, To So Reach Us!
Running To Recovery, upon wings of courage you now so glide!
Because, your Army Strong! Because, The Title Hero. . . . upon you so belongs!
Mothers! Fathers! Teach your daughters about this great American Love Song!
And The Steps We Take, The Strides We Must Make! All to live a great life!
Kendra, at such a great pace. . . . your fine heart so runs this night!
Oh how you Shine, 'Oh how you bring your light!
In life, What Steps do take?
What strides must we so make?
To Heaven rise!
Hooah! Kendra. . . .
Oh how you touch our hearts inside!
With each new Stride!
Stride By Stride!

HERO DAJA WANGCHUK MESTON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues the untimely passing of a brave and heroic man who made the cause of fighting for the people of Tibet his life's calling.

Daja Wangchuk Meston served as my guide when I traveled to Tibet in 1997. Accompanied

only by my late chief of staff Charlie White and Daja, I was at the time just the second sitting member of the U. S. House of Representatives to visit Tibet since the Chinese occupation began in 1959. We traveled with U.S. passports and on tourist visas issued by the government of China. At no time did anyone ask nor did I make known that I was a member of Congress. Had I done so, I am sure that my visit would not have been approved, just as other members of Congress requesting permission to visit Tibet have been turned down.

I couldn't have made the trip without Daja. He knew the Tibetan people and their struggles against iron-fisted Chinese rule. He opened the doors for my meetings with persecuted monks, men and women on the street and others who risked their personal safety and well-being to steal a few moments alone with me to reveal the unspeakable conditions in Tibet and to petition help and support from the West. He later paid the price for his heroism when he returned to Tibet to investigate the Chinese government's population resettlement program underwritten by the World Bank. He was subsequently captured, tortured and imprisoned by Chinese authorities, and badly injured when he tried to escape by jumping from a window. He endured a harrowing experience before his release.

In our search for modern-day heroes, Daja Wangchuk Meston is a true hero. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to know him. I submit for the RECORD a moving account of Daja's life written by Linda Anna Mancini, coordinator of the Boston Tibet Network, who worked closely with Daja. The Boston Tibet Network links various Tibetan support groups, local individuals, national and international organizations, and the Tibetan Association of Boston.

Daja Wangchuk Meston was beautiful in his modesty, strength and honesty. Powerful in his choices. This hero would not be called by that title when he was with us, but now that he has left us, I feel compelled to name him the hero that he was. Brave in the face of danger, with strength above tragedy, Wangchuk was a hero. It was my honor to know him. Such a beautiful man.

With so much sadness at his death, I look at his brave life for comfort. While remembering his work, I can treasure his dignity and all that he achieved. May the memory of his beauty and achievements sustain his family and all who loved him and cherish him still.

Certainly His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the most significant treasure to Tibetans and Tibet supporters. He is a great leader. And, as he knows, the actions of many others also shed a light—Wangchuk was one, a bright light. We are all indebted to him. The moment of his capture in Amdo in 1999 galvanized the Tibetan struggle into the unified grass roots movement that has held strong since that time.

The Tibetan issue in itself is truly an ocean of suffering. Each person's story is distinctive, whether born in Tibet, or India, or the states—or, in Wangchuk's case, an American raised as a Tibetan. Wangchuk was born in Switzerland, child of Americans who traveled to Nepal where his mother placed him with a Tibetan family and later, when he was 6, into the monastery. His mother lived as a nun in India, while his father returned to California burdened with great personal challenges. At 17 Wangchuk left the monastery and came to the states. After a few years, he attended Brandeis. How valiant he