

ourselves from Afghanistan, not a plan to stay there for 4 more years and “then we’ll see.” This doesn’t mean that we abandon the Afghan people, Mr. Speaker. Rather, we should abandon this war strategy. It hasn’t brought stability to Afghanistan, and it is not enhancing our own national security.

Ending war is politically difficult. It is easier for politicians to “go along” rather than make waves. But, Mr. Speaker, this isn’t about politics. It’s about doing the right thing. And the right thing is to end this war.

[From the Boston Globe, Dec. 14, 2010]
WARTIME LOSSES HIT HARD IN TIGHTKNOT
FALL RIVER

(By David Abel and John M. Guilfoil)

FALL RIVER.—A week before Army Specialist Ethan Goncalo was scheduled to speak at BMC Durfee High School, where he had been an A student known for his fastball, the 21-year-old died in Afghanistan.

He became the school’s third graduate to die in uniform this year and the fourth servicemember from Fall River.

In Massachusetts, only Boston, with six times the population of Fall River, has lost more of its own in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to *icasualties.org*, which tracks military deaths.

“As a community, it’s tough . . . very tough,” principal Paul Marshall said yesterday.

Marshall said the succession of deaths has made him wonder whether it was wise for administrators to steer students into the military.

“In time of peace, it’s a great opportunity,” he said. “Kids can get their education paid for, but they are literally putting their life on the line.”

Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began, Fall River has lost five servicemembers, and Boston has lost seven.

Goncalo, who was assigned to the First Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment in Worcester, died Saturday in Kabul of injuries sustained in a noncombat-related incident, military officials said.

In addition to Goncalo, Fall River has lost Army Private Michael E. Bouthot, a 19-year-old who died in Iraq in 2006; Army Sergeant Robert Barrett, a 21-year-old who died in Afghanistan in April; Army Specialist Scott Andrews, also 21, who was killed in June in Afghanistan; and Marine Corporal Paul Fagundes, 29, who died July 4 while trying to rescue fellow Marines drowning in a rip current off Guantanamo Bay. Barrett and Fagundes were also Durfee graduates.

“It seems surreal that we would lose this many heroes,” said Manuel DaPonte, director of veterans services in Fall River, which has about 90,000 residents.

“It’s really hard to believe. It doesn’t seem real or fair for so many people to die from a city our size.”

Mayor Will Flanagan said it was hard for him to imagine attending his fourth military funeral this year, his first term in office.

“It has had a toll on me,” he said. “This is a time for me to reflect and to be there for the families and the city, to honor any requests they have.”

He said the city has paid tribute to the fallen in parades and through benefits. In addition, he said the city plans to rename the reconstructed Brightman Street Bridge the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge when it is rededicated in the spring.

“Fall River is a hard-working community, a patriotic community, and our young men see the military as a way to serve,” said

Flanagan. “It provides them stability in their lives and gives them an opportunity to further their education and to earn an income.”

He added: “We are deeply saddened by the loss, but these young men paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy. Their losses are not in vain, and their memories will not be forgotten.”

At Durfee yesterday, friends, coaches, and administrators described Goncalo as a talented baseball player, a driven student, and a good friend. He had agreed to address his school during his upcoming leave.

Marshall said each of the young men who attended the 2,200-student school was the kind of person you would want beside you in a foxhole.

“They were stand-up kids,” he said. “The common thing is that they made their commitment with their eyes wide open.”

He said Goncalo, who graduated from Durfee in 2008 after transferring there a year earlier from Bishop Connolly High School, fit in immediately. “It felt like he was here for four [years],” Marshall said. “He was that kind of kid.”

Brad Bustin, the varsity baseball coach at Durfee, described Goncalo as “dedicated, well-rounded, and a hard worker.” Goncalo was a utility player who caught and pitched, with an arm strong enough to play outfield and a glove good enough to play first base.

“He was a nice, nice kid, easy to get along with and liked by all the other kids,” Bustin said. “He was just a happy person, a happy kid, always smiling.”

The school put a large piece of paper in the school cafeteria with several boxes of magic markers. Students described Goncalo as a “good man” and a “big brother.”

“You were a great teammate, friend, and an overall good man,” wrote one student, Nathan Farias. “Thank you for all you helped me with.”

Danielle Santos, another student, also thanked the fallen soldier.

“You were the nicest guy and a great athlete,” she wrote. “You will be missed.”

Goncalo’s relatives could not be reached yesterday and were apparently heading to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where his body was to be brought sometime today or tomorrow, city officials said. The military did not release details about his death.

On Goncalo’s Facebook page, friends sang his praises.

Bryanna Rego, who attended Bishop Connolly High School with Goncalo, recalled how he loved to goof around.

“Ethan was an amazing person,” she wrote. “. . . He made an impact on so many people’s lives, and his face will be engraved in not only mine, but in the hearts of everyone who knew him.”

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, at this time when You desire to be close to Your people, the truth of Isaiah, the prophet, frightens us. So we withdraw to a more comfortable place, content with fictitious demands on our time.

You said to Isaiah:

“Since this people draws near with words only and honors Me with their lips alone, their hearts are far from me. Their reverence for Me has become routine observance.

“I will now deal with this people in surprising and wondrous fashion.

“Woe to those who would hide their plans, thinking they are too deep for the Lord; who work in the dark saying, Who sees us or who really knows what we are about?”

It is time, Lord, to shake us from our stupor. Send forth Your word to shatter our illusions and all our fears, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHAFFETZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BART STUPAK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BART STUPAK, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF, THE HONORABLE BART STUPAK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Scott Schloegel, Chief of