

July 12, 1999

struck me as uncommon generosity from men and women who have already given so much.

I salute them and all the people who are making this monument possible. The more we work toward building this memorial, the more World War II veterans will be able to see this proud symbol of what our "Greatest Generation" accomplished.

I ask my fellow members of Congress to support the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act because it honors our veterans and helps to provide the benefits that they have earned.

Since taking office in January I have been talking to the House leadership about ways I could become more involved in Veterans' issues. Last week, I'm proud to say that I received a seat on the Veterans' Committee. I know that we owe a lot to those who currently serve our country and also to those who have served in the past. With this appointment I hope I can make a real difference for all our veterans.

This year, one of our nation's oldest and most distinguished service organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, celebrates its 100-year anniversary. I was first reminded by constituents that this year marked that important anniversary.

The first bill I sponsored and the first speech I made in the United States House of Representatives was to celebrate and recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars by requesting that the U.S. Postal Service issue a stamp commemorating the VFW's 100 year anniversary (H. Res. 115).

I still believe that we will be able to accomplish this task. I hope that my recent appointment will help move this process along.

---

MEGAN MONTONI'S ATHLETIC  
ACHIEVEMENTS

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the recent athletic achievements of Megan Montoni, who hails from Wadsworth, Ohio in my Congressional District. As a sophomore at Ashland University this past school year, Megan recently earned All-American honors for her performance in the shot put at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Emporia, Kansas. She also participated in the shot put and the discuss at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, receiving silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Being recognized as an All-America athlete is a prestigious accomplishment in college athletics and in all of sports. Dedication and a solid work ethic have launched Megan to the top of her game. Remarkably, she underwent knee surgery one year before the NCAA championships. Her discipline, resilience, and passion to succeed were clearly illustrated at the NCAA championships. Megan's work ethic and determination are an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Megan for earning All-America honors.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FLAG PROTECTION

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial, "Flag Deserves Extra Protection," which appeared in the Wednesday, June 30, 1999, edition of the Norfolk Daily News.

[From the Daily News, June 30, 1999]

FLAG DESERVES EXTRA PROTECTION

COURT'S RULING SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FINAL  
DECISION BY AMENDMENT PROCESS

One member of the House of Representatives was careful to note what is sometimes ignored in the heat of debate. "We all believe in our country; this is an honest dispute about how we reflect patriotism," said Rep. Mel Watt, D-NC., of the proposal to amend the Constitution to allow Congress to ban desecration of the flag.

That is proper acknowledgment that people who believe flag burning is an offensive act but one protected by the First Amendment may be no less sincere patriots than those who believe this symbol of the nation is sacred and deserves special protection.

Opponents to an amendment, however, seem too willing to accept court interpretations of First Amendment issues as final, irreversible truth. When such decisions—especially those so narrowly decided as in the flag burning case—are controversial enough, it is proper that they produce legislative reaction. That can take the form of utilizing the constitutional amendment procedure.

It is rarely invoked, and requires overwhelming popular support. But the amendment process should not be avoided either because it is difficult or because jurists are thought to have the last word. If it is otherwise, then America is not so much a nation governed by laws as one governed by lawyers—in this case, lawyers who have reached the stature of judges. However objective those learned men and women try to be, the American system did provide for amendments and there are some issues which deserve that attention.

It will not diminish the Bill of Rights to allow Congress to define and allow either state or federal enforcement of a law or laws which put Old Glory in a special category for protection. It will, instead, provide a small countermeasure to offensive behavior of a sort which deserves no First Amendment protection.

The argument is not about legitimate free expression, but rather the extent to which free people must tolerate offensive acts. The American people should be given a chance to decide whether or not they want their government to protect their flag from desecrators. The many exceptions to the First Amendment—libelous and slanderous statements, treasonous acts, defacement of property, incitement to riot among them—have been defined by court opinions. In this case, an exception would be made directly by the amendment process.

It should be allowed to go forward. The House of Representatives decided that it should, and by a 305-124 margin. The Senate ought to act positively this time, and acknowledge that the flag deserves to be treated as a living thing.

15557

HONORING DEPUTY TOM PROUD

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now take this opportunity to honor Deputy Tom Proud of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Department. I wish to recognize Deputy Proud for his dedication, hard work and involvement in the Pueblo community. I would like to commend him for his efforts and for receiving designation as the Outstanding Deputy of Pueblo County Sheriff's Department.

Serving in various capacities, Proud is particularly dedicated to protecting the youth of Pueblo. Assigned as Crime Prevention Officer to Pueblo West in 1993, he has continued to be involved in prevention efforts including Pueblo County Safety Fair and the implementation of the Pueblo West Crime Watch.

Deputy Proud is an active participant in the Pueblo West Substation Committee in which he contributed to the fulfillment of the Sheriff's Office vision of decentralization. He has taken a leadership role in the Child Safety Seat Program through his work to organize safety check-points to serve thirty families with installation of new car seats.

Currently, he has extended his duties to dedicating time as School Resource Officer for Pueblo West High School, Pueblo West Middle School, Pueblo West Elementary School, and Sierra Vista Primary School. He has undertaken many tasks, in particular, special missions on traffic control around the schools. Deputy Sheriff Proud is becoming a talented instructor in the subjects of drug and alcohol awareness.

Men like Tom Proud are a rare breed. I appreciate his involvement in the Pueblo community and his dedication to the citizens and youth of Pueblo. Deputy Sheriff Tom Proud is a great asset to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and to Pueblo. I would like to congratulate him on a job well done, and I hope that he will continue in his service.

---

LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to Washington the members of the Lupus Foundation of America, and my friend and Chairman of the Lupus Foundation of America—Mr. Terry Bell. The delegates are here this week to inform Members of Congress and their staff about the cataclysmic effects of lupus and to request support for my bill, H.R. 762—the Lupus Research and Care Amendments Act of 1999.

The members of the Lupus Foundation have long been on the front line of the fight against lupus, a devastating disease that affects over 1.4 million Americans. The Lupus Foundation is a national voluntary health agency, with more than 100 affiliate chapters across the