

May 11, 1999

IN MEMORY OF BRANDON
BURLSWORTH

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, like residents all across my home state of Arkansas, I am deeply saddened by the recent loss of Brandon Burlsworth—a star football player for the Arkansas Razorbacks and a recent draft pick of the Indianapolis Colts. He was a role model for our state's youth, but he was also a role model for Arkansans of all ages.

Brandon was an inspiration in more than his athletic prowess. His achievements on the football field were great—but they were dwarfed by his achievements of personal character. His short life will long stand in Arkansas legend as a shining example of dedication, perseverance, commitment, faith and strength.

Consider the path that took Brandon to the NFL. In high school, he was not the biggest or the fastest guy on the team. But even then, he stood out because of his commitment. When he graduated from high school, he had offers for scholarships to some good schools, but they were smaller schools and, unfortunately, none of them were the University of Arkansas. Brandon was set on being a Razorback, and he would settle for nothing less.

Rather than give up his dream, Brandon traveled to Fayetteville and pursued his dream without a net, walking on to the Razorback field without any guarantees, without any scholarship. As his teammates and coaches can attest, he worked as hard as—if not harder—than anyone else on the team. He arrived in the weight room early and stayed late—always striving, always working, always focused. And that work paid off.

Through such commitment, Brandon not only secured himself a spot on the team; by the time he graduated from the university, he was named an All-American. His teammates so respected Brandon, they elected him team captain. And from this hard road, Brandon reached the very top, having been recently drafted by the Colts to play as a professional. And we all know that he would have succeeded here, as he had done throughout his life.

But it is important to point out that football did not dominate Brandon's life, that his achievements went much further than that. He was the first player in Razorback history to get an advanced degree before playing his last game—having applied the same dedication and commitment from the football field to the classroom. And Brandon's commitment to his family and his faith are equally well known.

So when we honor Brandon Burlsworth, let us honor the full man, the full inspiration that he was to our state. While we applaud his commitment to football, we applaud even more his commitment to life. A native son that will be missed, but a role model that will live on in Arkansas memory.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. JOAN
HERTZENSON BOTUCK, EDITOR/
LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR CLERK,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very special member of the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Joan Hertzenson Botuck, and to express on behalf of the Committee, our gratitude to Joan for her hard work, great friendship and dedication to preserving an exact historical record of the Committee's activities. Joan's attention to detail has been a God-send to the Committee for many years.

A Michigan native, Joan earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech and English from Wayne University in Detroit, her Masters in Education from the University of Virginia, and a Masters in Library Science from Catholic University. Before joining the Committee staff in 1979, she worked for a time teaching at Central High School in Detroit, and counseling at the Psychological Testing Center in Virginia and at the office of Washington Opportunities for Women in D.C. And of utmost importance during these years, Joan and her husband, Henry, raised three lovely daughters: Ruth, Debra and Linda, and are now proud grandparents six times over.

Joan has served on the committee—and its predecessor, the Committee on Public Works and Transportation—for more than 20 years. When the Committee consolidated and computerized our editing and legislative calendar operations, Joan was appointed to oversee that office and did an excellent job. As the committee's editor, she published a daily summary of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, periodic legislative status reports, and an annual publication of the Committee Legislative Calendar. She is also very skilled in retrieving computerized legislative information which was an outstanding research aid to me and the committee staff in carrying our own legislative responsibilities. Joan has always been a respected professional working in a completely bipartisan manner—having served under for both Democratic and Republican chairmen with unwavering commitment and dedication.

The entire experience of being a Member of Congress and a part of "the Hill" community, has been enhanced for me in large part due to the quality of staff such as Joan Botuck.

Many of you in the Rayburn Building may recognize Joan as an exercise enthusiast. Each lunch hour she dons her sweats and tennis shoes and walks the Rayburn corridors—at a very fast pace, I have observed—and weather permitting, occasionally ventures onto the Mall: the committee's own power walker, "Flash Botuck".

To Joan, our heartfelt congratulations on a job well done and a career truly superbly undertaken! I join with her many friends in extending our thanks for the energy, diligence,

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and good humor you brought to your work. We will miss you greatly.

SALUTE TO THOMAS E. GOODWIN,
GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress and the nation pause to honor the more than one half million law enforcement officers across the country who put their lives on the line each day to protect us and our families. These dedicated men and women are prepared to give what Abraham Lincoln called "their last full measure of devotion" so we can continue to enjoy the freedom and quality of life we sometimes take for granted.

Federal, state, and local police officers perform a great service for our communities. All too often they literally are the last thread between us and the forces of violence and chaos. We ask a great deal of the officers who protect us. We ask them to defend our homes and families; to patrol our roads and highways; and to bring justice to criminals and murderers who would otherwise prey on our society. We ask a great deal from this "blue line," but it never breaks and is always there to guard us. For this we owe the nation's police officers our deepest gratitude and our strong support.

One officer from the congressional district I represent, Thomas E. Goodwin from the Goshen Police Department, made the ultimate sacrifice last year while defending his community. The sadness and grief brought on by Officer's Goodwin's senseless death is a grim reminder that our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day. I join his family and Goshen in honoring his dedication and service to the Maple City. Just last week, Goshen dedicated a public park in Goodwin's honor, a strong reflection of how the community came together with a sense of caring after this tragedy.

This week we pay tribute not only to those who gave their lives, but also to every family—to every spouse, every child, every parent, and every friend. We pay tribute not only to those who died, but to those who have lost them, to the survivors. And we pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who continue to go to work each day, putting their lives on the line, in the name of freedom.

As we honor these heroes with ceremonies and flags standing at half-staff, we should re-dedicate ourselves to ending the violence that has taken such a toll on these peace officers. We can best honor their service by seeing that today's officers have the training, equipment and public support they need to accomplish their dangerous mission. To quote Lincoln again, our greatest tribute to these fallen officers is to see that they "shall not have died in vain."