

They need to make sure their health care doesn't disappear, leaving their families in the lurch.

I urge the leadership of this House to do the right thing for American families and pass a real economic stimulus plan which gives hard-working families a real boost!

HONORING EMERGENCY SERVICE  
WORKERS DURING LOCAL HEROES WEEK

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is particularly fitting, in the wake of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001 and the courageous and selfless acts of heroism by New York's police, firefighters and rescue workers which were witnessed and acclaimed by the world, that we extend our gratitude to police, fire and emergency service workers in all of America's communities. The citizens of Bell County and Copperas Cove, Texas in my congressional district are honoring these public servants, from November 18–24, during the 10th observance of Local Heroes Week.

This expression of appreciation to our local public safety workers for their service to Central Texas, which has grown every year since its inception in 1992, raises funds from area businesses and organizations to endow scholarships at Central Texas College for their immediate families.

As a community, we owe a special thanks to the police officers, fire fighters and emergency workers we honor and our sincere appreciation to those who organize Local Heroes Week. The recent tragedies at the World Trade Center in New York and at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia remind us that every day, in every city and county in the country, these men and women put their lives on the line to protect us from harm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these local heroes, in Copperas Cove and Bell County, and across the nation. They define the spirit of public service and we are grateful.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST  
JONN JOSEPH EDMUNDS

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the great state of Wyoming in this House of Representatives.

Nothing reminds me more clearly of the true nature of that honor than each time I look upon the brave men and women who wear the uniforms of America's armed forces.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of these young patriots. Other times I see their dedicated faces in newspaper photos back home to announce their achievements.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

One such photo that I've viewed for the most tragic of reasons pictures Army Specialist Jonn Joseph Edmunds of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Jonn Edmunds was one of two Army Rangers killed on Friday, October 19, 2001, in the crash of a helicopter in Pakistan. Jonn and his fellow Ranger were the first American combat-related deaths of our necessary new war.

Look at this young man's portrait and you'll instantly recognize a fierce determination to be a good warrior, a good American, and a good citizen.

The military men and women defending this nation and its magnificent principles in and around Afghanistan have left their homes in little towns and big cities all across our country to serve us all.

Jonn's treasured home was Cheyenne, Wyoming. He belonged to the Future Business Leaders of America, was a Wyoming Boys State delegate, lettered in academics, and played soccer.

He graduated from East High School in 1999 and quickly joined the Army.

He became a Ranger five months later and was based in Fort Benning, Georgia as a member of the 75th Ranger regiment.

Jonn's promising future was accompanied by a sworn, sincere promise to serve . . . a promise this young man would never dream of breaking . . . a promise that led to this tragic loss.

In a paper written for a high school class a few short years ago, Jonn discussed his plans for a long-term Army career. He said, "I will be contributing to myself as well as for the defense of this country and for the betterment of the world."

No one should doubt that Jonn Edmunds was ready and willing to join the fight against terrorism and to help seek justice for the evils our nation has endured since the September 11 attacks.

His father Donn told reporters, "I'm extremely proud of my son. He was doing what he wanted to do."

I've called Jonn's family to express my grief at their loss. My prayers are with his father Donn and mother Mary, his brother Seth and sister Alyssa, Anne, his wife of less than a year, and his other family members and friends. I pray that the pain of their sorrows will be softened over time by sweet and loving memories.

Despite their terrible loss, Jonn's family has told us all that their support for President Bush and Operation Enduring Freedom remains strong. When I think of Jonn and his family, I am humbled. Every American should be.

And we all should be thankful for this gift of honor and dedication in the name of justice and freedom.

God bless Jonn, his family and friends, and his comrades in arms. And God bless America.

*December 20, 2001*

HONORING MARINE CPL.  
CHRISTOPHER T. CHANDLER

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler—who is without a doubt one of America's finest soldiers who fought in Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Sunday, December 16th, our nation learned that Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler—of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division—lost his leg in a land mine explosion while guarding explosive-clearing teams at the Kandahar International airport in Afghanistan—his mission—to clear unexploded munitions and mines to help launch international humanitarian efforts and other military operations in the area. Injured with Cpl. Chandler were Sgt. Adrian Aranda and Lance Cpl. Nicholas Sovereign, who suffered serious shrapnel wounds in the explosion.

Chandler, a 21-year-old soldier from Aurora, Colorado, entered the Marine Corp. in June 1998, immediately after graduating from Gateway High School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Cpl. Chandler, his parents Kenneth and Rumi, and sister Stephanie in the U.S. House of Representatives. Our nation is forever indebted to Cpl. Chandler for his self-sacrifice and admirable actions taken on Sunday, December 16, 2001—for they will be etched in the memory of America's new war against terrorism and never forgotten.

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL'S  
TRIUMPHANT SEASON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, educating our young people is arguably as important as any issue we deal with not only in the halls of Congress, but also in our everyday lives as parents and as members of our respective communities. Each day, our children learn important lessons in the classroom that will prepare them for the days and years ahead, and we must make sure that they are given the tools they need to compete in the 21st Century.

In addition to work in the classroom, another important aspect of the school experience that can play a valuable role in the academic as well as social development of a young person is athletics, teaching the values of teamwork, leadership, dedication and perseverance. In that spirit, I would like to recognize and congratulate a high school football team in my congressional district that exemplified those qualities, the Warren High School Lumberjacks in Warren, Arkansas, who recently won their school's first AAA Boys High School State Football Championship.

The Lumberjacks captured the championship in a thrilling 45–39 victory over the defending state champion, punctuating a perfect