

COMMENDING BERNARD RYAN
FOR EXEMPLARY CIVIC IN-
VOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Mr. Bernard ("Bernie") Ryan of the City of Buffalo who has been selected by the United Irish-American Association to lead The Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2005 as this year's Grand Marshal.

First held on March 17, 1913, the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade pays tribute to the patron Saint of Ireland and after a short interruption from 1917–1935, the parade has been held every year since 1935, with the exception of the World War II years (1942–1945).

Buffalo, New York, like many other communities throughout the United States, has a large Irish American population and the St. Patrick's Day parade offers Irish Americans along with people from all ethnic backgrounds, an opportunity to celebrate one component of our rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Every year, thousands of people flock to Delaware Avenue in Downtown Buffalo to cheer on fellow citizens, Irish dancers, bands, and civic organizations who march in honor of St. Patrick.

The UIAA's election of Bernie Ryan as this year's Grand Marshal marks a proud moment for Bernie and his family, wife Karen and children Kathleen and Bernard Jay as Bernie embarks upon this once in a lifetime journey.

Four generations have worn the top hat and carried the blackthorn that belonged to Mike Quinn, Buffalo's first grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade back in 1913.

Bernie Ryan joins the ranks of other distinguished grand marshals and is honored for a lifetime of exemplary civic involvement.

Bernard served in the U.S. Army on a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon return, he dedicated himself to family, work and community. He has had a 35 year career at Freezer Queen Foods where he has risen to the position of Controller. He is an active parishioner at St. Martin's Church in South Buffalo where neighborhoods are distinguished not by streets but by the parish to which you belong.

Bernie has always been particularly involved with various Irish organizations. Whether with the Irish Dancing School with whom his daughter Katie was a student, as a Board Member of the Gaelic American Athletic Association or as a member of the Parade Committee, Bernie's presence and commitment is unwavering.

Bernie is proud of his heritage and understands the importance of preserving our unique history as a community. I am proud to call Bernie Ryan my friend and I am pleased to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE LANDON
S. GILES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private Landon S. Giles, who died on February 26, 2005, in Iraq. Landon was just 19 years old and from Arkadelphia, Arkansas. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Landon graduated from Arkadelphia High School in May 2004, and left for the army the very next month to serve as an indirect fire infantryman. Landon was assigned to the Army's 6th Squadron, 8th Cav. Reg., 4th Bde., 3rd Inf. Div. based at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Landon had a thirst for playing sports and seeking new adventures. He played football in Junior High School, soccer at Arkadelphia High School, he loved to ski and snowboard, he played in local youth league baseball programs, and became a certified scuba diver at the age of 12. He went deep-sea fishing off the coast of Australia, surfed in Hawaii, rode an elephant through parts of Thailand, and even went on a jungle safari.

Joining the army and fighting for his country in Iraq, his family says, was Landon's next life adventure. While his family did not want him to go, there was no stopping Landon once his heart and mind seized upon an idea. He told his sister, Jenny, it was better for him to go than for a man with a wife and children. Landon heard news reports about the human rights violations occurring in Iraq and wanted to help people who were unable to help themselves.

Landon gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a brother, son, hero, and friend. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Kim Giles; his father, Alan; two sisters, Jo Ann and Jennifer; stepmother, Cynthia Kay Giles; two step-sisters, Angela and Alana Giles; and a step-brother, Jeremy Giles. I know Landon was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew and counted him as a friend.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE CERTIFI-
CATION OF IMET FOR INDONESIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the certification of International Military Education and Training (IMET) for Indonesia by Secretary Rice. Since 2004, Foreign Operations Appropriations legislation has indicated that the Secretary of State must determine if Indonesia is eligible to receive IMET funds. According to the law, what determines eligibility is the cooperation of the Indonesian government and armed forces with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation into the August 31, 2002 murders of two American

citizens and one Indonesian citizen in Timika, Indonesia. Last year, then-Deputy Secretary of State Armitage defined "cooperation" in the Freeport killings as seeing the case through to "its exhaustion."

Yet the present Secretary of State has indicated that she has certified IMET for Indonesia, despite the fact that the Indonesian authorities have not "cooperated" by any definition of the term. In July 2004, when U.S. investigators notified Indonesian police that they were willing to return to Indonesia to assist in apprehending the only person thus far indicted by a U.S. grand jury, Anthonius Wamang, it took the Indonesian police well over 6 months to respond. Furthermore, Indonesian authorities have not indicted or apprehended Wamang or anyone else. For the first 6 months after the indictment was unsealed in June 2004, Indonesian police did not inform U.S. investigators as to what they were doing in the investigation.

The cooperation—or lack thereof—of the Indonesian government and armed forces with the FBI investigation is further complicated by the initial Indonesian police report, as well as NGO and media investigations, which pointed to Indonesian military involvement in the attack. Wamang also admitted ties to the notorious Special Forces Kopassus in a video interview broadcast in Australia.

Providing IMET now will remove the key U.S. leverage to assure justice is done in the Timika case, on the eve of the return of the FBI team to Indonesia.

Congress prohibited full IMET for Indonesia for years because of its extremely poor human rights record. Indonesia has yet to fulfill these previous conditions on IMET, and human rights violations, especially in Aceh and West Papua, continue.

Furthermore, there has been no justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in 1999 in East Timor. The few Indonesian trials were a whitewash; not one Indonesian officer has been held accountable. Indonesia refuses to extradite anyone, including senior military officers, indicted in a separate and credible UN-East Timor justice process. On top of that, there are increasing reports of militia infiltration into East Timor from Indonesia.

The Indonesian armed forces—TNI—are massively corrupt and have direct ties to terrorist groups. The TNI engages in drug running, illegal logging, extortion of U.S. and other domestic and foreign firms, and human trafficking, among others. A number of Islamic jihadist militia that have terrorized and killed thousands within Indonesia collaborate with and are even empowered by the TNI. The TNI operates a shadow government extending from the central government down to the village level. It continues to resist subordination to civilian authority and is a threat to democracy in Indonesia.

While the amount of money for IMET may be small, it has tremendous symbolic value. The Indonesian military will view any restoration of IMET as an endorsement of business as usual, not as a reward for extremely limited reforms.