

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER  
ANDREA BISIGNANI

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**  
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer (FSO) Andrea Bisignani.

FS2 Andrea Bisignani, a Food Service Specialist on the Coast Guard Cutter *James Rankin*, is being honored as the 2005 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani has consistently demonstrated a high level of performance throughout this past year in her job as a Food Service Specialist. Her untiring efforts and steadfast commitment to her shipmates on the CGC *James Rankin* has made her a prime candidate for this honor. Those that nominated her for this award cited her leadership and high level of performance as a key factor in the CGC *James Rankin* being selected for the Dining Faculty of the Year (Afloat-Small category), and also resulted in her selection as Food Service Specialist of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani's accomplishments this year have gone above and beyond the criteria for election of these prestigious honors in the food service rating alone. Her professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm have had a significant and positive impact on the degree of mission success and high state of morale that exists on board the CGC *James Rankin*.

FS2 Bisignani has risen to the demands and challenges of the working environment aboard the CGC *James Rankin*, and has not only excelled tremendously in the food service area, but has also lived up to the high standards, which are expected of every crewmember on board. She has thrived in her demanding role as FSO and has been able to accomplish a great deal because of that.

FS2 Bisignani has volunteered much of her time and energy to the members of the CGC *James Rankin*. She assists and encourages every member in maintaining a healthy lifestyle; is 100 percent customer focused and concerned for the well-being of all crew members; and has taken on more responsibilities than required in order to ensure everything runs well on the ship. FS2 Bisignani has gone above and beyond in her responsibilities to ensure the members on board the CGC *James Rankin* are happy and healthy, and her dedication is evident to all that have the privilege to work with her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking FS2 Andrea Bisignani for her service and honoring her for being named the 2005 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RETIRED MASTER SERGEANT JOHN IRVIN ROWLAND

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Master Sergeant John Irvin

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Rowland of Montross, Va., who died on March 6th at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke at the age of 87. John's daughter, Michelle served on my staff and Michelle often spoke of her father and his commitment to his country.

Sgt. Rowland was born September 1, 1917 in Fayette, Alabama and spent most of his childhood in Westbrook, Texas. After graduating from Westbrook High School in 1934, he worked the oil fields of Western Texas for Standard Oil.

John Rowland enlisted in the Army in 1940 and served with the 36th ID, 142nd Infantry, Antitank Company (the T-Patchers) until June 1945. In World War II, he fought with allied forces in the Italian/Southern France campaigns and was awarded his first Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for injuries he received while fighting in France. While in Germany, his unit liberated German concentration camps Dachau, Hurlach and Landsberg, and captured Nazi Luftwaffe Commander and war criminal, Hermann Goering. At the end of the war, he returned to Texas and continued working for Standard Oil.

But when his country needed him again, John re-enlisted in the Army and earned his second Bronze Star fighting in Korea. Following his training at the Intelligence School at Fort Hollabird in 1951, he served as a special agent in the Army Intelligence Corps in both Okinawa and then Berlin. He was one of the first Americans to observe East German activity as they began construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. In Berlin, he met Ingrid Anna Zilenski and the two were married on December 30, 1962 and shortly thereafter retired from the Army and returned to Monahans, Texas.

After his discharge, he attended electrician training at the National Technical School in Los Angeles. In 1964, John took a job with the Social Security Administration in San Francisco and then for the Department of Defense in Philadelphia. He would eventually retire in 1984 from the DoD Logistics Agency where he inspected security systems for DoD contractors.

In all of his 40 years of service to our country, Sgt. John Rowland exemplified the virtues of honor, dignity, and leadership. He is being buried today at Arlington National Cemetery and I join the Rowland family in mourning Sgt. Rowland's passing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall votes 66, 67 and 68.

*March 17, 2005*

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF JUDI KANTER

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the women of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I am proud to pay tribute to our friend Judi Kanter on her retirement from EMILY's List. It is a pleasure and an honor to recognize Judi Kanter for fifteen years of outstanding work with EMILY's List, where she has been a leader in changing the face of politics today. She has truly made a difference in our lives and in the political life of our nation. Judi's work will have a lasting impact on the face of power in California.

Judi Kanter's tenure with EMILY's List began in the Bay Area and Northern California where she concentrated on expanding EMILY's List's presence and membership base. Over the years, however, her influence and reach grew exponentially. From San Diego to the Central Valley, from Los Angeles to Sacramento, Judi has become a key ally of pro-choice Democratic women.

The fruits of Judi's hard work are most evident with the development of the EMILY's List Majority Council, a powerful network of committed and generous activists. Through the Majority Council Judi has devoted her immense talents to supporting women candidates, helping them organize strong campaigns, and mobilizing women voters to elect progressive women.

The clearest example of Judi's effectiveness is the changing face of our Congressional delegation. When Judi began at EMILY's List in 1989 there were only seventeen women in the U.S. Congress. Today, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation alone includes two female Senators and eighteen women Members of Congress. There are a total of eighty-three women in Congress. And we know that Judi is as proud as we are that California's Democratic women in Congress represent the richness of California's diversity in background and political persuasion.

Outside the political arena, Judi has been an equally strong advocate for women. She serves on the board of the Family Violence Prevention Fund and other nonprofit organizations that empower women in our society. She has an unmatched talent for getting people involved and inspiring them to act.

Judi Kanter is smart, tough and elegant. She is a model for the women she inspires. For fifteen years, she has devoted herself to cultivating and investing in the next generation of pro-choice Democratic women leaders.

My colleagues NANCY PELOSI, LOIS CAPPS, SUSAN DAVIS, ANNA ESHOO, JANE HARMAN, BARBARA LEE, DORIS MATSUI, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, LINDA SANCHEZ, LORETTA SANCHEZ, HILDA SOLIS, ELLEN TAUSCHER, MAXINE WATERS, DIANE WATSON and LYNN WOOLSEY join me in thanking Judi for her support, encouragement and friendship over so many years. We are proud that she

will still serve EMILY's List in an advisory capacity, and offer her our best wishes as she begins this new chapter in her life.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH—  
MARCH, 2005

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and to all of our constituents across the Nation that March, 2005, is National Eye Donor Month. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, I have long been a champion of the cause of donation and particularly the needs of our nation's eye banks. But it was a special honor to be asked this year to participate in this proclamation, for 2005 marks the centennial of the first corneal transplant performed in 1905 by Dr. Eduard Zirm.

Since Dr. Zirm performed that first corneal transplant one hundred years ago, and in partnership since 1944 with our nation's eye banks, we have made tremendous progress. Each year in the United States, more than 46,000 people, ranging in age from nine days to 107 years old, have had their sight restored through corneal transplants, and hundreds of thousands are helped through important research to find cures for other blinding diseases.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The purpose of Eye Donor Month is to educate each and every American individual and family about giving the gift of sight and to make a terrific difference in someone's life. This month marks an opportunity to raise public aware-

ness and to honor past donors and their families. The process to become a donor takes just a few minutes. All donors need to do is to sign a card, and, most importantly, discuss their donation wishes with their families. Our eye banks across the nation, in partnership with the Eye Bank Association of America, will continue to work to ensure that all Americans will receive the tissue they need and that this tissue will be safe and effective.

As National Eye Donor Month proceeds, I encourage my colleagues to work with their local eye banks to increase awareness of corneal transplantation and the continuous need for donors, and I encourage all Americans to sign a donor card and speak with their families about their desire to give the gift of sight.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, in December, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress announced its intention to include an "anti-secession law" in its legislative agenda. This law would define China and Taiwan as a unified country, and unilaterally change mainland China's legal approach to status of Taiwan. This is an unwelcome and provocative action that would increase, rather than calm, tensions in the region.

In 1949, China and Taiwan were separated by civil war, each establishing its own form of government. Taiwan has never been a part of the People's Republic of China, much to the dismay of Beijing.

If the legislation passes, Beijing will be usurping all diplomatic efforts and simply de-

claring that its desired outcome is the only acceptable alternative to the current impasse. China has been claiming that this legislation is a reflection of its sincere desire to solve this dispute peacefully, and to maintain Taiwan's stability and prosperity. But Beijing real motivation is clear: China is laying the legal groundwork for forcible unification. And far from solving the dispute peacefully, passage of this law is tantamount to a demand. If unification is to occur, it must be through peaceful negotiation and without the threat of military action.

Understandably, the Taiwanese people are alarmed by China's action. Self-ruled Taiwan cannot be expected to accept such an affront to the legitimacy of its government and the self-determination of the Taiwanese people. Taiwan's government has said that if the anti-secession law passes, Taiwan would be forced to respond with a law against annexation by the People's Republic of China. This is entirely reasonable, as any free people would affirm their opposition to the imperialistic claims of another power.

Our country must make its deep displeasure with an "anti-secession law" known to the world and, most specifically, to the Communist leaders on the mainland. In The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States committed to aiding Taiwan against any unilateral attempt by China to unify Taiwan with the mainland. This responsibility is not only a legal one. Taiwan is a budding democracy, and the people have participated in multi-party democratic elections since 1996. By contrast, China is a repressive regime that denies its citizens the essential freedoms of religion, political dissent and representative self-government. It is our responsibility, morally and legally, to stand with Taiwan against Communist aggression and unsound Chinese law.