

RECOGNIZING WWII PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT LEO HANSON OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Leo C. Hanson, a native of the Buffalo, NY, area who served with honor and distinction during World War II. Drafted into the United States Army on January 6, 1940, Mr. Hanson earned the Purple Heart for wounds received in battle.

Discharged on June 16, 1945, Mr. Hanson completed his military service holding the rank of staff sergeant. Since then he has continued to support his fellow soldiers by working with veterans' service organizations. Mr. Hanson is a lifetime member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

His unit served under Gen. George Patton, one of the most famous American generals of all time. A tank commander, Mr. Hanson served in the Algeria and French Morocco campaigns in Northern Africa. He also served in Normandy, Sicily, Northern France and Rhineland. His Purple Heart was bestowed for wounds to his arm received at Omaha Beach, and to his leg while in Normandy. Despite these injuries, Mr. Hanson continued to engage the enemy in battle and fight for the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, soldiers like Leo C. Hanson should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to have presented Mr. Hanson with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a school in my district for their academic excellence in being named a Blue Ribbon School.

The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; or schools whose students regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

St. Thomas More Parish School met the criteria for this award because it ranks in the top 10 percent of the nation in ITBS scores. This is the first time this Catholic school has received this honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the students of St. Thomas More Parish School as recipients of the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 517, H.R. 3085, To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL ANGELO VACCARO TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Corporal Angelo Vaccaro, 23, who died in a heroic effort to aid his fellow comrades while serving our Nation in Afghanistan.

Prior to joining the Army, Angelo was born in the Bronx, NY, and spent his childhood living in Deltona, Florida, attending Timbercrest Elementary, Galaxy Middle and Deltona High schools. His dream was to become a physician's assistant. His mother remembers him affectionately as someone who liked to make people smile and laugh.

Angelo enlisted in the Army in March 2004 and was assigned and deployed to Afghanistan with Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Drum, NY. He was the head medic for his unit and took pride in serving our country.

We should all remember Angelo's heroic courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy that Corporal Angelo Vaccaro leaves behind. He is buried in Deltona, Florida.

To Angelo's wife, Dana; his parents, Ray and Linda; and his entire family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our Nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES CLARK AS "FRIEND OF YOUTH" HONOR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Clark for his commit-

ment to the students, faculty, and alumni of Trinity High School of Euless, Texas, where he has served as Lead Custodian for over 14 years. I also congratulate Mr. Clark on being recognized as a true "Friend of Youth" by the Mid-Cities Optimist Club in the 26th District of Texas.

Mr. Clark began working for the Hurst-Euless-Bedford School District as a night custodian, and began his own custodial business to provide for his son's college education. After his son graduated from college, Mr. Clark closed his business and took a position as Lead Custodian to make a difference in other students' lives.

A caring and honorable man, Mr. Clark serves as a role model and mentor for all those who pass through Trinity High School. He supports the school by attending students' athletic and fine arts events. When students visit years after graduation, they continue to seek out "Uncle Charles."

Mr. Clark has been honored with the H-E-B School District's "Extra Mile Award," given to school district support personnel who go above and beyond what their job requires of them.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated his boyhood home in Mississippi, Mr. Clark organized a collection drive at the school for water and cleaning supplies, and delivered them personally to Mississippi. Mr. Clark and his wife Ellen of 37 years have raised a deeply spiritual, loving family in Fort Worth, Texas since 1967.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent a man so selfless and dedicated to serving youth as Mr. Charles Clark. Congratulations to Mr. Clark for being recognized as a "Friend of Youth" by the Mid-Cities Optimist Club.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN PICCARELLA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Stephen Piccarella of Jackson Heights, New York. I wish to recognize Stephen for his Short Story, Silver Award win in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the Nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Stephen best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.