

Justice Ortique was a man of community, of faith and of family. He was a man who loved justice and pursued it for himself and others his entire life. Our Nation is better for his service, his leadership and his commitment to his country. We pray God's comfort for his wife of over 60 years, Miriam; his daughter, Rhessa; and her husband, Alden; and his grandchildren, Chip, Heidi, and Todd.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL
INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and call attention to one example of important NIH-supported research being conducted through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIDCD.

Of the five standard senses—sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—hearing is the one that people are most likely to lose. Approximately 32 million American adults have some form of hearing loss, ranging from mild to profound. Loss of hearing can occur at any age. Between two to three out of every 1,000 infants in this country are born deaf or hard of hearing. This impairment can make it difficult for a child to learn and adversely affect his or her social and emotional development. Older adults can experience social isolation and depression. Needed supportive care and services can be very costly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the average lifetime costs for one individual with hearing loss is \$417,000. These costs include direct medical costs such as doctor visits, direct nonmedical expenses such as special education, and indirect costs such as lost wages when a person cannot work due to hearing loss.

With NIH funding, scientists have made tremendous strides during the past decade in understanding the basic biology that underlies hearing loss. Research has already led to the development of the cochlear implant which helps people with certain types of hearing loss understand speech and other sounds. Researchers are also exploring the possibility of regenerating cochlear hair cells in humans; the destruction of these hair cells is the primary factor in most cases of hearing loss. Before, it was assumed that damaged cochlear hair cells could not regenerate in people and other mammals. However, in 2005, NIH-funded research has enabled scientists to identify a gene that may one day enable hair cells to regenerate in mammals.

These findings indicate exciting new possibilities for hearing loss treatments by regenerating the hair cells that transform and send sound waves as electrical signals to the brain, thus making it possible to hear better. In addition, there are new technologies on the horizon for diagnosing hearing loss in infants, thus enabling hearing-impaired children to receive early intervention that can help them develop language skills similar to that of their peers.

For example, scientists and clinicians working collaboratively at the Boys Town National Research Hospital with the support of NIDCD developed an approach for testing the hearing mechanism of infants in a matter of minutes in the first days of life. This technology is now in widespread use in many birthing hospitals in the U.S. as part of their universal newborn hearing screening programs.

This is but a few examples of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING JAKE MILLER,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 HOUSE
FELLOWS PROGRAM FROM THE
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Jake Miller, on his acceptance of the 2008 House Fellows Program from the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

The House Fellows Program, an initiative created three years ago by the Office of the Historian, extends the opportunity for high school Social Studies teachers to visit Washington, D.C. in order to learn, first hand, the intricate structure and proceedings of the U.S. House of Representatives. The program brings together twelve teachers during this week-long workshop, from June 23–27, 2008, selected from Congressional Districts throughout the country.

The purpose of this program is to advance the knowledge of the history and practices of "The People's Branch" so that the selected teachers can bring back an enriched understanding of the legislative process. While the focus of the program is Congress, the Fellows will also participate in conferences at the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress. These teachers will then be able to take these details they learn back to their students.

Jake Miller is recipient of this honor from our 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. He is a resident of Summit Hill and is a teacher at Panther Valley High School located in Lansford. As a teacher at the high school, Jake instructs freshman in U.S. government and seniors in economics. To help aid his professional development as a teacher, Jake tutored students in biology, algebra, and literature and co-founded an organization that assisted in registering and counseling individuals on the voting process. When he is not supporting students in the classroom, he is the faculty advisor for numerous student activities including student council and yearbook.

Additionally, Jake worked for Pennsylvania State Senator John Gordner where Jake coordinated various activities in Senator Gordner's office including issues pertaining to schools within the state. The knowledge gained by this professional experience un-

doubtedly has a positively impacted on the lessons he passes on to his students in the classroom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jake Miller on his acceptance to the competitive House Fellows Program. His commitment to education, the government and his community greatly benefits his own students and those throughout the Pennsylvania educational system.

A TRIBUTE TO MAURICE
CALDERON, A TRUE CIVIC LEADER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved community leader in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, and one of the most caring individuals I have ever known, Maurice Calderon of Banning, California.

The son of a laborer, Maurice Calderon is a shining example of living the American dream to the fullest. He began with night classes at the local community college and an entry-level job as a teller at Redlands Savings and Loan. His long career led him to become the senior vice president for governmental affairs and community development with Arrowhead Credit Union, which he helped to become a community institution.

Even as he was beginning his career, Maurice became the first Hispanic elected official in the city when he won a seat on the Banning Unified School District board in 1967. He served for nine years, becoming a champion of educational opportunities for the large Hispanic community. He later was elected as a trustee of the Mt. San Jacinto Community College District, serving for another nine years.

His community involvement has been legendary. He has served on the foundation boards for the University of California, Riverside and California State University, San Bernardino. He was a leading member of the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Inland Empire African American Chamber of Commerce and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership. He served as president of Sinfonia Mexicana and Chairman of the Inland Empire Hispanic Leadership Council.

The list of his commitments to his community is impressive, but it does not do justice to the depth of Maurice's involvement. When he takes an interest in an organization, he brings a warmth and dedication that quickly make Maurice one of the most valued members. He has been a civic-minded connection tying all these groups together and making them all more effective.

He has also helped Arrowhead Credit Union become a force for bringing the American dream to minority and working class neighborhoods throughout the Inland Empire. He led the drive to open the first banking office in the African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods in west San Bernardino. The credit union has been honored for its minority outreach programs.

For his efforts, Maurice has received accolades from numerous cities and the two counties. He has had Banning street named in

honor of his family. In 2004, he received the Ohtli Award, the highest recognition granted by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs to members of the Mexican American Community. He is in the Southern California Native American and Latino Hall of Fame.

His devotion to his children and grandchildren has earned him honors as the Father of the Year. He and wife Dorothy—a community spirit in her own right—have spent 47 years together and in service to the Inland Empire.

Madam Speaker, Maurice Calderon is retiring from his position with the credit union, but will most certainly remain active in his many other roles. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for his decades as a community leader, and wish him and Dorothy well in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, June 24, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Adjourn, the Motion to Adjourn, and H.R. 6331. Had I been present for rollcall No. 441 on the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 442 on the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 443 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, I would have voted "aye."

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW FRANCIS WHITACRE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who served his country bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Lance Corporal Andrew Whitacre of Bryant, Indiana, one of two Marines who perished while conducting combat operations in southwestern Afghanistan's Farah Province on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

Lance Cpl. Whitacre was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Twentynine Palms, California. He was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where his unit was helping to train the Afghan national police.

The three Marine Corps values are honor, courage and commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. These values, handed down from generation to generation, have made the U.S. Marine Corps the most respected and revered fighting force on earth. Lance Cpl. Whitacre personified these values and continued that proud tradition as a Marine who served his country bravely in combat.

An Infantry Assaultman, part of a gun team attached to his infantry unit, Lance Cpl. Whitacre's stock and trade was demolitions, breaching, and firing shoulder-launched assault weapons. As I'm sure his fellow 2/7 Marines who trusted their lives to his special explosives training would tell you, Lance Cpl. Whitacre was an asset to the Marine Corps, the United States and the American way of life. He will be sorely missed by all.

In addition to any posthumous commendations that he might receive because he died in the line of duty, Lance Cpl. Whitacre was the recipient of six awards since he left for Marine Corps boot camp in July 2005. He earned ribbons for combat action and overseas service, including campaign medals for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lance Cpl. Whitacre. And I wish to express my profound sadness to the community of Bryant, especially his father and stepmother, Ernie and Norma Whitacre; his mother and her fiancée, Susan Nunly and Michael Perry of Dunkirk; his fiancée, Casey McGuire of Parker, Arizona; two brothers, Ryan Murphy of Lancaster, Indiana and Justin Miller of Huntington; one sister, Ashley Williams of Lancaster, Indiana; four grandmothers, Mildred Whitacre of Berne, Caroline Huffman of Kendallville, Beulah Murphy of Bluffton and Mary Scott of Portland; and, many nieces and nephews.

We are all struggling to cope with the tragic loss of this young man, no less because his death follows hard on the heels of another fallen Marine from the Sixth District who was lost less than a week before. Just as Lance Cpl. Whitacre embodied the Marine motto—Semper Fidelis, "Always Faithful"—let us also be faithful to extend a helping hand to his family, friends and community, and remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed one vote, and on Rollcall No. 447 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6327, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SANDI WHITE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Sandi White, Secretary of the Greene County, Iowa Sheriff's Office, and to express my appreciation for her nearly 25 years of public service to her community.

In 1984, Sandi took a part time dispatcher position before taking over the full time grave-

yard shift in 1987. When the secretary's position opened, she jumped at the opportunity and has served in that position until her retirement in February. During her years at the Greene County Sheriff's office, Sandi's hard work has earned her the respect and appreciation of her community.

I commend Sandi White for her many years of loyalty and service to her fellow Iowans. It is an honor to represent Sandi in Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF MR. EUGENE BROWN AND THE NAVY ARMED GUARD DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to more than 144,000 members of the Navy Armed Guard who served during World War II. Their service protecting merchant ships from enemy attack and ensuring needed supplies, ammunition, and troops made it across the world's oceans was an effort that helped lead America and her allies to victory. In 1998, Congress enacted Public Law 105-261, Section 534, stating Congress' "appreciation for service during World War I and World War II by members of the Navy assigned onboard merchant ships as the Naval Armed Guard Service." Today, I would also like to specifically mention one of my constituents, Mr. Eugene George Brown, and thank him for his service in the Navy Armed Guard. Following his entry into the Navy from Queens, New York, Mr. Brown served more than 3 years in the Navy Armed Guard, protecting the *SS ROBIN LOCKSLEY*, *SS FLOMAR*, and *SS MILL SPRING* in the American, Pacific, Asiatic, European, African, and Middle East theaters of World War II. But most importantly, then Seaman First Class George earned the Victory Medal, with its inscription on the obverse—Freedom From Fear and Want; Freedom of Religion and Speech. Mister Speaker, on behalf of the Congress, I wish to thank Mr. Brown and his more than 144,000 shipmates of the Navy Armed Guard during World War II, and pay tribute to the 1,810 who were killed in action. Their service and sacrifice is recognized and appreciated by a grateful Nation.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Chicago-area veterans of World War II who have arrived today on Honor Flight Chicago to visit the memorial that is dedicated to them, and to celebrate the country that they helped define.