

TRIBUTE TO FIFTH AND SIXTH
GRADERS AT BERLIN MEMORIAL
SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fifth and sixth grade students and faculty members at the Berlin Memorial School. In memory and recognition of the thousands of men and women who have bravely served our country, they are holding a special Veteran's Day program on November 2, 2001.

The students, teachers, and Principal Ellen Power have dedicated a lot of time and energy into making the program a truly special event. The students have learned more about our veterans by interviewing men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Many of the students have chosen to interview grandparents and other family members and in doing so have learned so much about, not only their country, but about their own family as well.

This program has enabled the community of Berlin to come together and celebrate Veteran's Day with posters and displays involving the students, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the school band and the veterans. Berlin Postmaster Heidi Salmon will unveil the new U.S. Veteran's Day Postage Stamp as well. The program will be a fitting tribute to those that have served.

It is with great pride that I recognize the students and faculty at the Berlin Memorial School for all of their effort and hard work in honoring our veteran's and the dedication they have made to our country.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN TIM
WILLIFORD

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here to pay tribute to the work of Captain Tim Williford who serves in the Florida division of the Salvation Army. In the wake of the September 11th attacks, he was called upon to assist his country. From September 20th until October 2nd, Captain Williford served his nation by overseeing food distribution at a portion of the Pentagon crash site called Camp Unity. He also assisted the rescue workers at the site by procuring any supplies that they might need.

For the past ten years, Captain Williford has helped those affected by disaster by serving as a member of the Salvation Army's Disaster Emergency Response Team (DERT). As a member of this team, he is called upon to assist anyone affected by crises. He has served in the aftermath of disasters such as the ValuJet crash in Southern Florida, as well as floods, fires, tornados, and hurricanes.

In order to fully capture Captain Williford's amazing contribution to the Pentagon relief effort, I would like to submit an article written by reporter Joy Davis-Platt of the *Hernando Times*, published on October 15, 2001.

SALVATION ARMY HAILS CAPTAIN'S
HOMECOMING

(By Joy Davis-Platt)

BROOKSVILLE.—Complete with an all-American picnic in the park, Hernando County's Salvation Army welcomed home one of its own on Sunday.

Capt. Tim Williford, head of the Salvation Army's Hernando County corps, recently spent two weeks in Washington, D.C., helping with terrorism relief efforts.

Besides returning to his wife, Denise, and daughters, Lindsey, 7, and Caitlyn, 2, on Oct. 2, Williford came back to the congregation at the Salvation Army's church where he preaches. "The support I've gotten has been really great," said Williford, who is expected to receive a proclamation from Hernando County commissioners and a congressional recognition from U.S. Representative KAREN THURMAN. "The support and thanks were more than I could have ever imagined."

Standing on the park's white band shell, Williford recounted the time he spent in the nation's capital helping to keep six mobile canteen trucks stocked and ready to feed 6,000 relief workers three meals a day.

After several days of helping feed relief workers, Williford's assignment changed to procurement.

Much like the Grape Nehi-drinking Cpl. Walter "Radar" O'Reilly in the television series *M.A.S.H.*, Williford said he was charged with finding all manner of necessary items for law enforcement and military personnel. During his tour, he scrounged everything from tool belts to sunglasses to industrial fans.

"People started calling me Radar," he said. "Anything they told me to get, I'd find a way to go out and get it."

Unlike other disasters during which he has joined relief efforts such as the storm of March 1993 and the ValuJet crash in South Florida, Williford said this assignment left him and his family feeling apprehensive.

When his daughters ask if he is going to fight in a war, Williford, 38, said he tells them he is too old to fight in battle, but not too old to do his part. Their part, he tells them, is to support him and wait for him to come home.

"This one is much more emotional," said Williford's wife, Denise, who is also a captain with the Salvation Army. "It's not like any other natural disaster."

Williford expects to be called to help with recovery efforts in New York sometime after Easter. When he goes, his wife said, she will take care of things at home.

"We're preparing for that," she said. "That's all we can do."

Salvation Army volunteer Les Varwig was up at 4 a.m. on Sunday making sure the turkey was ready for the afternoon picnic. During his two years in Brooksville, Williford has gained the love and admiration of his congregation, Varwig said.

"We are all awfully proud of the captain," he said. "He's a real go-getter."

For three years, Salvation Army volunteer Harriet Varwig has helped out with local emergencies like sinkholes and fires and said she understands why Williford feels compelled to help.

"It's such a blessing to be able to help people," she said. "In many ways, we get more out of it than the people we serve."

Williford said the image that will stay with him is of the Washington Monument lit against the nighttime sky. Nearby, the Pentagon building was lit with bright lights while investigators continued their efforts into the night.

"Driving past, there was a moment when the monument looked as if it was rising out of that gaping hole in the side of the Pen-

tagon," he said. "It was the ultimate symbol of power next to the ultimate symbol of freedom. That's when you see what the cost of freedom really is."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this man, who stepped in to help others in need. Captain Tim Williford truly represents the very best of our great, loving, kind, and giving nation.

APPLAUDING THE GAO

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, The challenges this country has faced in recent months are unlike any in our history, and have called on all Americans to answer challenges they never expected to face. The GAO and its employees have performed above and beyond their mission, and deserve Congressional recognition. I encourage my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts.

The GAO website states that it "exists to support the Congress in meeting its Constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and accountability of the federal government for the American people. GAO examines the use of public funds, evaluates federal programs and activities, and provides analyses, options, recommendations, and other assistance to help the Congress make effective oversight, policy, and funding decisions. In this context, GAO works to continuously improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the federal government through financial audits, program reviews and evaluations, analyses, legal opinions, investigations, and other services."

The service the GAO and its employees have provided likely goes far beyond what was ever imagined by "other services". In these past few weeks, 130 Members of the House of Representatives, various House Committees and their staffs have been relocated from their offices in the Longworth House Office Building. In order to create space for these displaced Congressional offices, hundreds of GAO employees have been moved. In allowing Congressional staffs into their personal offices, these public servants have significantly inconvenienced themselves, sacrificing some of their personal space to further their commitment to good governance.

My staff and I would especially like to thank Greg Carroll, Linda L. Harmon, Chet Janik, Patricia J. Manthe, Karia J. Springer-Hamilton, and William Updegraff. We sincerely appreciate what an inconvenience it is to not have access to your own office, and thank them for their efforts, and the efforts of all the GAO, to make us comfortable enough to continue to do our work for the American people.

I would like to thank and publicly recognize the employees of the U.S. General Accounting Office who have been relocated in order to create office space for Congressional members and staff. My staff and I truly appreciate their efforts and are thankful for their dedication to this nation help.