

Nothing reminds me more clearly of the true nature of that honor than each time I look upon the brave men and women who wear the uniforms of America's armed forces.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of these young patriots. Other times I see their dedicated faces in newspaper photos back home to announce their achievements.

One such photo that I've viewed for the most tragic of reasons pictures Army Specialist Jonn Joseph Edmunds of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Jonn Edmunds was one of two Army Rangers killed on Friday, October 19, 2001, in the crash of a helicopter in Pakistan. Jonn and his fellow Ranger were the first American combat-related deaths of our necessary new war.

Look at this young man's portrait and you'll instantly recognize a fierce determination to be a good warrior, a good American, and a good citizen.

The military men and women defending this nation and its magnificent principles in and around Afghanistan have left their homes in little towns and big cities all across our country to serve us all.

Jonn's treasured home was Cheyenne, Wyoming. He belonged to the Future Business Leaders of America, was a Wyoming Boys State delegate, lettered in academics, and played soccer.

He graduated from East High School in 1999 and quickly joined the Army.

He became a Ranger five months later and was based in Fort Benning, Georgia as a member of the 75th Ranger regiment.

Jonn's promising future was accompanied by a sworn, sincere promise to serve . . . a promise this young man would never dream of breaking . . . a promise that led to this tragic loss.

In a paper written for a high school class a few short years ago, Jonn discussed his plans for a long-term Army career. He said, "I will be contributing to myself as well as for the defense of this country and for the betterment of the world."

No one should doubt that Jonn Edmunds was ready and willing to join the fight against terrorism and to help seek justice for the evils our nation has endured since the September 11 attacks.

His father Donn told reporters, "I'm extremely proud of my son. He was doing what he wanted to do."

I've called Jonn's family to express my grief at their loss. My prayers are with his father Donn and mother Mary, his brother Seth and sister Alyssa, Anne, his wife of less than a year, and his other family members and friends. I pray that the pain of their sorrows will be softened over time by sweet and loving memories.

Despite their terrible loss, Jonn's family has told us all that their support for President Bush and Operation Enduring Freedom remains strong. When I think of Jonn and his family, I am humbled. Every American should be.

And we all should be thankful for this gift of honor and dedication in the name of justice and freedom.

God bless Jonn, his family and friends, and his comrades in arms. And God bless America.

HONORING MARINE CPL.  
CHRISTOPHER T. CHANDLER

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler—who is without a doubt one of America's finest soldiers who fought in Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Sunday, December 16th, our nation learned that Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler—of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division—lost his leg in a land mine explosion while guarding explosive-clearing teams at the Kandahar International airport in Afghanistan—his mission—to clear unexploded munitions and mines to help launch international humanitarian efforts and other military operations in the area. Injured with Cpl. Chandler were Sgt. Adrian Aranda and Lance Cpl. Nicholas Sovereign, who suffered serious shrapnel wounds in the explosion.

Chandler, a 21-year-old soldier from Aurora, Colorado, entered the Marine Corp. in June 1998, immediately after graduating from Gateway High School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Cpl. Chandler, his parents Kenneth and Rumi, and sister Stephanie in the U.S. House of Representatives. Our nation is forever indebted to Cpl. Chandler for his self-sacrifice and admirable actions taken on Sunday, December 16, 2001—for they will be etched in the memory of America's new war against terrorism and never forgotten.

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL'S  
TRIUMPHANT SEASON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, educating our young people is arguably as important as any issue we deal with not only in the halls of Congress, but also in our everyday lives as parents and as members of our respective communities. Each day, our children learn important lessons in the classroom that will prepare them for the days and years ahead, and we must make sure that they are given the tools they need to compete in the 21st Century.

In addition to work in the classroom, another important aspect of the school experience that can play a valuable role in the academic as well as social development of a young person is athletics, teaching the values of teamwork, leadership, dedication and perseverance. In that spirit, I would like to recognize and congratulate a high school football team in my congressional district that exemplified those qualities, the Warren High School Lumberjacks in Warren, Arkansas, who recently won their school's first AAA Boys High School State Football Championship.

The Lumberjacks captured the championship in a thrilling 45-39 victory over the defending state champion, punctuating a perfect 15 and 0 season. The game was highlighted

by a gifted performance by a young man named Reid McKinney, who earned honors as the game's most valuable player. McKinney displayed great talent and leadership exemplification of all his teammates on both sides of the ball, throwing three touchdowns and running for three more, including a fumble recovery for a touchdown that sealed the game.

Their impressive 26-year-old head coach, Bo Hembree, led and inspired his team to perform at a championship level throughout the season. With each game, these young men demonstrated amazing hard work, dedication, and character. I commend the entire team and the coaching staff both collectively and as individuals for a remarkable season, and I applaud Coach Hembree for instilling in his players the characteristics of leaders and champions that they will be able to draw from for the rest of their lives.

These students and their success are a tribute to their parents, their school, and the entire Warren community. Not only the coaches and players, but also the band, cheerleaders, students, teachers, and all those who supported this team can take pride in their role in bringing about this accomplishment. I congratulate Warren High School and the city of Warren as they celebrate this momentous achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER  
WILLIAM EBBS

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander William Ebbs, who provided invaluable service to Congress on national security issues for two years as a congressional liaison in the Office of the Navy's Director of Budget, and who will soon be on the front lines of our nation's defense as commander of a submarine.

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, CDR Ebbs enlisted in the Navy in May 1976. He completed boot camp at the Naval Training Center, San Diego and attended Nuclear Power Training at the Naval Training Center, Orlando, Florida. At the completion of his qualification as a nuclear propulsion plant operator, he was assigned to USS *Von Steuben* SSBN 632, a Lafayette class fleet ballistic missile submarine. After four strategic patrols on *Von Steuben*, he was detailed in 1979 as a member of the ship's refueling/overhaul crew. It was during this time that CDR Ebbs applied for and was accepted to participate in the Navy Enlisted Commissioning Program. Under this program, CDR Ebbs attended Auburn University and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Commissioned an Ensign after attending Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, CDR Ebbs was designated a submarine officer and assigned to the USS *Key West* SSN 722, then the Navy's newest Los Angeles Class Fast Attack submarine. During this time, the Commander, Submarine Squadron Eight, recognized him as the "1989 Junior Officer of the Year."

After a tour in the Manpower division on the Staff of the Commander, Submarine Force, US Atlantic Fleet, he attended the Submarine

Office Advanced Course and was assigned as the Chief Engineer on USS *Atlanta* SSN 712, a Los Angeles class submarine stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

Following a tour as the submarine special operations officer at the United States Atlantic Command, CDR Ebbs was assigned as Executive Officer of USS *West Virginia* SSGN 736, a Trident class Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine stationed in Kings Bay, Georgia.

In the spring of 1999, CDR Ebbs was assigned to the Office of the Navy's Director of Budget as a Congressional Liaison. During his time as a Congressional Liaison, CDR Ebbs provided invaluable support to me, the Appropriations Committee, and the various Members and personal staff of the Subcommittee on Defense. He displayed a unique ability to explain complex military requirements in the context of an appropriations framework, serving this Committee well and reflecting great credit on the Department of the Navy. CDR Ebbs left the Office of the Navy's Director of Budget earlier this year for a new assignment.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor to inform the Members of the Committee and the Congress that on January 11, 2002, CDR William Ebbs will take Command of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine USS *Louisiana* stationed in Kings Bay, Georgia. We thank him, his wife Patricia, and their boys Arthur and Parker, for their years of service and sacrifice. We wish William God's speed and protection.

HONORING DR. THEODORE LORING,  
M.D., OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Theodore W. Loring of Humboldt County, California, who is being honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Redwood Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Loring served his country in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1948, attaining the rank of Captain. In 1951, he began his obstetrics practice in Eureka, California, and since that time he has delivered over 5,000 babies in the community. He and his wife Ruth have raised four fine sons of their own and enjoy five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Loring has consistently gone beyond the call of duty to serve his profession. He is the founder and past President of the Humboldt Del Norte Foundation for Medical Care. He has held a variety of offices with the California Medical Society, including Secretary, Councillor, Member of the House of Delegates, Program Planner and Moderator and Chairman of the OB-GYN section. He has served with distinction on the American Medical Association and the Pacific Coast OB-GYN Society. Additionally, Dr. Loring is Chairman and Director Emeritus of the Union Labor Hospital Association Board, and he has served on the Board of Directors of Blue Shield of California and as a Director and Secretary of the Norcal Mutual Insurance Company.

The unparalleled work Dr. Loring accomplished in his professional career is matched by his dedication to service within the commu-

nity. He has been an active member of numerous organizations including the Rotary Club of Eureka, the Boy Scouts of America, Christ Episcopal Church, KEET Public Television and the Salvation Army. His vision, enthusiasm, and commitment are admired throughout Humboldt County.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Theodore W. Loring, M.D. for his leadership and commitment to the well being of the citizens and community of Humboldt County, California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 18, 2001, due to business in my District, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall No. 499, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3379, the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building; and rollcall No. 500 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3054, the True American Heroes Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 499 and 500.

JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE OF  
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

**HON. ALLEN BOYD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the Junior Service League of Panama City, Florida as that group celebrates its 50th anniversary of service to our community. The Junior Service League is a remarkable organization, dedicated to training women for leadership in serving their communities. It is committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The women of Panama City have certainly demonstrated during the past half century that hard work and good spirits can make a powerful difference in the community that we live in.

The Junior Service League of Panama City was founded on October 12, 1951 and had twenty charter members. The founding members' goals were to foster interest in the social, economic, educational, cultural, and civic conditions of the community; to promote the interest of its members in volunteer service to the community; and to work in harmony with the policies of the Association of Junior Leagues. The group began making a strong impact then, and I am proud to report that their work has not only continued but has intensified since that time. The 2000-2001 League year marks the 50th anniversary of this outstanding organization with over 80 active members and over 200 sustainer members still dedicated to the goals established by its charter members.

The largest yearly project for the League is called Child Service Center through which students that are recognized as needing financial

assistance are given new clothing, which is paid for by the League and Target. It is a day of shopping and fun for the children. They are allowed to choose the clothing so that when they put on these new clothes they feel they were a part of the selection and really own the clothes. This obviously helps to foster self-esteem, which is needed with some of these children. With a Fall and Spring Child Service Center, the League was able to clothe 915 students last year. For those not able to attend, the League offered clothing to an additional 199 students.

Volunteer opportunities within the League include: After School Assistance Program (ASAP), Domestic Violence, Kids on the Block (a puppet show used to teach children about domestic violence, handicapped people, or divorce), Teen Court, and Mentorship Program (where a mentor is paired with a student that is not doing well in school). These different volunteer placements change as the needs of the community change.

Mr. Speaker, League members have a strong history as State and community leaders, and I commend the Junior Service League of Panama City for their continuing legacy of service and achievement. I am delighted to congratulate them on its 50th Anniversary and I wish them many more years of successful service to their community.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3423

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here, as a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee to share my strong support for H.R. 3423.

In the days that followed September 11th, the depth of our loss was expressed in the thousands of testimonies of families and friends who lost loved ones in the World Trade Center, Pentagon and plane crash in Pennsylvania. We struggled as a nation to comprehend what had happened and collectively rose to pay tribute to the lives that were ended.

And as stories of these people's lives turned to stories of these people's funerals, we learned of an injustice that had been occurring for years. We learned of Captain Charles Burlingame, the pilot of Flight 77, who served a full reserve career in the Navy. We learned that if he had lived his full God Given life, one not destroyed by terrorist action, he would have been eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery—with all the rights and respect from the U.S. Government he had served so proudly. And yet, because his life ended, before he turned 60, he was denied this honor; an honor for which he surely earned up till the last moment of his life. Today we change this.

We respect the sanctity of Arlington Cemetery's grounds and the special honor it offers those who served our nation with distinction. We recognize the limited burial grounds of the cemetery and so deliberated change to their rules with care. Having done this, we determined that service to one's nation, not age of one's life, should be the ultimate criterion for