

Mr. Brown's contributions will be missed dearly, as he is an irreplaceable member of the community. Mr. Brown was just doing his job as thousands of volunteer firefighters do everyday, sacrificing his life for the overall benefit of the community. It is he and the thousands in his field that we thank and appreciate tremendously.

Travis L. Brown leaves behind a wife Tammy and five children Amanda, Alissa, April, Roth, and James who will all truly miss this fallen hero. Our condolences go out to their family as we again remember his dedication to his community and his family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing a true American hero, Travis L. Brown.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MCKENNIS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute Ann McKennis who later this month will be retiring from nursing after more than 41 years of service. Ann is not only a constituent, but someone I am proud to call my friend.

During her distinguished career in the nursing profession, Ann McKennis has worked tirelessly to assist her patients and community with a selfless commitment to professionalism, excellence, and compassion. She has also made it her goal to advance nursing care for the both the caregiver and patient, alike. Most importantly, what makes Ann a great nurse and special person is that she believes that the role of a nurse is not only devoting hours on the job to the care of patients, but a lifetime role through which she can work to improve the lives of all of those she comes into contact.

Since moving to Texas in 1985, Ann has served as a surgical staff nurse in the Otolaryngology Operating Room of The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. During this time Ann McKennis has not only excelled within the medical environment—demonstrating an unwavering commitment to her patients and co-workers—but also has worked to advance the nursing profession and improve the level of nursing care throughout our state, nation and around the world. She was recently elected to the Nominating Committee of the National Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head Neck Nurses (SOHN) and currently serves as the Chairman of its Government Relations Committee. Additionally, Ann is a member of the American Nurses Association, as well as of the Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Interest Group at the Royal College of Nursing in Great Britain, the International Association of Laryngectomies and the Harper Hospital Alumni Association in Detroit, Michigan.

In Texas, Ann is a member of the Texas Nurses Association and Texas Council of Operating Room Nurses (TCORN); has served three terms as President of the Greater Houston Chapter of SOHN, as well as spending four two-years terms as Chairman of its Legislative Committee; and has served as President of the North Harris County Chapter of the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN), where she also served on three of its committees—Legislative, Research, and Policy.

Ann has also been highly honored for her contributions to the field of nursing. She was awarded the 2001 Brown Foundation Award for Outstanding Nursing Service for her many years of excellence in service to nursing, the 2001 AORN Outstanding Achievement Award for Perioperative Patient Education, the Texas Nurses Association's Outstanding Nurse in the Houston Area for 1993, the SOHN Honor Awards in 1993, 1997, and 1999, and has consistently been recognized as a Who's Who in American Nursing.

However, Ann's talents go beyond nursing. She has received numerous awards for her writing, including first prize at both the 1993 and 1995 SOHN Literary Awards. She has served on the Editorial Boards of several professional nursing journals including AORN Journal, ORL-Head & Neck Nursing, and Nursing Avenues and has published more than twenty-six pieces on nursing technical practice, ethics and care.

Ann continually works in the community performing a variety of tasks to encourage people both young and old the importance of health care in lives—and most notably, working to discourage the use of tobacco products. Among her many activities, she has worked annually at the Houston Rodeo to promote the "Through With Chew" program to diminish the use of smokeless tobacco products and serves as a support team with local laryngectomy patients who have lost their vocal chords due to throat cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Ann McKennis has spent all of her career working to selflessly support and care for others. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ann McKennis much luck in all her future ventures and thanking her for her fine contribution to nursing for more than forty years. However, I am certain her support and compassion are sure to continue long after she retires.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERIC SIMONS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize Mr. Eric Simons of Boulder, Colorado for his tremendous courage and optimism in the face of some of life's most disheartening circumstances. In 1995, Mr. Simons was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and initially suffered many disabling consequences. Today, I wish to commend Mr. Simons on his recovery efforts and convey his inspiring story before this body of Congress.

Mr. Simons has been an avid mountain climber throughout his life and has reached the summit of many of the world's highest peaks. In 1995, Mr. Simons returned home after climbing the prestigious Sandstone Cliffs of Eldorado Canyon when his neck started getting stiff and his body began to go numb. Following this initial attack, Mr. Simons also suffered from organ failure, losing over 40 pounds and much of his previous strength. Once able to climb some of the most rigorous and technical mountains in the world, Mr. Simons found himself unable to climb out of bed.

Undaunted by his deteriorating health, Mr. Simons began to set goals for himself, and re-

mained committed to regaining his strength and energy. First, he began to try simply sitting up and then slowly began attempting to stand. Once on his feet, his next objective was to make it toward the gazebo in his yard and watch his kids play. Finally, he began to gain enough strength to walk around the neighborhood, first with the aid of his son and then finally on his own.

Today, Mr. Simons has regained his strength and has summited many of the world's most technical mountains, including Mt. Rainier (14,441 feet elevation), Mexico's Pico de Orizaba (18,401 feet elevation), and Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,434 feet elevation). He has also been very open about his condition, speaking out, hoping to bring awareness of the disease and to inspire others who are fighting the same illness. Last summer, Mr. Simons led a group of people living with MS on an expedition to Mt. Denali and came very close to summiting the 20,000-foot peak but were prevented due to high winds, brutal cold and deep snow. However, the attempt and accomplishment it represents is the true summit of achievement.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege to recognize Eric Simons before the body of Congress and this nation for his outstanding commitment, optimism, and resolve. Mr. Simons confronted the uncertainties that life presented him and, through sheer determination, has transformed them into his greatest achievement. By meeting this challenge head-on and making defeat an impossibility, Mr. Simons has not only resumed his daily lifestyle but has inspired others with similar difficulties to stay active and continue to live their lives.

SAME SONG AND DANCE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues an editorial from the October 3, 2002, edition of the Lincoln Journal-Star entitled, "Don't Allow Saddam To Play Games."

Saddam has provided no one in the international community with any reason to grant him concessions on the terms of a new U.N. weapons inspections regime, and yet the United Nations continues to acquiesce to Saddam's efforts to block a new weapons inspection regime from having unfettered access to possible weapons sites in Iraq. Indeed, the United Nation's actions only further erode the institution's credibility. When will the U.N. quit allowing itself to be duped by Saddam?

DON'T ALLOW SADDAM TO PLAY GAMES

It's not surprising that Saddam Hussein tried to negotiate his way out of surprise inspections at his palaces. But it is surprising how quickly he got his way with United Nations officials.

And it's even more surprising that U.N. officials would pat themselves on the back for an agreement that granted Saddam such an important concession.

The United States and the rest of the world cannot afford to allow Saddam to play those sorts of games—again.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell summed it up well. "We will not be satisfied with Iraqi half-truths or Iraqi compromises,

or Iraqi efforts to get us back into the same swamp they took the United Nations into."

Access to Saddam eight palaces is crucial because they are large sprawling complexes that cover a combined total of 12 square miles. The sites contain sumptuous living quarters with vistas of man-made lakes and waterfalls. Authorities also suspect they contain bunkers, quite possibly military control centers and perhaps laboratories for experimenting or manufacturing nuclear devices and other weapons of mass destruction.

Before weapons inspectors were pulled out of Iraq, they were permitted to visit the palaces only with advance warning and in the presence of a diplomat. These rules often were stretched so that Iraqis had days to move, conceal or destroy evidence.

In the last two years during which inspectors were active in Iraq, inspectors were barred entry to more than 60 sites. More than 40 of those sites were Saddam's presidential compounds.

Despite the constant delays and harassment, inspectors were successful in finding evidence of four nuclear weapons projects and manufacture of high toxic nerve gas VX.

Their success should have given the United Nations ample reasons to take a strict line with Saddam.

Ultimately his foot-dragging and posturing paid off. He was able to peel away support on the U.N. Security Council for a tough response on inspections. The temporary suspension of weapons inspections stretched into years.

It had not been for the challenge President George W. Bush presented the United Nations earlier this month to force Saddam to live up to its own resolutions, resumption of weapons inspections still would be a forgotten issue.

It's discouraging that United Nations officials seem to have so quickly forgotten their previous misstep with the crafty dictator.

The Bush administration is amply justified in taking a hard line against concessions that would permit Saddam to renew his old tactics. The United Nations has been there and done that. This time is member nations need to insist on inspections that truly are unfettered.

RECOGNIZING APPLAUDING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE ARMY AVIATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, based in Hampton, Georgia, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation is devoted to promoting the history of military aviation. The foundation is an all volunteer non profit organization composed of veterans and civilian supporters acting to connect the American soldier to the American public through the story of Army Aviation. They are not a part of the U.S. Army and receive no governmental funding assistance. Their funding comes entirely from donations made by private individuals and organizations. These volunteers are committed to preserving the aircraft used by our military in securing the freedom we so enjoy as a nation.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation volunteers devote a significant amount of their personal time, resources, and money to bring

the story of our country's military and the legacy of our veterans to the American people through their "living history" programs, displaying and flying World War II, Korean, and Vietnam-era planes and helicopters. These "living history" programs presented at major public venues and air shows are designed to honor our country's military and its' veterans while inspiring the public and giving them a glimpse of military life, service, and devotion to the next generation.

Since 1997, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has devoted more than 150,000 volunteer hours and \$5.3 million in donated funds, aircraft, and equipment in 35 air shows and public presentations to more than 5.5 million people.

The foundation is acting to provide America's veterans a voice with which to tell their story and the tools with which to share their legacy of service and devotion with the American public.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has four primary purposes:

(1) Educate the American public to their military heritage through the story of U.S. Army Aviation's soldiers and machines.

(2) Connect the American soldier to the American public as an active, accepted, and admired member of the American family.

(3) Inspire patriotism and motivate Americans everywhere toward service to their community and country by involving them in our nation's larger military legacy.

(4) Preserve authentic examples of Army aircraft and utilize them in educational "living history" demonstrations and presentations so that the symbols of America's military legacy may always remain in our skies for future generations.

House concurrent Resolution 465 recognizes and applauds the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation for their efforts to educate, connect, inspire, and preserve our proud military heritage for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, and their hundreds of volunteers and supporters, and urge passage of House Concurrent Resolution 465.

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE ACT OF 2002

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5583, "Service-Disabled Veterans' Small Business Federal Procurement Preference Act of 2002." This bill would provide service-disabled veterans and "other handicapped" individuals who own small business firms a time-delimited preference in the award of Federal contracts.

This legislation is clearly needed. While the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 established a 3 percent goal for the award of Federal contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small business firms under the Small Business Act, no practical means exists for Federal agencies to achieve this goal under existing statutory

authorities. Not surprisingly, Federal agencies have failed to achieve the 3 percent goal.

Compared to their non-veteran peers, veterans have postponed the opportunity to begin a small business while serving the nation in uniform. During their military service veterans have forgone establishing essential business credit and contacts which are pivotal to successfully starting a business. Due to their military service, our veterans are technically, an economically disadvantaged group compared to their non-veteran peers. Veterans have willingly sacrificed their lifetime earning potential to serve our nation in uniform. This is particularly so for service-disabled veterans who have sacrificed their mobility, health and well-being serving this country.

Service-disabled veterans are additionally economically disadvantaged given the reluctance of many lenders to extend lines of business credit to handicapped individuals. Regardless of their abilities, when financial institutions perceive a service-disabled veteran to be a greater risk, service-disabled veterans are further disadvantaged. Service-disabled veterans and handicapped individuals, in general, are often perceived by society to be less capable. Like others, service-disabled veterans and handicapped individuals simply need the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities. This legislation provides that opportunity which for many is not otherwise available.

Service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals are discriminated against both in financial markets, relative to their access to capital, and in the marketplace, relative to opportunities to equally compete. It is therefore in this sense, and in no other, that service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals are economically and socially disadvantaged.

To provide service-disabled veterans real opportunity, this legislation provides a time-delimited preference in the award of Federal contracts. The existing statutory vehicle which provides a time-delimited preference is the 8(a) program under the Small Business Act. 8(a) was specifically established to assist economically and socially disadvantaged small business firms compete in the Federal marketplace. This bill adds both service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals to the list of identified individuals presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged under the Small Business Act 8(a) Program.

In order to not lessen the opportunities for individuals already presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged under the Small Business Act 8(a) Program, this legislation retains the existing 5 percent goal for these groups. It also provides a separate 3 percent goal for service-disabled veteran owned small business firms and a separate 2 percent goal for other handicapped individuals. These changes increase the aggregate goal for the award of Federal contracts to socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms to 10 percent.

Paralleling the newly specified goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by both veterans and other handicapped individuals, the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns is increased. The total value of all prime contracts and subcontracts awarded to small business concerns each fiscal year is increased from 23 percent to 28 percent.