

HONORING WESLEY UHLAND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to honor a man who has been wounded on the field of battle while in the service of his nation. Wesley Uhlend, a 26-year-old Army Specialist, is a mechanic who received a bullet to the abdomen after an ambush by Iraqi soldiers. However, doctors have assured Wesley and his family that he will make a full recovery. As he recuperates, I would like to recognize his admirable service before this Congress and this nation today.

Wesley graduated from Canon City High School in 1994 and joined the Army in 2000. He was stationed out of Fort Carson and was deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 11, 2003. As a mechanic, Wesley is responsible for the care and maintenance of tanks, Humvees, and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. During the ambush in which he was shot, four of Wesley's companions were also wounded, though all were lucky enough to survive the incident. Wesley is recuperating in an Iraqi hospital and is to be transferred to Germany before traveling home to Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express the gratitude and respect I feel for Wesley Uhlend. Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties. Today in Iraq, a new generation of young Americans is fighting bravely for the freedom of others. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Wesley Uhlend. This Congress and all Americans should feel proud that we have soldiers like Wesley Uhlend defending our great Nation. Thank you, Wesley, for putting your life on the line to honorably serve our country.

CONDEMNING BURMESE GENERAL
THAN SHWE**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the recent harassment and intimidation of Burmese citizens carried out by General Than Shwe and his military regime. Various attacks have been committed under his command against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy (NLD). This is yet another example of how Than Shwe's regime continues to employ terror and brutality as a means of retaining power over the Burmese people.

While traveling outside of Rangoon recently, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's convoy was attacked by members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), the political arm of Than Shwe's military regime. Yielding machetes, hundreds of USDA members forcibly stopped the convoy, surrounded it, and beat on the doors with their fists and other objects.

Mr. Speaker, in Burma's most recent election, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD

were elected to represent the people of Burma winning 82 percent of the seats in parliament. But Than Shwe has refused to honor their will and let those who have been legitimately elected govern. His military regime continues to systematically abuse the human rights of the Burmese people through its campaign of torture, imprisonment, forced child labor, and murder.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the democracy movement have never resorted to the use of violence despite the savage treatment it receives. In fact, for her peaceful efforts to bring about change, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Sakharov Prize, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD while at the same time increasing political pressure upon Burma's military regime. Democracy must be restored to this country. I would like to thank President Bush for his strong statement to this effect last April and I urge my colleagues to join in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to LARRY COMBEST as he embarks on a new direction in life. Mr. COMBEST has served the people of Texas' 19th district with distinction and honor for almost two decades.

During the last four years, I had the privilege of working with him in his role as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. I can safely say it is probably the most bipartisan committee in Congress. This tradition of bipartisan is long standing, and Mr. COMBEST exemplified this tradition as Chairman.

It is because of his bipartisan leadership that Congress was able to pass a new farm bill last year, garnering a huge bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. It was also during his tenure as Chairman that the Committee passed legislation through Congress to improve university research on agriculture and the federal crop insurance program. It is not a stretch to say that Mr. COMBEST made a significant impact on U.S. agriculture in brief time as Chairman. There can be no doubt that he has been a strong voice in Congress and a consistent advocate for our nation's agriculture community.

LARRY, we wish you and Sharon all the best; and know that your kind of leadership will be sorely missed in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF COVINGTON'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. KEN LUCAS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington's 150th anniversary.

On July 29th, 1853, his Holiness Pope Pius IX issued the papal bull, *Apostolici Miniserii*, establishing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington. For the past 150 years, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington has contributed to and has met the spiritual, academic, and social needs of individuals from childhood through adulthood in Kentucky.

Today, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington consists of forty-seven parishes, six missions, three Catholic hospitals, four homes for the elderly, two residential care facilities for children, three special centers for social services, a retreat center, a diocesan college, seven high schools, two private high schools, twenty-seven diocesan and parochial elementary schools, two private elementary schools, and five diocesan cemeteries. The total Catholic population of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington is over 88,000.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington has been able to use its vast resources to enhance the quality of life for all individuals that live in Northern Kentucky. A portion of what they have been able to do includes assisting those in need through adoption and pregnancy services, counseling services, community and volunteer organizing services, and substance abuse treatment services. The actions of organizations such as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington are what define a community. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this community.

I ask my colleagues to join me to honor the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington which has changed the lives of thousands of Kentuckians throughout the past 150 years.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
JORDAN FERRELL**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as the battle for freedom rages across the globe, the United States has stepped forward to defend the world against tyranny and aggression. This includes sending forth brave men and women to protect the sovereignty that we hold dear. One of these brave souls has been wounded in battle, and his courageous actions and determination deserve the admiration of this body of Congress and of this nation.

Jordan Ferrell, a 19-year-old soldier from Moffat County, Colorado was wounded in the service of his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne, Jordan was wounded by shrapnel when a grenade exploded on the roof of his Jeep. After being injured, Jordan wanted nothing more than to return to active duty, so he began the long road to recovery. I am proud to say that through hard work and determination, Jordan has resumed active duty, and is once again protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

Upon completion of his military service, Jordan wants to pursue a career in computers. His mother hopes he might consider creative writing. Regardless of the profession he chooses, if Jordan displays the same determination and drive, I know he will achieve much success in his life.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice and heroism of this soldier and his family. Jordan has

served his country well, and it is soldiers like him who make the United States military the best in the world. Jordan has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all of my colleagues here today. Thank you, Jordan, for your honorable and admirable service to this nation.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Representative SLAUGHTER and the rest of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Today, the 6th Annual Women in Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus was held at Arlington Cemetery. The purpose is to honor our nation's servicewomen and women veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

I would like to take some time to recognize the five honorees of this ceremony. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

Command Sergeant Major Michele S. Jones, U.S. Army Reserve, has held many leadership positions within the Department of the Army. She entered the Army in September of 1982. As the first woman to serve as class president at the United States Sergeants Major Academy (Class 48), she distinguished herself and went on to be the first woman to serve as the CSM of the Army Reserve.

CSM Jones has held every key NCO position, to include squad leader, section leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major. Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal just to name a few.

Master Chief Petty Officer Darlene M. Gemuend was honored, representing the United States Naval Reserve. She completed Basic Training in January 1978 and went on to attend Personnelman "A" school.

Master Chief Gemuend has served the Navy at a variety of duty stations and capacities. She is currently serving as the Naval Operations Reserve Battle Force Integration Manpower Analyst at the Arlington Navy Annex. Master Chief Gemuend's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Recruiting Excellence Awards and various other service and campaign awards.

Master Sergeant Leandria L. Hollinshead is the superintendent of the Command Post, 347th Rescue Wing, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. She was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for her sustained efforts of Hurricane Elena. From 1990 to 1992 she continued to sharpen her Command and Control skills as Combat Alert Center Controller, King Salmon AFS, Alaska. As the single point of contact between NORAD and the alert aircrews, she was solely responsible to decode

emergency orders, scramble, and launch alert aircraft to intercept Soviet Union air vehicles attempting to penetrate U.S. borders. Following the incident of the USS *Cole*, she deployed to Saudi Arabia to establish theater command post operations for the Commander of the Joint Task Force—Southwest Asia.

Continuing to excel in her professional education, she captured the John L. Levitow award at her NCO Academy graduation in June 1999 and was soon after promoted to Master Sergeant. MSgt Hollinshead is the recipient of the AF Meritorious Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, and the AF Good Conduct Medal.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Carole A. Hawkins enlisted in the Marine Corps in February of 1973. Currently, she is the senior enlisted female in the Marine Corps, and the senior enlisted administrator. Master Gunnery Sergeant Hawkins is assigned as the Administrative Chief for the Personnel Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico, VA.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Hawkins has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Master Chief Linda Reid enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1975. She drilled at Coast Guard Reserve Unit Seattle before moving to the Washington, DC, area in 1977. Master Chief Reid has been with the Coast Guard's Sea Partners Campaign since its beginning in 1994. As director, she oversees policy, budget and operations for this nationwide environmental public outreach program. Master Chief Reid coordinated Coast Guard participation in the 1985, 1989 and 1993 Presidential Inaugurals.

Master Chief Reid was advanced to the grade of Master Chief Petty Officer in May 1993, the first woman in the Storekeeper rating to achieve that rank in the Coast Guard. She is a Silver Lifetime Member of the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) and a member of the Foreign Joint Service Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Fleet Reserve Association and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues honor the five servicewomen and their accomplishments. We are living in a day and age when the thought of a woman serving in the military is not the exception, it's the norm. There are over 2 million women serving and they are making a huge contribution to America's military operations around the world . . . as so many of us have seen from America's recent victory in Iraq.

It is an honor for each member of the Caucus to highlight these exceptional women. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard are well represented by our 2003 Women in Military Service Honorees.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ERIC WAGNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,
Whereas, Eric Wagner has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Eric Wagner has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Eric Wagner has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Eric Wagner must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 85, the residents of Yorkville, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Eric Wagner as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALCOHOL TAX EQUALIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress adjourns for Memorial Day, I am introducing the Alcohol Tax Equalization Act because of my special concern that beer and wine will take a high toll in human life and injury, especially among teens and other young people this very weekend, because these alcoholic beverages are less costly than they should be. Congress is complicit in this carnage by winking at beer and wine through the Tax Code. We have just renewed vigilance for seat buckling because of growing concern about teen deaths due to driving mishaps. It's time we also focused on alcohol abuse, a much greater cause of traffic deaths among teens and young people.

The Memorial Day holiday often begins a season of tragedies resulting from alcohol abuse, particularly beer and wine. In an effort to reduce alcohol-related fatalities, my bill would require that beer and wine be taxed according to their alcohol content, as is hard liquor. Alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death among teens and young adults. The need to provide appropriate disincentives is urgent.

The bill creates a substance abuse prevention trust fund for alcohol prevention programs. The kinds of programs that work best include cross-peer mentoring by high school students about alcohol and drug abuse and traffic safety; teen courts to decide appropriate penalties for other teens who abuse alcohol; community-based prevention programs for pregnant women and high-risk populations; and 100 percent drug and alcohol-free clubs. The programs would be implemented through grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

It is impossible to explain today why a can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a shot