

Nos. 334, 335 and 336. I present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 334 and "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 335 and 336.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
FIRST SERGEANT ROBERT J.  
DOWDY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Army First Sergeant Robert J. Dowdy, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Sergeant Dowdy was an exceptional United States soldier and was an equally exceptional human being. Sergeant Dowdy's life was characterized by his unwavering sense of duty and commitment to our nation, and above all, his life reflected a deep dedication to, and steadfast focus on his family. He worked diligently to effectively balance his military career with his main priority—his wife and daughter.

Sergeant Dowdy grew up in the North Broadway neighborhood and graduated from South High School in 1982. He enlisted in the U.S. Army soon thereafter. Throughout his journey in the military, Sergeant Dowdy carried with him a strong foundation of faith, family and community. He quickly ascended through the ranks, and held the title and command of Master Sergeant.

Most recently, Sergeant Dowdy was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant. His strong intellect and solid sense of integrity evenly matched his outstanding athleticism. Moreover, Sergeant Dowdy's life reflected his generous heart and sincere concern for the welfare of others. He often and easily offered his assistance to anyone in need, without regard to his own sacrifice.

BARBARA VAN BLAKE: A POINT  
OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Barbara Van Blake who retired from the American Federation of Teachers in December 2002, for her past service to her country and the community; and for her continued activism on behalf of civil rights, women and education. Ms. Van Blake is a POINT-OF-LIGHT for all Americans.

Barbara Van Blake has been employed as director of the Human Rights and Community Relations Department of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) since 1975. Her responsibilities include keeping State and local affiliates informed of current trends, publications, laws and Federal regulations in the area of civil and women's rights. She participates as a consultant in the area of civil rights, discrimination, women's rights and desegregation activities to affiliates. Her duties also include representing AFT in coalitions with national organizations, whether they be civil rights, women, political or education.

Ms. Van Blake is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) National Life Membership and Labor Committee; a member of the boards of directors of Bethune Museum and Archives; a member of the Federal Advisory Commission of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House; and life member of the Bethune-Cookman College National Alumni Association. She is also vice president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Labor Roundtable, and Treasurer of the Washington, D.C. Chapter Bethune Cookman College Alumni Association.

Ms. Van Blake has served in numerous capacities: former National Treasurer of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; former Chair of the Ad Hoc Labor Committee of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; former Secretary of the NAACP Ad Hoc Labor Committee; former executive committee member and Vice President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and former member of the board of directors of the National Consumers League.

She is a legacy member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; a Diamond Life member of the NAACP; a member of the Washington, D.C. Urban League; and a member of the Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter of ZØB.

Prior to her work with AFT, she taught mathematics in junior and senior high school for twelve years in Florida, where she was active in support of civil rights and labor union organizing. She visited Somalia and Sudan on a refugee fact-finding mission for the labor movement in 1982, and was an official international observer of the South African elections. She has done Trade Union leadership training in Benin and Cote D'Ivoire Africa, and Barbados, West Indies. She was also a delegate to the International Confederation of Free Trade Union Women's Conference in Hague, Netherlands.

Ms. Van Blake has received numerous awards including the NAACP Women's Labor Award, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Fannie Neal Award, the A. Philip Randolph Institute Rosina Tucker Award, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionist Women's Addie Wyatt Award, and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Nation Builders Award.

A graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, Ms. Van Blake holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and chemistry.

Ms. Van Blake is the proud mother of one daughter and one granddaughter. She is also a member of the Corinthian Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

In recognition of her dedicated leadership and tireless service to our youth, I am honored to recognize Ms. Barbara Van Blake as an outstanding POINT-OF-LIGHT for all Americans.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF JOHN  
ROBERTSON

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief John Robertson of the

City of Newark Police Department for his 29 years of devoted service to the citizens of California.

Chief Robertson dedicated his life to reducing crime, implementing technological advances, and helping the lives of many people on a personal basis. He was not content to merely punish wrong-doers, but set about to bring an end to the problems he encountered by using a community oriented philosophy that worked wonders to stop crime.

In the course of his career in law enforcement, Chief Robertson has left his mark on three cities. He began his career in the City of Garden Grove in July 1974 as a Patrol Officer and worked his way up to Detective. He was appointed Sergeant in March 1980 and Lieutenant in May 1981. He became Captain, February 1986, and served as Deputy Chief until August 1988 when he was promoted to Police Chief. He served as Police Chief of Garden Grove until June 1992, then as Police Chief of the City of Orange until March 1998, and finally as the Chief of Police of Newark in August 1998.

In Garden Grove, Chief Robertson is accredited with revitalizing the community through "family policing" and developing the Department's Pride Program. In Orange, he significantly reduced crime, managed the Department's budget and made a significant number of technological improvements. In Newark, Chief Robertson implemented a Citizen's Police Academy, improved technology, remodeled the police facilities, became a mentor for a local high school student, implanted the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) Tutoring Program, and took responsibility for the City's Code Enforcement Unit and cleaned up a large blighted area of Newark.

Chief Robertson's greatest accomplishments in the City of Newark include bringing together the Newark Community by spearheading a youth summit with NAACP, setting up meetings with the Afghan Community to bridge cultural differences, and working with the gay/lesbian community after the murder of a transgender youth. Chief Robertson demands by word and shows through leadership that everyone must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, or sexual orientation. He was the first Police Chief to require all officers to document racial information on all car stops. He also mandated that all police employees attend training at the Museum of Tolerance to promote understanding and acceptance in the community.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Police Chief John Robertson to commend his many years of exemplary service to law enforcement. His commitment to excellence has shaped the lives of many, and his services to California will never be forgotten.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last night the Wabash River in northeastern Indiana crested at an incredible 25 feet. However, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Mayor Ted Ellis and Sheriff Barry Storie, Bluffton, Indiana was spared a catastrophe.

Their leadership, in cooperation with Governor Frank O'Bannon, and literally thousands of volunteers in Wells and Adams counties managed to stem the tide. Special commendation should go to Irving Material Incorporated and also to the Indiana National Guard's 2nd Battalion of the 151st Infantry. Under the leadership of General George Buskirk and Colonel Rick Shatto nearly 200 troops loaded and stacked sandbags and helped save the community of Bluffton, Indiana.

As more rain approaches, I urge the President to speed disaster relief to the counties in Indiana that the Governor has requested. I encourage the volunteers for their determination to move forward as the rain approaches and I urge prayers by all citizens to remember the cry of the Psalmist when he wrote, "God is our refuge and our strength, though the earth be removed, though its waters roar and be troubled, we will not fear."

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
PRIVATE BRANDON ULYSSES  
SLOAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Army Private Brandon Ulysses Sloan, who bravely and selflessly answered the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Private Sloan's young life was defined by family, faith, friends and community. A gentle and kind soul, Private Sloan lived his life with great joy and energy. He easily forged lasting friendships and was quick with a smile, kind word, or helping hand. Private Sloan was also an exceptional athlete, and he developed a love for baseball and football.

Private Sloan's family and friends were central to his life. He gained personal strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most—his father, Reverend Tandy U. Sloan; his mother, Kimberly T. Sloan; and his sister, Brittny Sloan.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Private Brandon Ulysses Sloan, whose honor, commitment and bravery will be remembered always. I offer my deepest condolences to the family of Private Sloan—his beloved parents, Reverend Tandy U. and Kimberly T. Sloan; his beloved sister, Brittny Sloan; his adoring grandmothers, Dr. Rementa Pippen and Luberta Sloan; and his extended family and many friends.

The significant sacrifice, service, and bravery that characterized the life of Private Brandon Ulysses Sloan will forever be honored and remembered by the Cleveland community, and the entire nation. And within the hearts of his family and friends, the bonds of love and memories created in life by Private Sloan will never be broken, and will live on for all time.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS  
OF CLEVELAND CENTER IN  
OBERLIN, OHIO, AND IN HONOR  
AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE  
FORTY-FOUR PASSENGERS AND  
THE CREW MEMBERS OF UNITED  
FLIGHT 93

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the air traffic controllers of Cleveland Center in Oberlin, Ohio, whose bravery, skill, and quick thinking ensured the safety of other air passengers on one of the darkest days in American history, September 11.

Immediately following that tragic day, the men and women of the Cleveland Center have demonstrated their compassion and concern for the families of the victims of United Flight 93 by contributing over \$10,000 to the Todd M. Beamer Foundation, a foundation established to assist families of every passenger and crew member of Flight 93.

Today, I also stand in honor and remembrance of forty-four passengers and crew members aboard United Flight 93. Their valiant spirit and courageous actions prevented even greater loss of life. The people aboard United Flight 93 will remain in our minds and hearts forever, and will forever be recognized as true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and tribute of the men and women of the Cleveland Center, and the men and women aboard United Flight 93—their spirited, heroic, and selfless actions—under the most terrifying of circumstances—restores our faith in humanity and reflects all that is good in America, and they will never be forgotten.

DEDICATION OF THE SIMON  
RAINBOW ROOM

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues these remarks from my constituent, Larry Simon, on the dedication of the Simon Rainbow Room at the Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center in Commack, New York. Larry and Sandy Simon's spirit of generosity is evident in these touching remarks.

SIMON RAINBOW ROOM DEDICATION, LARRY  
SIMON REMARKS

Thank you Gerry, Concetta and Barbara for helping to make this a very special evening for us. It is particularly meaningful to Sandy and I that those for whom Gurwin was built, our residents, share tonight with our family, friends and special colleagues.

We chose to dedicate the Rainbow Room because it represents the vitality and possibilities of life. It symbolizes the very reason for our devotion to the Gurwin Center's work. Sandy and I have had the opportunity to stand at this podium and witness so many joyous events that have touched us beyond imagination. We have shared excitement and joy with our residents and their families, and

we always leave with an uplifting feeling that we and our fellow colleagues have made a difference.

So often when people confront the difficult challenges of life they ask, "why me . . . why us." For Sandy and I, grateful for our yesterday's when our hopes and dreams were new, grateful for today's joys and bounty's of life and thus given the opportunity to make a difference, the question we asked ourselves is "why not us . . . if not us who." That simply is why we have made Gurwin such a special and important part of our life. Our involvement is a tremendous source of pleasure, pride and personal satisfaction. We truly believe we receive back far more than we have given.

Let me share this poignant letter with all of you to demonstrate our point!

Dear Mr. Friedman: . . . My wife entered the Gurwin Center on March 25, 2003. At that time she was on a ventilator, incontinent and was being fed through a G-tube. She couldn't speak or walk, and I feared I was losing her.

The wonderful, professional, compassionate and caring staff of doctors, nurses, nursing assistants and therapists on 4 East changed all that. My wife is now off the ventilator, no longer incontinent, and eats solid food. She can walk and speak and seems well on the way to a complete recovery.

God bless you and the excellent staff on 4 East for giving my wife back to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Respectfully and gratefully.

This letter certainly confirms our point of getting back more than we have given.

In the business world we deal with many "investment partnerships and partnership investors." Sandy and I are equally grateful for our Gurwin partners as well. We would like to thank those who work so closely with us. We greatly value the commitment and leadership of our fellow Board and Auxiliary colleagues. We respect and admire the dedicated staff who make this Center their life's work, and we thank the staff of the Gurwin Auxiliary and the Gurwin Foundation for making our volunteer experience so rewarding.

We must also acknowledge tonight's Gurwin participants who have been so kind to us, here at the podium.

Phyllis Charash, you are a woman of strength, a woman of faith, a woman of honor, and a woman of pride and charity. Thank you for emceeding tonight's celebration and dedication. You are a very special lady.

Herb Friedman, you've worked so hard and diligently to make Gurwin what it is today. You've dared to share your dreams, encourage and advise all of us and you've been here right from the very start. You are one of the most important people in our Gurwin life and we thank you for your dedication and outstanding effort year after year.

Joseph Gurwin, you continue to share your strength, vision and wisdom with us, and mentor by example the values of love, respect and commitment to family and the Gurwin community. Your friendship and counsel have been sustaining and inspiring. We offer our love and admiration. You are a very special man.

Our wish for all of you here tonight—be grateful for tomorrow and the promises it holds—wonderful times, a happier life, and a deeper affection for the human spirit and needs as each new day unfolds.

Just as our name will now be etched on the dedication plaque for this room, the special feelings of this evening will be etched in our memories forever. We applaud all of you for sharing our passion for Gurwin. Thank you!