

protect national security. The Pentagon has never sought to take advantage of this flexibility, so it strains belief that these laws are undermining our national security. Indeed, the General Accounting Office has found that training readiness remains high at military installations notwithstanding our environmental laws. I am not persuaded that the changes to these acts proposed by the military are justified.

The bill still includes worrisome provisions to overhaul DOD's personnel system. Although they are improved from the bill the House considered earlier this year, these provisions would still strip DOD's civilian employees of worker rights relating to due process, appeals, and collective bargaining.

Most disturbingly, the bill still includes provisions on nuclear weapons development. This bill provides funding to study the feasibility of developing nuclear earth-penetrating weapons and authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons. Low-yield nuclear weapons have an explosive yield of five kilotons or less—"only" a third of the explosive yield of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Our obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) require the United States to work towards nuclear disarmament, rather than further increase the size and diversity of our arsenal. By continuing the development of new U.S. nuclear weapons at the same time that we are trying to convince other nations to forego obtaining such weapons, we undermine our credibility in the fight to stop nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that this conference report rolls back civil service protections, environmental protections, and our work in the area of nuclear nonproliferation. But some of these provisions were improved in conference, and the addition of concurrent receipt provisions for our nation's veterans is critical. In view of these changes to the bill, added to my belief in the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform, I will support the conference report today.

TRIBUTE TO SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY, SAGINAW,
MICHIGAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Saginaw Valley State University in celebration of its 40th Anniversary.

Founded in 1963, Saginaw Valley State University has quickly become one of the fastest-growing universities in Michigan. The university's humble beginnings as a community college in the late 1950s have encouraged the rapid growth and expansion of the university as demonstrated by their recent additions. From holding early classes in the basement of Delta College, to its current situation on a 782-acre campus, Saginaw Valley State University has become an unrivaled success story in mid-Michigan.

I am honored today to recognize Saginaw Valley State University for its many accomplishments, and to thank the many staff, faculty, students, and families who have endeavored to support Saginaw Valley State University.

VETERANS MEMORIAL AT THE
KOOTENAI COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the creation of a Veterans Memorial at the Kootenai County Administration Building in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Former commissioner Ron Rankin has spearheaded the effort to pay tribute to Kootenai County's brave veterans with memorials honoring their sacrifice.

The first phase of the Veterans Memorial, dedicated on Veterans Day 1998, is a striking seven-by-five-foot, 8,000-pound black granite monument naming Kootenai County veterans killed in action from the Spanish American War through the Vietnam War. Their names are etched in large gold letters followed by their branch of service, and the war in which they served. "In God We Trust" is etched above all the names in three-inch gold letters. The monument is strategically placed at the main entrance of the new administration building to remind visitors of the heroes who gave their lives for our freedom.

On Memorial Day 1999, the county dedicated 13 unique murals for the outside of the new courthouse. The 39-by-42-inch granite plaques depict historically significant military events in the 20th century. They are reproductions of photographs and paintings that were laser-etched in color on polished granite slabs. The first two were completed at a cost of \$2,000 each while the remaining 11 will have been added at a cost of \$3,000 each. The scenes include: Pearl Harbor, the Bataan Death March, the Battle of Midway, the flag raising on Iwo Jima, Army rangers climbing a 100-foot Normandy cliff on "D" Day, troops assaulting the beach at Normandy, gun ships off the coast of Vietnam, and "Dust Off" helicopters retrieving the wounded in Vietnam. When the entire project is completed, there will be pamphlets in the foyer of the new administration building describing each scene in detail. The foyer already includes interesting information, photos and paintings of our heroic armed forces from battle scenes of 20th century wars.

A Purple Heart Honor Roll now is in place in the courthouse foyer, and a wall of gold-framed certificates of veterans who were awarded medals of valor will complete the project. The display was dedicated at a ceremony on November 10, 2003. The event's keynote speaker was Idaho Supreme Court Justice Daniel Eismann, who earned two Purple Hearts and three Air Medals during the Vietnam War. I would like to submit the speech Justice Eismann delivered at the dedication for the RECORD.

HALL OF HEROES DEDICATION—KOOTENAI COUNTY

(Hon. Daniel T. Eismann, Nov. 10, 2003)

I first want to commend the citizens of Kootenai County for this impressive memorial to those who have served in the United States military. As a veteran, I thank you. I also commend Ron Rankin, who was the driving force behind this growing monument.

The words "Keeping America Free" on the murals outside summarize the primary mis-

sion of the United States military. The freedom we enjoy today did not come cheaply. It was purchased during the Revolutionary War with the blood of American soldiers; for over two hundred years it has been guarded and defended both here and abroad by the blood of American soldiers; and it will be preserved in the future by the blood of American soldiers. In the words of Daniel Webster, "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard it and defend it."

It is because of our God-given freedom that we are the most prosperous and powerful nation on earth. It is the desire for that freedom that causes many from other countries to flock to our borders. It is envy of that freedom, and the prosperity and power it produces, that causes others to hate and want to destroy us.

With oceans to our east and west and good neighbors to our north and south, we have for many years felt secure in our freedom. We may even have taken it for granted. No nation on earth could be powerful enough to invade us. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, however, shattered that security. Although the enemies of freedom cannot take ours by force, they showed that they will try to destroy it by fear. Those tragic events confirmed that to preserve our freedom here, we will sometimes have to root out evil and tyranny in other parts of the world. We cannot be truly free unless people around the world are free. The enemies of freedom will always desire to extinguish the beacons of liberty shining around the world, and ours shines the brightest. The tragic events of September 11th also rekindled a deep appreciation and respect for those who have donned the uniform of the United States military.

We are here today to honor some of those who have helped to preserve our freedom. We have come together to dedicate the Hall of Heroes, to honor those from Kootenai County who have been awarded a medal for heroism while serving in our nation's military. By honoring them, we are not in any way minimizing the sacrifice and contribution of all others who have served in uniform. Any of you who saw the movie "We Were Soldiers" may remember the helicopter pilot in the movie whose nickname was "Too Tall." The real "Too Tall" is a friend of mine named Ed Freeman who lives in Boise. The movie does not do justice to what Ed actually did during that battle.

On November 14, 1965, after LZ X-Ray had been closed to helicopters because of intense enemy fire, Ed flew fourteen missions into and out of that landing zone delivering ammunition, water, and medical supplies to the troops on the ground and evacuating 30 seriously wounded soldiers. For his actions, Ed was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for heroism. Ed's Medal of Honor was certainly well-deserved, but he could not have made the impact he did without the help of others. He could not have delivered the much-needed ammunition, water, and medical supplies to the men on the ground unless others had worked to have those items waiting at his base to be loaded on his helicopter. Few if any of the seriously wounded soldiers that he rescued would have survived had it not been for the medical personnel who were waiting to care for them.

The military is a team, with every person doing his or her part. Those of us who served in combat would not have lasted long without others who kept us supplied with needed materiel—weapons, munitions; equipment, fuel, medical supplies, and food—or who equipped and directed the planes, artillery, and ships that rained bombs, missiles, and shells on the enemy. Thus, by honoring those who have been awarded medals for heroism

we are in no way forgetting or diminishing the contribution made by all who have faithfully served our nation as members of its armed forces.

Because we are honoring those whose names will be in the Hall of Heroes, it seems fitting to ask, "What is a hero?" The first time someone called me a hero, my reaction was, "I am no hero. I just did my duty." As I have thought about it, however, maybe that is part of what a hero is. It is someone who puts duty above self—someone who exhibits selfless dedication to a noble cause.

Another characteristic of a hero is courage. But, what is courage? British author C.K. Chesterton aptly described courage as follows:

"Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of a readiness to die. 'He that will lose his life, the same shall save it,' is not a piece of mysticism for saints and heroes. It might be printed in . . . a drill book. The paradox is the whole principle of courage. . . . A soldier surrounded by enemies, if he is to cut his way out, needs to combine a strong desire for living with a strange carelessness about dying. He must not merely cling to life, for then he will be a coward, and will not escape. He must not merely wait for death, for then he will be a suicide, and will not escape. He must seek his life in a spirit of furious indifference to it; he must desire life like water and yet drink death like wine.

In combat, you have no future. You have no past. You have only the present. To survive, you must consider yourself already dead, and then fight with all that is in you to stay alive, and to keep alive those who are fighting alongside you.

I first learned this truism not long after I started flying as a crew chief on a Huey gunship. As a crew chief, my job was to maintain the helicopter and to be a door gunner when we were flying. One afternoon, as we were returning from a mission, I moved from my normal position literally two seconds before a 51-caliber round tore through my helicopter. Had I not moved, it would have hit me right in the Adam's apple, and would have taken my head off. There was no reason for me to have moved, other than the intervention of God.

I pondered that event for a little while. Before then, being killed in combat had been an abstract possibility. I now realized that as long as I was flying in gunships, being killed was a distinct probability. Perhaps what was most disconcerting was that the bullet came without any warning. It was like a bolt out of the blue. We were not even in a place where we were expecting enemy fire. I realized that on any given day, I could be killed by one bullet coming without warning out of nowhere. I concluded that I could either worry about dying and get ulcers, or simply choose not to worry about it. I chose the latter course. From that day on, I simply considered myself already dead. Those who have accepted their death need not fear it.

Certainly, those who willingly risk their lives in combat while fighting for our country are heroes. The people we are honoring today, however, did more than merely risk their lives. The military does not award medals for valor simply for risking one's life. That is expected in combat. I was on a Huey gunship during most of my two years in Vietnam. Our job was to find the enemy and engage them. We did not have any high-tech equipment to help us locate the enemy. Our most sophisticated electronics were our two-way radios. To find the enemy, we simply tried to be an attractive target so that they would shoot at us. We would fly as low as we could, sometimes only a few feet above the ground, over or near places where the enemy

may be hiding, trying to draw their fire. Once the enemy opened fire, we would know where they were and could take them on. Having the enemy shoot at us was simply part of our job; it was all in a day's work. That is the same for anyone who serves in combat.

Those we are honoring today did not merely risk their lives in combat. They went far above and beyond the call of duty, putting their lives at extraordinary risk. They may have done so to rescue wounded or trapped comrades, or to accomplish the mission. Firefights are decided, battles are won, and victory is gained because of soldiers like these—who put themselves at extraordinary risk to save others, to accomplish the mission, and to defeat the enemies of freedom.

One of God's blessings upon this nation has been that throughout her history, in times of great trials, ordinary people have come forward and done extraordinary deeds. Today, we are honoring some of those people. On behalf of my fellow Americans, I thank them and I salute them.

TRIBUTE TO A GOOD FRIEND AND
LOYAL PUBLIC SERVANT, JAMES
J. MANCINI

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to one of my greatest friends and one of Ocean County's finest, Ocean County Freeholder and Long Beach Township Mayor James J. Mancini.

Upon hearing of his passing, I was deeply saddened, given the tremendous impact he had on my life and those he served in Ocean County. To say that Jim will be missed is an understatement; he touched the lives of so many around him and spent every day of his life helping others.

A champion for seniors and veterans, Mayor Mancini's dedication to his community and his genuine interest in reaching out to others was unparalleled. As one of Ocean County's best advocates for seniors, his commitment to providing retirees with quality health care was unwavering. Every chance he had, Jim worked to make life better for every senior who lived in Ocean County.

Additionally, as a Veteran of World War II, Mayor Mancini made it his top priority to work on behalf of our local veterans. In fact, as a result of his efforts, services to tens of thousands of veterans were increased and improved.

Many of us from south Jersey remember the two "nor'easter" storms in the early 1990's that severely damaged the beaches of Long Beach Island. As a result of the threat to property and lives, Mayor Mancini made it his mission to guarantee these beaches would be rebuilt.

After ten years of work—including securing 3 million federal dollars, 8 years of study and design, and overcoming hurdles that prevented new beach replenishment projects from starting—just yesterday we found out that Jim's long-sought after funding to begin replenishing Long Beach Island's beaches came to fruition. This funding was included in the House-passed final version of the 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

How ironic. After more than a decade, the project was approved by the House of Representatives on the same day as Mayor Mancini's passing. Without his persistence, it likely would not have happened.

Beginning from his election as Mayor of Long Beach Township in 1964 to his serving as a State Assemblyman in the 1970s to his becoming an Ocean County Freeholder in the 1980's, Mayor Mancini lived his life to serve and help others, and his legacy will live on for many years to come.

Throughout my life, I have met few people as compassionate and as selfless as Jim Mancini; it was an honor and privilege to be his friend. I extend my deepest sympathies to Madeline Mancini and the rest of their family, and know we will remember this caring friend, wonderful father and grandfather, admired leader, and dedicated public servant for the rest of our lives.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON
SCHNEIDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Retired Lieutenant Colonel Don Schneider from Grand Junction, Colorado. Don has dedicated his life to the betterment of his family, country and community, and I am proud to call his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress here today.

Don moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1959. Between 1959 and 1964, he accomplished a great deal. He attended the Air Force Academy, completed Airborne Jump School, Officer Training School, and earned a degree from the University of Denver, eventually working with Martin-Marietta on the Titan II missile program. In addition, Don met and married his wife Judy and had three wonderful children during this period.

After his training, Don was transferred to Tennessee, where he served as a navigator and instructor at Stewart Air Force Base. While stationed in Tennessee, Don acquired 2000 hours of flying time on deployments worldwide. Between 1970 and 1971, Don flew 180 combat missions in the Vietnam conflict. In a time of war, Don's patriotism and valor shone through, proving him a true hero. At war's end, Don's honorable service had earned him numerous decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Following the war, Don was stationed in Myrtle Beach, where he was a pilot, safety officer, and instructor who trained a number of National Guard units, including the Colorado Air Squadron stationed at Colorado's Buckley Air Force Base. Don completed his service to the United States Air Force in 1985. After entering the private sector for some time, Don and his family moved to Grand Junction in 1998. In Grand Junction, Don has continued his service to his country. He currently serves as the President of the Western Colorado Chapter of Military Officers, and is an active member of the Order of the Dandelions, the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.