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IN MEMORY OF THOMAS JOHN  
JANIS, AN AMERICAN HERO

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor the career and the ultimate sacrifice made by my constituent, Thomas John Janis, who was killed near Florencia, Colombia on February 13th, while serving to defend his country in the war on narco-terrorism.

Thomas Janis, a native of Chicago, Illinois, was born on November 23, 1946. Tom's distinguished military career began in 1966 when he entered the Army and served as a military policeman. While serving in Korea, Tom became interested in Army Aviation, and by 1969, he graduated from the Warrant Flight Officer Program.

Tom Janis' tours of duty included serving in Vietnam, Panama, Germany, and several installations in the United States in aviation billets. Tom was an accomplished aviator with over 12,000 flight hours and had several assignments as an Instructor Pilot. After 32 years in active service to the country, Tom Janis retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 5 with numerous decorations for valor and service to his credit, including the Bronze Star, four Meritorious Service Medals, an Air Medal with valor, and numerous other commendations.

After leaving the U.S. military, Tom continued his service as a pilot contributing to our nation's drug interdiction and counter-terrorism efforts in South America. On February 13, Tom was piloting a Cessna Caravan on a counternarcotics mission over southern Colombia. His aircraft experienced engine failure, yet he skillfully brought it to the ground without loss of life of any brave men on board his aircraft. Tragically, the crash site was in the center of a zone controlled by FARC narco-terrorists. While seeking to reach a safe area, Tom and a Colombian military colleague were deliberately killed by FARC narco-terrorists. Tom's murder will not go unpunished and his sacrifice will not be forgotten. Appropriately, Tom was buried with full military honors earlier this week at Arlington National Cemetery.

Tom married his hometown sweetheart, Judith G. Gibaszek. As Tom's career progressed, the Janises raised four children—Christopher, Greer, Michael, and Jonathan. Tom's legacy of service lives on as two of his children are also Servicemen—Christopher is an Army Aviator, and Michael is in the Army Reserves. We all grieve Tom's loss and the entire Janis family will be in our prayers through these difficult days. Tom was one of Alabama's best and we shall truly miss him.

## WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, February is American Heart Month, which attempts to educate people on the dangers of heart disease and other heart related medical problems. It is in recognition of this important issue and the way in which it affects women that I come to the floor to speak today.

One in two American women will eventually die of heart disease or stroke. One in Two! This is compared with one in twenty-seven who will die of breast cancer. This is a stark and alarming fact that most women have not heard. For my state, that means that every year around 11,500 women in Tennessee die from causes brought on by Heart Disease.

But there are things that women can do to decrease their risk. The first of these is to stop smoking, which is the single greatest risk factor for a heart attack in women. Check your cholesterol level and blood pressure. High blood pressure makes the heart work harder, causing it to enlarge and weaken over time. High blood pressure also increases the risk of stroke, heart attack, kidney failure and congestive heart failure.

In addition, try to get out and exercise. Even modest levels of low-intensity physical activity are beneficial if done regularly and long term. Making exercise a priority is hard for today's busy women, but the rewards are great.

Obesity also puts women at risk for heart disease, even if other risk factors do not exist. This is because excess weight strains the heart and raises blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Even losing ten or more pounds will help lower your risk for heart disease as well as many other health problems.

I urge women to get regularly scheduled check ups and to recognize the signs of heart disease. Take advantage of American Heart Month and visit a health fair in your community. These fairs provide an opportunity to have your cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure checked. In addition, you can get information from specialists on various health related issues such as fitness, heart healthy diets and much more.

Whatever you do, please take the time to visit a health care specialist and find out how you can keep yourself and your family healthy and safe from heart disease.

RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW ALAN  
VANECEK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Alan Vanecek, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the

Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the nine years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 57 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Matthew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements by earning the Bear Claw Award, the God and Me Award, the God and Family Award and the Arrow of Light Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matthew planned and built a wooden swing set for the Salvation Army Community Center. The set is built so that it could be moved to other locations if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Alan Vanecek for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on yesterday's suspension bills. Had I been capable of voting, I would have voted in support of:

H.R. 46—Honoring the life of Al Hirschfeld.

H.R. 40—Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capital for a ceremony in remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

CONGRATULATING THE GREATER  
COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL'S  
CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE PRO-  
GRAM

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Children of the Future Program.

Children of the Future, a nationally recognized AmeriCorps after-school program, provides constructive, positive alternatives to delinquency in the higher-risk neighborhoods of Columbus, Ohio. It has effectively reduced crime by creating physical and social safe havens for approximately 3,500 Columbus children.

On January 24, 2003, Children of the Future was honored by the Americans for the Arts and the United States Conference of Mayors with the "2003 Award for Excellence in Arts Programs for Youth." This prestigious, national award recognizes the emphasis this arts-based program has placed on the development of life-long skills including: critical thinking, constructive communication and conflict resolution.

I congratulate the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Children of the Future Program for its many accomplishments and outstanding service. This program is truly an asset to the people of Central Ohio.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE  
PERRYSBURG JOURNAL ON THE  
OCCASION OF ITS 150TH BIRTH-  
DAY

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2003, the Perrysburg Messenger Journal will celebrate its 150th birthday. The Perrysburg Journal, one of the parents of today's Perrysburg Messenger Journal, began publication on March 10, 1853. It was not the first newspaper in Wood County: Eight weeklies in Perrysburg preceded it. But today it is the oldest newspaper in Wood County and the oldest business in Perrysburg.

The eight-pager made its appearance without fanfare because of President Franklin Pierce's Inaugural address. The lengthy railroad laws also crowded out the "salutatory" editorial Silmon Clark had prepared. Mr. Clark heralded his newspaper with an announcement at the bottom of page 7. Under the flag, he dedicated it to "Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures." By carrier, the paper cost \$1.75 a year; by mail, \$1.50. He set up shop "in a room upstairs, north end of the Baird House." Although the Journal was a new publication, Mr. Clark hailed it as the successor to his earlier Fort Meigs Reveille, which he renamed The Perrysburg Star because he said "Reveille" was not a good English word, people couldn't pronounce it, and he was tired of "the cruelty of the attempt."

He ceased publication of the Star in 1852 and he sold the printing office to A. D. Wright. Professor Wright then started the North-Western Democrat. Along with the laws and the political news, the first paper carried pieces on far-ranging subjects, such as current conditions in Rome, census figures for St. Louis, poetry, and platitudes. As was common practice, Mr. Clark borrowed freely from other newspapers, stories not limited to sharing police reports from other parts of the country. Frontier newspapers in the isolated villages and busy river towns were like that in those days. They entertained and they informed. They brought the outside world to eager readers. Perrysburg readers waited for installments of such serials as "Indian Story" and "Walmsby House", or the "Lover's Revenge, a Story Laid in the South of Ireland."

The newspaper also advised and chastised. It contained strongly partisan opinions, national news gleaned from larger papers received by the latest post. It contained literary material or "notices" (advertisements) for goods like Dr. Rojack's Blood Purifier. One had to look for the little bits of local news, which usually had no headlines and were scattered in the columns. The early weeklies of the era were small, hand-set, and often crude, but they had much to do with the crystallization of public opinion that made the West a new factor in American politics, according to a history of the mass media, "The Press in America" by Emery and Emery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Perrysburg Messenger Journal on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. For well over a century now the Journal has provided the news fairly and accurately to the people of Northwestern Ohio. I am proud

to offer these sentiments today properly documenting this event in the record of the 108th Congress.

### RECOGNITION OF ANDREW JOSEPH GRAVES

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Joseph Gordon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, where he progressed to the rank of Webelos. He also participated in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the thirteen years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 41 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the order of the arrow. Andrew also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the Bear Claw award, the God & Me Award, and the Arrow of Light award. Andrew has also served in a variety of leadership positions, including Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Andrew built a rock foot bridge and rocked part of the path at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Joseph Gordon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

H.R. 1716

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, As an initial co-sponsor, I offer my support of H.R. 1716, a bill to make sure that Impact Aid to school districts to provide educational support, is assured as an entitlement. Today, as members of our military are being shipped abroad in large numbers to prepare for a possible war, it is critical for them to know that their children's schools are being supported by their government.

The need for Impact Aid has been clear for over half a century. Begun in 1950, Impact Aid recompenses districts for the loss of a variety of taxes which form the basis of school support. Military land and the military homes located on that land do not contribute to property taxes. Over three-quarters of the military members in my district claim residency in other states and do not pay state income or car registration taxes. In addition, all sales on military installations are exempt from state sales taxes. Property, income, and sales taxes are the money which pays for education.

Because the frequent transfer of military members results in increased transiency in

schools, districts which serve large numbers of military children have increased costs.

The school districts located in my congressional district are also known for offering a variety of services to special needs children. When military families have children with a high level of needs, the service provides compassionate assignment flexibility to enable them to stay in the area. This further increases costs for these districts.

After more than half a century of support, it is time to stop making annual judgments about the value of Impact Aid. It is time to openly declare to every member of our armed services that we assure them that support for their children's education is not negotiable. Our commitment must not waiver.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2003*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation important to victims of crime and their families. The Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, was a tremendous victory in the fight to aid those affected by crime. It established a trust fund composed of criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees and special assessments collected by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts and Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Sadly, a spending cap was installed on the VOCA trust fund. This trust fund generates close to \$1 billion dollars each year, yet only an average of \$535 is actually distributed annually to the states. While state crime victim assistance programs struggle to remain fully funded, the balance just sits there unused. My legislation, the "Victim of Crime Fairness Act of 2003" would eliminate this spending cap and direct the money toward its original intention, helping victims of crime.

Every day we see in our local news stories of homicides, sexual assaults, child abuse, drunk driving accidents, kidnapping and arson. The list goes on and on. I applaud President Bush for his efforts to strengthen and organize security on all fronts for our country. Preventing all crimes, whether they are acts of terrorism or domestic abuse, is the first step in creating a more peaceful world. However, when a crime does occur there is a victim. This victim is stripped of their security, their dignity, and often times their physical capability to function normally in the day-to-day world. Eliminating the spending cap on the VOCA trust fund would allow victim advocates to do their job. It is a fact; helping mend people's lives that have been tragically altered by crime cannot be done for free.

My state of Connecticut loses almost \$5 million a year due to the VOCA cap. This money could make all the difference in thousands of peoples lives. Connecticut's State Victim Advocate James Papillo wrote, "The programs funded by the VOCA fund benefit crime victims in Connecticut through direct financial support and crime victim support services. These funds help crime victims when they most need it. Given the substantial reduction in the amount of funds available to the states caused by federal earmarks, and the real