

Freedom. These service men and women join the ranks of those we remember this Memorial Day—those who have died defending America, who have “fallen in the cause of the free” since the founding of our Nation.

These heroes were lowly privates and bemedaled generals. They were green volunteers and gray veterans. They were minute men and Navy seals. But the men who died at Lexington and Concord are the same as the men who died at Kandahar and Fallujah—men of dauntless courage, united in their love of country and their supreme self-denial.

Uniforms and weapons change; valor does not.

The men and women who have died defending America have kept our homes and our liberties secure for the past 228 years. More than that, they have held out to the whole world the promise that a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the equality of all men can indeed endure. They have preserved the fire of liberty not just for America, but for all men. We owe them a debt we cannot hope to pay, least of all with mere words.

Memorial Day is set aside for us to remember. But this day should not just be a day of remembrance, but a day of resolve. The memory of their sacrifice should inspire in us a firm purpose to live our lives in a way that will honor the heroes who have died for us—to emulate their courage in defense of the right and their devotion to the cause of liberty. We cannot honor the memory of our heroes with words alone; rather, we must honor them with actions worthy of their memory.

Today we offer our gratitude to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who have fallen defending our nation. We thank them for protecting us, but most of all we thank them for reminding us, in the midst of a world torn by ugliness and war and pain, of the highest things—of duty, honor, courage, sacrifice, and love. We thank them for reminding us, even when “the machinations of tyranny” stare us in the face, “that a man can stand up.”

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2004, Charlotte, NC, lost a hero, Chris Hill. Chris was originally from California, but located to Charlotte in recent years. He had already served four years in the Army when he decided to re-enlist. His wife, Cheryl Hill, said Chris was determined to go to Iraq last year: “He just couldn’t stand the fact that this was going on and he wasn’t doing anything about it,” she said. “He wanted to help.”

Chris re-enlisted in April and went to Iraq in the fall. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division based in Ft. Riley, Kansas. Chris’ friends and family will remember a man who was outgoing and fun and loved to sing. He even had his own karaoke machine, and he never turned down a chance to imitate Elvis Presley.

After moving to North Carolina to be near his wife’s family, Chris was saved in a Baptist church. His brother-in-law, Rick Cope, a Christian songwriter, has written a song for his

niece called “Praying for You: Cierra’s Song.” Rick said, “(We) wanted his daughter to know that he’s there when she rides her bike. He’s there when she gets married. He’s there in spirit.”

Christopher Kenneth Hill was buried with full military honors. He was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for bravery. He was survived by his wife, and his daughter Cierra who is 14 months old.

Chris will be missed, but we will never forget his sacrifice for our freedoms.

TRIBUTE TO FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL’S SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Fayetteville-Manlius High School’s Science Olympiad Team which won first place in the national Science Olympiad Tournament.

The team won the regional and the New York State competitions to qualify for the national level where they competed against 53 other teams from the United States. At the tournament, there were 23 events related to science with medals given to the top five winners in each event. The Fayetteville-Manlius team brought home four Gold medals, five Silvers, one Bronze, one 4th place and two 5th places from the national competition, a truly exceptional accomplishment.

The Fayetteville-Manlius team is comprised of 15 members and coached by Jamie Cucinotta. Team captain Jeff Izant led Brian Bayes, Christine Chin, Mary Collins, Grayson Fahrner, Leyla Isik, David Marsh, Jordan Mandel, Samiksha Nayak, Shridha Nayak, Sarah Rahaman, Zaki Rahaman, Brian Stoeckel, Bianca Verma, and Nora Ward in representing Fayetteville-Manlius so successfully at the tournament.

I would like to express my congratulations to the team for such an outstanding achievement and wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman DAVIS and me concerning committee jurisdiction with regards to the bill H.R. 4060.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2004.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 31, 2004, the Committee on International Relations ordered reported H.R. 4060, the “Health, Safe-

ty, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004.” As you know, the Committee on Government Reform was granted an additional referral upon the bill’s introduction pursuant to the Committee’s jurisdiction under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of your willingness to consult with this Committee, and because of your desire to move this legislation expeditiously as an individual bill, I will waive consideration of the bill by this Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 4060. In addition, the Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request for conferees by the Committee on H.R. 4060 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, May 11, 2004.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR TOM: On March 31, 2004, the Committee on International Relations ordered reported legislation to promote the improved safety and security of Peace Corps volunteers.

H.R. 4060, the “Health, Safety and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004,” will make a number of important reforms related to volunteer safety and security through amendments to the Peace Corps Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2506) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.). As you are aware, amendments to the latter are under rule X of your Committee’s jurisdiction, X jurisdiction, and accordingly, H.R. 4060 was additionally referred to your Committee by the Speaker.

By this letter, I request you permit this legislation to go to the floor without the necessity of your Committee’s marking it up. I understand that by waiving your Committee’s consideration of H.R. 4060 in order to allow it to proceed to the floor vote without delay, you do not waive jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in the bill, and I will urge the Speaker to name Members of your Committee to any conference committee which may be convened on this legislation.

I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our Committees have worked on this matter.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAY LOFING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jay

Lofing and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a member of the Otero County Road and Bridge Crew. For thirty-one years, Jay worked as a heavy equipment operator and road foreman for the county. As Jay celebrates his retirement, I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous service to Otero County and the State of Colorado.

In 1973, Jay was hired as a heavy equipment operator by Otero County, and in 1994 became road foreman of the Road and Bridge Crew. When he first began working on the crew, he had to work completely exposed to the elements. With technological advancements, operators now get to work in air-conditioned cabs, sheltered from the weather. As much as Jay enjoyed his recent position as road foreman, he really took great pleasure in operating the heavy equipment. Now that Jay is retired, he plans on traveling with his wife Linda and spending lots of time with their granddaughter Kelly.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the career and service of Jay Lofing to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation, and I would like to congratulate him on an outstanding career. His tireless work and leadership have helped ensure the safety of our roadways, and I wish him and Linda the best in their future endeavors.

THE PRICE OF GIVING BAD ADVICE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, William A. Whitlow is a retired major general in the Marine Corps. During his service to our nation, he served as director of the expeditionary warfare division in the office of the deputy chief of naval operations. He wrote a compelling and informative opinion piece, which appeared in last Sunday's Washington Post. In the piece, Mr. Whitlow discusses the dismal situation in Iraq, and the poor counsel the president received from his advisors leading up to the conflict.

I ask unanimous consent that this piece appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and I encourage all of my colleagues to read it.

[From the Washington Post, May 30, 2004]

THE PRICE OF GIVING BAD ADVICE

(By William A. Whitlow)

As the war in Iraq drags on, conservative citizens, mostly Republican, face a growing dilemma in the November election.

In the face of growing evidence that the president was deceived and misguided about the cause and urgency for waging war on Saddam Hussein, it is time for those responsible to stand forth and accept accountability. True, the president is ultimately responsible for the actions of his vice president, his Cabinet and the executive departments. But it has become clear that the counsel the president received from the vice president, secretary of defense, deputy secretary of defense and senior uniformed leadership was severely flawed and uncorroborated. Whether the president was intentionally misled by neoconservatives or whether their advice was a result of pure incompetence remains to be seen. The fact is that he was misled sufficiently to require

him to take bold action to restore his diminished credibility.

The supposedly urgent need to attack Iraq was based partly on inflated, creative intelligence information, some of which originated with Ahmed Chalabi, an associate of the vice president and deputy secretary of defense. The information from Chalabi led the vice president and defense secretary to believe that war with Iraq would be a "cakewalk" and U.S. forces would be received with open arms. This belief resulted in a fatal flaw in developing a complete war strategy. A principal tenet of forming a strategy—have a "war termination" phase—was neglected. Although the tactical and operational phases of the war were conducted flawlessly by superior field commanders, the absence of a complete strategy has needlessly cost lives.

Our service members are the ultimate victims of this incomplete strategy, misguided policy and false intelligence. It is inconceivable and derelict not to have a viable war termination strategy for an operation as complex as a major theater war. America's citizens and our service members deserve far better for their sacrifices. This combination of things—misleading the president with false intelligence and omitting a principal element from our war strategy—is reason enough to seek change in the vice presidency and senior defense leadership, civilian and military.

It is our patriotic duty to speak out when egregiously flawed policies and strategies needlessly cost American lives. It is time for the president to ask those responsible for the flawed Iraqi policy—civilian and military—to resign from public service. Absent such a change in the current administration, many of us will be forced to choose a presidential candidate whose domestic policies we may not like but who understands firsthand the effects of flawed policies and incompetent military strategies and who fully comprehends the price.

RECOGNIZING JARED PAUL SALESKI FOR ACHIEVING THE AWARD OF GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared Saleski, son of Paul and Elizabeth Saleski, a fine young man who has exemplified the optimum qualities of citizenship and leadership by actively participating in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award, the Eagle Scout. He is scheduled for his Eagle Court of Honor on May 25, 2004.

Jared has been very active with his troop from the age of six, participating in many Scout activities. In that time, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Troop Guide, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He progressed through the rank of Tenderfoot Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life. Jared has earned forty-one merit badges in his career with the Boy Scouts. Besides these achievements, he has earned the religious emblems presented from the Catholic Church of Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius VI. Jared is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Chapter Seven and a Fire-Starter member of the Tribe of Mic-O-

Say. He has attended camp at Camp Naish and six sessions at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in Osceola, Missouri, as well as a Packard High Adventure Camp in Salida, Colorado. Jared's Eagle Scout Project was to construct a concrete driving slab for the barn at the Immacolata Manor Home for women in Liberty, Missouri.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF THE McMANUS DEMOCRATIC ASSO- CIATION AND ITS HONOREE, BRIAN O'DWYER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Brian O'Dwyer, who on May 24, 2004 will be honored at the McManus Democratic Association's Annual Spring Cocktail Party. I am very pleased to offer my warmest congratulations to both the McManus Association, for another year of outstanding service to New York City residents, and to Mr. O'Dwyer, who has long been a leader in the New York community.

The McManus family has been a fixture of New York City politics for more than one hundred years. For the past three decades, the leader of the McManus Democratic Association, James McManus, has been an advocate, ombudsman and friend to residents of midtown Manhattan. The Association, an active social-service organization, helps its members to find jobs, housing, educational opportunities and better medical care, and continually strives to promote the interests of working-class New Yorkers through collective action. The Association has also made a longstanding commitment to young New Yorkers, introducing students to the political process and to government service. I commend the McManus Association for its tireless efforts on behalf of midtown residents; time and again, the Association exemplifies the notion that we work best when we work together.

Like Jim McManus, Brian O'Dwyer is also part of a long and proud tradition in New York political life. Mr. McManus's father, Paul, served as New York City Council President from 1974 to 1978, and his uncle, William O'Dwyer, was the Mayor of New York City from 1946 to 1950. Mr. O'Dwyer currently serves as senior partner in the law firm of O'Dwyer & Bernstein, a firm known for its work in labor law, personal injury cases and civil rights litigation.

Mr. O'Dwyer has never forgotten his roots as a descendant of Irish immigrants and has steadfastly worked to promote the rights and well-being of new Americans, regardless of their country of origin. In 1995, Mr. O'Dwyer, serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, accompanied President Bill Clinton on his historic trip to Ireland. He has also served as Counsel to the Department of Community Affairs of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and was recognized by the Governor of Puerto Rico for his efforts on behalf of the Puerto