

I would also like to thank the sponsors of the San Diego 24 Challenge Tournament: The San Diego Chargers; NBC 7/39; WestEd; SONY; Gen-Probe; and Greater San Diego Math Council.

These sponsors have recognized the need for students to build strong skills in problem solving, mental math and reasoning. The support of these sponsors is absolutely critical for helping San Diego's students to achieve by applying the skills that they learn in the classroom. I would like to offer a special "thank you" to Gen-Probe, a biotechnology company headquartered in my district, who sponsored the tournament for the first time this year. I would also like to thank Bob Sun and Nan Ronis for the tireless efforts to make these tournaments all across the country a success. In closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievement of the winners of the San Diego 24 Challenge Math Tournament, as well as the commitment of the sponsors who helped to make it possible.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED KROEGER

#### 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 Fred Kroeger and thank him for the remarkable civic contributions he has made to his Durango community and the State of Colorado. A lifelong resident of the Durango area, Fred was recently recognized by Club 20 for his service to Western Colorado with the prestigious Vanderhoof Award. It is with great satisfaction that I congratulate a good friend of mine for his significant contributions to the Durango Community.

Fred was born and raised in Durango where he graduated from Durango High School. He later attended Fort Lewis College for two years, and went on to receive a degree in Agronomy from Colorado State University. Using his degree, he managed his family's agriculture supply business. His natural leadership in the business arena aided in his election to the Board of the National Retail Hardware Association in 1965 where he went on to serve as the Association's President.

Fred has spent a lifetime supporting local civic matters, from the Fort Lewis College Foundation Board to the Board of the First National Bank of Durango. His most lasting contribution to Western Colorado however, will be the decades of leadership which he has contributed to Colorado's water arena. He served on the Colorado Water Conservation Board for twenty-one years, and the Southwest Water Conservation District Board since 1954 where he served the District as President. The District covers six counties and portions of three others in Southwest Colorado. Fred also dedicated countless hours over the years to secure the passage of the Animas La Plata water project, which gives the Ute Indian Tribe the water resources promised to them in an earlier treaty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Fred Kroeger before this body of Congress and this nation, and congratulate him on receiving the Vanderhoof Award from Club 20.

The award is a well-deserved testament to Fred's willingness to provide his time and experience to his fellow citizens. It is my privilege to extend to Fred my sincerest thanks for his years of dedicated service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE POEMS OF STUDENTS FROM RIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL, FOLSOM, PA

#### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I had the great pleasure and honor to participate in the Ridley High School Memorial Day Program on May 28, 2004. I was presented with a very special compilation of poems composed by the students from Ridley High School's Advanced Placement American History/Honors English classes. The assignment was voluntary and those students, whose work is reflected here, searched their hearts for their feelings about America's military men and women. The result was a wonderful collection of poetry that expresses their pride and gratitude for those who make personal sacrifices to protect our freedoms and democracy.

I join with these students in their continued support and appreciation for our troops at home and abroad. I hope my colleagues find both inspiration and gratitude in their words so beautifully expressed.

#### WITH EVERY STEP

With every step through your daily life  
Quietly, they whisper  
Whisper courage to the young children  
Playing under the warmth of the sun  
Whisper sacrifice to all  
Enjoying the freedom they provided.  
From their peaceful rest they whisper  
Going under with the honor of a nation  
And their love of country  
The willing force for freedom  
Makes the land of the free  
The home of the brave.

In kind words, we whisper  
Do not forget the contributions  
Of our fallen countrymen  
In this time of terror  
They protect us still.

*Tabatha Sabatino*

#### OUR SUNS

Running laps, chasing circles, rounding wheels  
inside a mind fall back in time now  
answer questions, which before could change a life.  
Still inside is such a yearning once repressed in idol lines.  
Decisions made remain unchanged once again it's no surprise.  
Unending conflict risk of fears so unfair and still not right  
To rock the boat? To sink the boat? To loose the boat?  
To rise? As rise the sun and sons do rise before the settling of the matter  
What matters more won't make it right  
Forget what is right to love the latter.

*Sara Rothemel*

#### ORDINARY PEOPLE

War is not a poem I can write,  
There were men in marshes in Asia once  
Swallowing a lump in their throat

and running through a steel, cold rain  
and we couldn't understand why.

Peace is not an ideal blowing among the pollen  
from the windswept daisies.  
There were men trapped in foreign countries once  
battling for the freedom of oppressed people  
and assuring that America remained most free.

Justice is not found in the barrel of a gun  
It is not found in a switch or an engine  
It is not in the hand of the person in control of any of those

It is in the name of intuition  
and belief in a system

A whole  
One nation  
where most men have found freedom  
found a pursuit  
A man will step on the battlefield as a soldier  
the hero of middle America  
and return to his home  
his job, and his life  
like an ordinary man  
our nation is watched over  
by the vigilance, the gunshots,  
the air patrol, the patience,  
the dedication and discipline  
of ordinary people.

*Kim Leszak*

#### THE SOLDIER

The American soldier emits an ineffable presence  
To represent our country and to be revered  
He holds his duties with a profound dignity  
And sacrifices his character to defend our country  
He witnesses battles, and scourges, and deaths  
And gambles himself to defend our freedom  
His mission should be respected by all  
As he aims to keep safety for our American future.

*Chris Gross*

#### MY DADDY WAS A SAILOR

The little boy had found the trunk  
Hidden beneath the bed  
And when he opened the dusty lock  
Old visions filled his head.  
He saw his father's picture  
He was dressed in starch white  
He saw the ship that carried him  
And his eyes filled with fright  
He picked up all the medals  
As his eyes filled with tears  
For his father had died long ago  
And he had forgotten all these years  
He admired his father's bravery  
For he knew the story well  
His father protected his honor  
It is a story he loves to tell  
"My daddy was a sailor  
He wore his chevrons proud  
And though he cannot tell you  
He made us safe and sound  
My daddy gave his life  
Fighting for our country  
And I think it's safe to say  
His virtues are in me.  
I want to serve my country  
I want to stand up tall  
I want to be like my daddy  
I want that most of all."  
The little boy grew up that day  
He became a sailor too  
He knew the dangers facing him  
But his honor was brave and true.  
He will pass on the glory  
That his father gave to him  
He will fight for our country's honor  
He will be there through thick and thin.

I want you to know I serve my country  
Not because I have to  
I do it because I love being free  
I hope it is important to you.

*Jessyca Allen*

#### AMERICAN SOLDIERS

The sun shines on a distant land  
American soldiers arise to the surrounding  
sand.  
The heat is great, the sun is hot,  
But they still fight with all they've got.  
They think of home, warm and free  
The yellow flags that line the street

The hopes and prayers from family and  
friends  
Reminds them that their efforts do not go  
unnoticed.

But we as a nation must continue to show  
Support for our troops both near and far  
And though it's dirty,  
We must not forget the war.

*Brianne Brennan*

#### WHY THEY FIGHT

They fight for a simple word  
Engrained within our past  
They leave their lives and families  
To protect our cherished land.  
Leaving behind everything familiar  
These individuals unknown to the masses.  
But continue on for us,  
We Americans.  
Our fearless, proud defenders return  
Our simple idea is still safe  
Our simple, single idea.  
They defended the meaning of America  
With their valor, bravery and honor.  
They fight to protect our freedom.

*Jeanne Fasello*

#### WAR

Many things represent war and what it  
means to America today.  
Each citizen is touched by war and affected  
in a different way.  
Young men are called to battle and learn to  
fight with pride.  
They learn to support their country despite  
the fears they hold inside.  
Husbands and fathers uphold their duties and  
kiss their family goodbye.  
Even though their wives grow worried and  
their children begin to cry.  
Little boys play happily with toy guns and  
G.I. Joes  
Dreaming of the day that they can waltz in  
their camouflage clothes.  
Women and girls begin to step up and defend  
us with their hearts.  
Eventually the country will unify in war and  
everyone will take part.  
Even the ones who stay at home offer sup-  
port with the small things they do.  
They hang up yellow ribbons and waves flags  
of red, white and blue.  
It is through these American symbols and  
citizens,  
Supportive and courageous, that makes the  
fighting worth it.  
No matter how dangerous.  
We are all Americans, all sacrificing and  
standing tall.  
In times of war our country proudly sings  
their patriotic song.  
So let us take the time to recognize the  
brave on this Memorial Day  
For they will always be remembered as he-  
roes in every way.

*Meaghan Shinkle*

#### ONE LONELY STAR

One lonely star.  
All alone in the front window,

Five blue points bursting from a white  
ocean,  
Outlined with a red bank,  
Yellow ribbon holds it in place,  
So they may return home safe.  
She sees her son out the door;  
One final kiss  
Good-bye.  
Her motherly instincts straighten the uni-  
form,  
And she stares, pride filling her heart.  
Her eyes fall to her other son,  
And she wishes that he too would become  
such a man,

That fateful day.  
Two pillars of strength—  
Gone.  
Destruction, Confusion, Fear  
What's to come? ,

The news comes, as everyone knew it would.  
War.  
But will he go?  
Yes.

She cries, her baby all grown up.  
He's no longer her baby,  
He's her Hero, her Protector, her Strength.  
Letters come faithfully.  
But her nerves are never calmed  
Negative newscasts—fodder for fear,  
She prays her star not turn gold.

One lonely star,  
All alone in the front window,  
Five blue points bursting from a white  
ocean,  
Outlined with a red bank,  
Yellow ribbon holds it in place.  
May they return home safe.

*Chrissy Stief*

#### I'LL WALK BESIDE YOU

I'll walk along beside you  
and sometimes take your hand,  
as you suffer for my innocence  
and I'll grasp a bit tighter  
as you die for my smile.

I still don't know your name  
but I am a close friend with happiness,  
Though we have never met  
you introduced me to Hope  
Who had always been shy before.

And Pride, elusive as always,  
is a mutual companion we can share.  
You know pride through sacrifice  
and your sacrifice helped familiarize me with  
Pride.

One day we will meet,  
at a party I suspect,  
and though we have never seen each other  
I'll know you.  
I'll know you protected me millions of times  
for I can see myself in every person I meet,  
though we are not familiar.  
But we all know you, a still and silent sol-  
dier  
who bears the scars of our freedom.

*Colleen Beatty*

#### MEMORIAL MEMORIES

Gazing out of my window, wondering,  
Looking at the differences abounding,  
From luscious, green, growing trees  
To uniform streets connecting.  
How did all of this happen?  
America bears certain freedoms.  
Having to sustain our personal gains,  
We have to fight for our protected rights.  
So, we continue to live remembering the  
fight.

Needing pride to stop the vain,  
We have to remember those living and dead.  
Who have given their lives for the cause of  
freedom

Our lives continue to flourish because of our  
veterans and fighting soldiers.

*Shaleen Spuglio*

#### THE WARRIOR

As he charges shield raised  
Into the midst of battle  
He remembers those who fought before  
Gallantly dying in order to save the lives of  
others.

Woe though death's bite is strong  
And quick on their mortal bodies,  
The pure passion of battle carries their bod-  
ies like a trance,  
Cutting down any opposition in his way.  
Warrior, you are stronger than I,  
For you fight for a cause much greater than  
mine,

*David Benner*

#### FREEDOM ON YOUR SHOULDERS

We are the shadows,  
The whispers on the wind  
Of one lost  
For a sea of triumph.  
We are the ants  
Marching in a line  
To harvest a field of freedom  
For you.

We are the giants  
And freedom rests upon our shoulders.

*Cynthia Casebere*

#### OUR PROTECTORS

The Fates, the three  
Hunched over in wait  
With the cord spinning  
The color of dried blood and trench mud  
The color of years sacrificed  
The cord, the thread keeps spinning  
And another generation is tugged by it into  
the loop.  
Becoming protectors around our naked spool  
Barely missing the cool, hard scissors  
That threatens courageous souls.

*Adrienne Showalter*

#### FALLEN HEROES

##### SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

##### OF ARKANSAS

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you holding a moment of silence for our fallen heroes during legislative business on Thurs-  
day, May, 20, 2004. On the eve of Memorial Day, it was extremely important that we all paused to remember the brave men and women who have given their lives in the War on Terror. I am also grateful for the oppor-  
tunity to submit the following remarks on Specialist Dustin McGaugh and Private First Class Brandon Smith, the two brave servicemen from the Third District who gave their lives fighting the War on Terror in Iraq.

Specialist Dustin K. McGaugh grew up in Springdale, Arkansas. He was killed in a "friendly fire" accident in Balad, Iraq, last Oc-  
tober.

Private First Class Brandon Smith was a resident of Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was killed in action in Al Qaim, Iraq, late last March when the Humvee he was traveling in ran over a land mine. That Humvee was rushing to as-  
sist U.S. troops who were under enemy fire.

For both these brave men, just getting into the military was quite a challenge. Dustin en-  
listed in the Army prior to the September 11th