

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

attacks, but he broke his shinbone in basic training. He was so intent on becoming a soldier that he completed his last three weeks of basic training despite an injury that would have sidelined most of us.

When Brandon joined the Marines, he told his friends that he had found his life's calling. However, for Brandon fulfilling his lifelong dream was no simple task. Every morning, he had to run laps around Asbell Park, lift weights and literally lose 80 pounds to be in shape for Marine Boot Camp.

Dustin and Brandon served as inspirations to their fellow soldiers in Iraq and to Americans back home. On the battlefield, Dustin's fellow soldiers said that regardless of the dangers, he could often be found handing out candy to Iraqi children. And back home, community members signed a banner in Brandon's memory, recalling the bravery of a fallen Marine who put his country and his neighbors ahead of himself.

Mr. Speaker, Dustin and Brandon made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. They selflessly put themselves in harm's way so that future generations can live in a world free of terror. Dustin McGaugh and Brandon Smith are true American heroes. I ask my colleagues to keep their family and friends in their thoughts and prayers.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE MINNESOTA DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON RECEIVING THE 2004 MARK TRAIL AWARD

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Transportation on receiving the Mark Trail Award of 2004. Two Minnesotans, Rochester resident Troy Schmidt from the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Woodbury resident Terri Smith from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, are accepting the award at a ceremony tomorrow, June 4, 2004 in Washington D.C.

Since approaching the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service in 2000, the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Transportation have expanded the Minnesota NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter network from 12 to 32 transmitters, with 4 more about to go into service. As a result, 99 percent of all Minnesotans are now within broadcast range of a National Weather Radio transmitter.

The statewide NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter network will provide Minnesotans with weather announcements and other emergency messages when necessary. When tragedy strikes, this network will allow for notice of emergencies such as fire, flood, tornado or accidents involving hazardous materials to be broadcast so Minnesotans will be aware of the

emergency procedures, and can keep their families safe.

Mr. Speaker, it is important services, such as the National Weather Service, that provide a safe environment for the public. It is my privilege to recognize two outstanding Minnesotans, Troy Schmidt and Terri Smith, for their work. I would like to express my appreciation for the sponsors of the Mark Trail Award and for the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Transportation for their help and achievements in coordinating county, state, and federal services.

HONORING BETTY JANE GORIN-SMITH

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual from my home state of Kentucky. Betty Jane Gorin-Smith has been a longtime volunteer and leading voice in the historic preservation efforts of the Heartland Civil War Trails Project. This extraordinary endeavor is only a footnote to her many years of service in the Taylor County community, as a distinguished teacher, author, and historian.

Mrs. Gorin-Smith taught U.S. and world history in local schools for more than two decades. She has also taught at Campbellsville University and Lindsey Wilson College. Her academic and civic awards are numerous. She has written numerous published articles and is presently completing a book on the life of Civil War General John Hunt Morgan. In addition to her work with the Heartland Civil War Trails Commission, Mrs. Smith is recognized as a primary leader of the preservation effort at the Tebbbs Bend Civil War battlefield.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Gorin-Smith, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for her exemplary citizenship and community engagement. Her efforts, past and present, make her an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

On the occasion of the Civil War Trails Commission ribbon cutting, I publicly endorse Betty Jane Gorin-Smith as Historian Laureate for the Heartland Region of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to remember the valiant efforts of their neighbors and fellow citizens of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

America is a nation of the sea. Our oceans, lakes and rivers have left an indelible mark upon the American existence. The American Merchant Marine—both the industry and mariners who ply the oceans of the world under our Flag—are a critical part of our national infrastructure. During peace time they move the

goods that keep America moving, and during war time, they protect us by ensuring that our soldiers abroad have the equipment, food and medicine that keep them fighting.

As President Ronald Reagan said in his 1988 National Maritime Day proclamation, "... the merchant marine continues its roles in trade and defense—and the sailors of our commercial fleets continue to exhibit the patriotism and the many skills that have ever characterized them and their predecessors. It is truly fitting that we pause to salute these seafarers and all other Americans who support them and guard the lifelines of the sea that sustain us all."

Yet despite the critical role in our national infrastructure that the maritime industry plays, it is all too easy to forget them. We see trucks every day on our roads, and we see airplanes in our skies. We do not see the hundreds of ships that sail our oceans brimming with cargo, bound for our malls and supermarkets. We do not see the thousands of men and women who leave behind their families for months at a time to crew these vessels and ensure that the goods we need to survive make it to our shores.

Every May 22, we as a nation come together to celebrate National Maritime Day, a day to remember those men and women who are so often forgotten. Today, just as it was at our nation's founding, the American Merchant Marine remains an important part of our national experience.

IN MEMORY OF SPC. MICHAEL CURTIS CAMPBELL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Spc. Michael Curtis Campbell of Marshfield, MO. Spc. Campbell was killed when his combat patrol was attacked with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire near Samarra, Iraq.

Spc. Campbell chose to serve his country early. Upon graduating from St. Paul's Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO, in 1988, he entered the United States Navy where he spent four years, serving during Operation Desert Storm.

As a member of the National Guard, Spc. Campbell was called to serve following the September 11th terrorist attacks. He was first tasked with hauling debris from the remains of the World Trade Center. He was assigned to Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany. He arrived in Germany in December, 2003, and left for Iraq in February of this year.

Mr. Speaker, Spc. Michael Campbell answered the call to service when his country needed him most. I know the Members of the House will join me in offering condolences to his friends and family.