

Those who wish for the liberty of all people will forever owe a debt to Captain Das. This young man from the Texas Panhandle became a hero when he refused to be governed by fear and sacrificed his life for us and our safety.

Captain Eric Das has joined an unbroken line of patriots who dared to die so that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings.

May God continue to bless our Nation with such heroes.

RECOGNIZING GREG GROUNDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Greg Grounds, Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri from 1990 through April 2004 and former Alderman of Ward 1. Greg's community involvement has always been extensive whether it be in public office or in volunteer work. In the past, he has served in such capacities as the Mid-America Regional Council Board of Directors, Chairman of the Jackson County Suburban Mayors Association, and worked with the National League of Cities' Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committee. Greg is also a past Co-Chair and Member of the Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council and a past President of the West Gate Division of the Missouri Municipal League.

Greg's efforts as Mayor and Alderman contributed heavily to the development and successful growth of Blue Springs over the past fifteen years. Greg has helped lead many important projects such as the development of the Adams Dairy Corridor that included the construction of the Adams Pointe Golf Club and the Adams Pointe Conference Center, construction of several new parks and recreation facilities for the community including Wilbur Young Park, the Hidden Valley Park Sports Complex, and Vesper Hall, and residential and commercial development valued in excess of \$310 and \$140 million respectively. In addition, his leadership resulted in the addition of 980,000 square feet of new retail space and the annexation of 2,000 acres in south Blue Springs for which Greg helped to develop a South Annexation Plan in preparation for its future growth.

Greg is a fine asset to the city of Blue Springs and the entire Sixth District of Missouri. Through his rich career in community, volunteer and public service, he is the epitome of an ideal citizen. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career, as well as the future of Greg Grounds, who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri.

CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN ON DEMOCRACY PROTESTORS IN TIANANMEN SQUARE, BEIJING, IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT TRAGIC MASSACRE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on 4 June 1989, communist Chinese tanks rumbled into Tiananmen Square. Since that bleak day 15 years ago, when the communist hardliners quashed liberty under the treads of a tank, China has undergone many changes. Despite the liberalization that appears to have taken place, China remains dedicated to absolute control by the communist government. No where is this commitment more evident than in a 421 square mile economic and political haven called Hong Kong.

In 1997, the United Kingdom returned Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China. As part of the agreement transferring sovereignty, China pledged to keep Hong Kong's democratic and capitalist system in place for 50 years. Hong Kong's Basic Law, which is based on an agreement between Great Britain and the PRC, guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. Private property rights and protection from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention or imprisonment are also guaranteed. Residents of the Hong Kong have the right to vote and the right to stand for election.

The freedoms and liberties enshrined in the Basic Law sound remarkably like the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy in the United States by virtue of the Constitution. The only difference is that no one in the United States is actively working to destroy the Constitution. Over the last few years, the honeymoon between Beijing and Hong Kong has ended. Beijing has tightened its grip on the region, and has begun to undermine the fundamental freedoms promised under the Basic Law. Perhaps not coincidentally, Hong Kong's economy has flourished in the last few years.

When the British left Hong Kong, the Communist government reassured the world that nothing would be done to undermine Hong Kong. After all, it was argued, in their eagerness to show the world a new face, why would China destroy one of the premier trading and financial centers in the Orient. Why, indeed?

After 7 years, we see that the Communist government has every intention of destroying Hong Kong. Last year Beijing proposed a law that would have restricted freedom of the press and the ability of residents to criticize the government. In response over 500,000 of Hong Kong's 6.8 million people demonstrated against the PRO's attempts to stifle democracy. The Mainland government backed off—but only temporarily. Hong Kong's Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa has promised to revisit the issue.

In April, Beijing ruled out universal suffrage for Hong Kong's chief executive in 2007 and the legislature in 2008. One mainland official said direct elections might not be possible until 2050.

In early May, Beijing warned legislators in Hong Kong that they have no right to criticize the government's decision to rule out full democracy. Beijing also sent eight Chinese warships—two submarines, four frigates and two destroyers—through Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor. Is this display of force a prelude to a Tiananmen-style crackdown? This provocative display of force certainly sends an ominous warning to Hong Kong's democrats and the rest of the world that the People's Republic of China will dictate policy in Hong Kong, and that dissension will be dealt with in a resolute manner.

All of the PRO's actions lay bare Beijing's contempt for the rule of law. It is apparent that the PRC wants to rule Hong Kong like the rest of China—corruptly, inefficiently, heavily-handedly. Hong Kong will not remain the vibrant capitalist center without freedom. Politics and economics are inextricably tied to one another.

China's mishandling of Hong Kong sends an unmistakable message to other observers around the region. If China ever hopes to entice Taiwan into the Chinese fold, their policies, vis-à-vis Hong Kong do not offer very reassuring prospects. I believe it is up to the people of Taiwan to decide whether or not they will be united with the Mainland; but Beijing's current attempts to choke democracy and capitalism in Hong Kong certainly do not make unification an attractive option for Taiwan.

Beijing's current attitudes toward Hong Kong show us the real meaning of One China, Two Systems. As the Beijing's true definition of this policy becomes apparent, it is imperative that we support Taiwan's efforts to resist Beijing's hostile advances. It is also imperative that we support democracy in Hong Kong before it is too late.

RECOGNIZING DR. GLENDA VITTIMBERGA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Glenda Vittimberga, a leader in the field of psychology who recently passed away.

Dr. Vittimberga was a young and vibrant scholar who dedicated her life to teaching and enriching the minds of college students at California State University, Los Angeles. Born in Warwick, Rhode Island on June 29, 1967, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rhode Island in 1988, earning Summa Cum Laude honors. Shortly after, she received both a Masters degree in 1991 and a Doctorate degree in 1994 in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University.

In 1988, Dr. Vittimberga obtained a tenure-track position at Cal State L.A., where she proudly shared her expertise and taught clinical psychology at the university's psychology department. Her position included teaching courses in behavior theory, individual assessment, counseling skills, intervention of severe behavior problems, and supervising graduate interns.

A licensed psychologist and active community leader, she provided direct client services

to families with children who suffered from severe mental disabilities at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. In addition, she served on the Board of the California Association of Behavior Analysts and also provided consulting to faculty and students of local public schools.

Dr. Vittimberga's life was cut short on February 16, 2004. Her parents, Bruno and Jacklyn Vittimberga, her two sisters Gwenn and Gail, and her brother, Anthony survive her.

She will always be remembered for her contribution to the field of psychology, higher education, and for brilliantly enriching the minds and hearts of her students and colleagues.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM
BAUGHMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jim Baughman and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as a Mesa County Commissioner. A two-term commissioner, Jim will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of his community. As Jim celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Mesa County and the State of Colorado.

A fifth generation Mesa County native, Jim graduated from Grand Junction High School and attended Mesa State College. He became interested in politics when he attended a Grand Junction City Council meeting, and realized he could make a positive impact on his community. In 1991, he was elected to the City Council where he served until his election as a Mesa County Commissioner in 1996. During his tenure as a County Commissioner, he also served on the Riverfront Commission, the Museum Board, the Community Corrections Board, the Grand Valley Air Quality Board, and Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado. He was Chairman of the Board of Mesa County Commissioners in 1998 and 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Jim Baughman before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career of public service. His selfless dedication to his community and the people of Colorado as a Mesa County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant 1st Class Robert Edward Rooney of Nashua, New Hampshire. He bravely served the U.S. Army National Guard's 379th Engi-

neer Company, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt. Ferguson made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and aid the Iraqi people when he died of injuries he sustained in an accident at the Shuabai Port in Kuwait on September 25, 2003.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant 1st Class Robert Edward Rooney and our other service men and women who have courageously given their own lives in order to protect and defend the democracy we enjoy in America and to extend the freedoms that come with democracy to those who live in fear and oppression worldwide.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I would like to rise in honor of a courageous young soldier who died September 7, 2003, of injuries suffered August 30 when the truck he was driving in a supply convoy was hit by a civilian vehicle in Iraq. United States Army Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson, was a member of the Lewes, Delaware-based 946th Transportation Company, and sadly was our State's first war casualty from a Reserve or National Guard unit.

At only 27 years of age, Jarrett was a brave young reservist who valiantly served his State and Country. A Dover resident who grew up in Millington, Maryland and played high school football, Jarrett joined the Army in March of 1994. Following a 3-year tour of active duty at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he continued his commitment to service as a member of the Army Reserve. When he was called to active duty in January 2003, Jarrett dutifully accepted service in the Middle East, where his fellow reservists described him as an energetic, mission-oriented soldier.

In civilian life, Jarrett was a design engineer for Ashland Equipment, Inc. A proud son and devoted husband and father, Jarrett will be deeply missed by his parents, Judy Coleman Thompson and Allen B. Thompson, his wife Kelly, and their sons Conner and Collin. At his funeral in September, Jarrett received a 21-gun salute and the Bronze Star Medal in honor of his noble service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Army Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson was an honorable defender of liberty, and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation by paying the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom and democracy.

While we should honor all our nation's veterans both living and dead throughout the year, on this particular Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the nation's World War II veterans. On May 29th, the World War II memorial, a fitting tribute to "the Greatest Generation," will be dedicated on the National Mall. Hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans and their families will visit the memorial which is a permanent reminder to us and to future generations that the sacrifices made by the soldiers who served overseas, their families, and the Americans who were on the homefront, saved the world from tyranny. From the beaches of Normandy to the Battle of Midway to the construction of the China-Burma-India Road, these soldiers fought for a cause bigger than themselves.

One of these heroes, Michel Thomas, resides in my congressional district and recently was awarded the Silver Star for his extraordinary courage during World War II. I, along with Senator John McCain (R-AZ), worked with the Department of Defense on Mr. Thomas's behalf so that he finally would receive the honor he so justly deserves.

Michel Thomas was born in Poland to a Jewish family with a thriving textile business. In 1933, he fled Hitler's regime in Germany for France. Thomas last saw his family in 1937. He later learned they were all murdered at Auschwitz.

During the war, he survived two years of concentration and slave labor camps in Vichy France and narrowly escaped deportation to Auschwitz. He joined the Secret Army of the French Resistance, where he was active for two years as a commando leader. In 1943, Thomas was caught by and escaped from Klaus Barbie, the notorious Butcher of Lyon. The next year Thomas served in Combat Intelligence in the 180th Regiment of the U.S. Army 45th Division, The Thunderbirds, and was nominated for the Silver Star for his bravery.

On April 29, 1945, Thomas, an agent in the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), arrived at Dachau concentration camp on the day of liberation. Thomas interrogated and photographed the crematorium workers. Two days later Thomas captured the "Hangman of Dachau," Emil Mahl, who was subsequently convicted of war crimes.

In early May 1945, Thomas tracked a convoy of trucks to a paper mill outside Munich, where he rescued from destruction the Nazi Party's worldwide membership card file of over ten million members. The Nazi leadership had shipped the cards, along with tons of other important Third Reich government documents, to be pulped in the final days of the war. These documents became the heart of the collections of the U.S.-run Berlin Document Center, and were crucial in the Nuremberg war crimes trials and in the denazification of Germany.

In 1946, Thomas helped to capture Gustav Knittel, who was convicted of war crimes for his role in the Malmedy massacre of American POWs at the Battle of the Bulge. I am proud to honor Michel Thomas for his heroism.

On Memorial Day, it is fitting that we honor all the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served their nation throughout history including those who are currently risking their lives around the world, including in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have been to both countries twice and have visited with soldiers from New York and across the country. I especially