

Many veterans are thankful for his generosity and kindness. Without his guidance and the assistance that the many veterans' organizations provide, many of our American Heroes would be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute to an outstanding veteran, Mr. Ken Hamlin, for his past service to our Nation and his continued commitment to assisting veterans.

NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in enthusiastic support of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003, and I want to thank my distinguished colleagues from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, for their leadership on this legislation.

The bill before the House, S. 1233, provides key funding for an important Baltimore institution. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum will help preserve our nation's history. Located in East Baltimore, the Museum features nearly 200 exhibits and commemorates Black Americans in the fields of government, law, military service, science and religion. More than 300,000 visitors each year view its exhibits and participate in its programs. I have visited the museum several times, most recently for the unveiling of the image of our friend and former House colleague, Kweisi Mfume.

In the words of noted historian Carter G. Woodson, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." If Dr. Woodson were alive today, he would applaud the work of Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin. Back in 1983, these two pioneers recognized the importance of going beyond textbooks to expand the horizons of young minds, to stimulate their imaginations, to bring historical figures to life. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum has helped preserve and celebrate the legacy of Black America, which I would emphasize is important for all Americans, including nascent immigrant communities.

Enactment of this bill will also expand the educational opportunities provided by the Museum, which works in coordination with religious and art groups to offer after-school and community activities in East Baltimore. This bill also authorizes \$15 million for expansion of the Museum's existing facilities through a grant from the Department of Justice, and it will establish the Justice Learning Center.

This bill has passed the Senate unanimously and I look forward to its passage in the House and enactment. I urge my colleagues to visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, to recommend it to their constituents, and to vote in favor of S. 1233.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL W. DAVIS'S DEDICATION TO THE BURBANK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Davis for 35 years of dedicated service to the Burbank Fire Department.

Mike Davis joined the Burbank Fire Department as a probationary firefighter in 1969. He promoted through the ranks of the Fire Department and has served as Fire Chief for the past 14 years. He has held positions including Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Fire Battalion Chief and finally Fire Chief. He has worked in all divisions of the department including Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, Fire Training, Emergency Medical Services, Disaster Preparedness and Fire Administration.

His education includes an A.A. Degree in Fire Science from Los Angeles Valley College, and a B.S. Degree in Fire Protection Administration and Technology from California State University Los Angeles. His background also includes seven years of experience as a football player while at L.A.V.C. and Utah State University. He played professionally with the Toronto "Rifles" of the now-defunct Continental Football League as well as the New York "Jets" organization of the American Football League.

Chief Davis is a proud member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs where he serves on the Elections Committee. He is a member of the Western Fire Chiefs' Association and has faithfully served on the board of directors for the California Fire Chiefs' Association for 11 years. In addition, he maintains a membership in the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs' Association where he serves on several subcommittees, the Foothill Fire Chiefs' Association, and the Burbank Chapter of Rotary International. Michael Davis is one of Burbank's shining role models and outstanding citizens. He has brought prestige to the Burbank Fire Department's past, present, and future.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Michael Davis for an exemplary professional and public service career, and for his immense commitment to the City of Burbank and its residents.

HONORING U.S. ARMY
LIEUTENANT KEN BALLARD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Lieutenant Ken Ballard who was tragically killed on Sunday, May 30th in Najaf, Iraq. Lt. Ballard served as a platoon leader in the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

Lt. Ballard grew up in the Bay Area of California. After graduating from Mountain View High School in 1995, he joined the Army where he served in Germany, Bosnia, and Macedonia. He won an ROTC scholarship to

Middle Tennessee State University and earned a bachelors degree in international relations prior to his deployment to Iraq.

Lt. Ken Ballard comes from a proud tradition of military service. He is the fourth generation on both sides of his family to serve our country in uniform going back to World War I. Lt. Ballard served courageously and with honor through unimaginable circumstances, acting bravely to protect the lives of those with whom he served.

Ken Ballard gave his life at the age of 26 with a bright and promising future ahead of him. It is with both sorrow and pride that we remember Lt. Ballard. As many in his hometown of Mountain View and across the Bay Area gather to mourn his loss, we honor Lt. Ballard's leadership, selfless sacrifice, and courageous service to our nation. Lt. Ballard was an outstanding American and a great Californian.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his mother Karen Meredith and father Tom Ballard and all his family.

RECOGNIZING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIED LANDING AT NOR- MANDY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II by American, British, Canadian and other Allied troops. Our nation's enduring gratitude goes out to the courageous veterans whose foresight and sacrifice brought the Allied forces perhaps the most crucial victory of World War II.

The 60th anniversary of D-Day commemorates a pivotal point in the war and a unique moment in time when coordination and valor forged unprecedented advancement of the Allied forces against the Nazis and their Axis powers. Operation Overlord, the most extensive amphibious operation ever to occur involved 153,000 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force who stormed five separate beaches at Normandy. It was a battle labeled 'The Great Crusade in Europe' by Allied Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower. Facing exceptional danger, 800 planes, full of airborne paratroopers carrying ninety to one hundred twenty pounds of extra weight on their back, invaded occupied Normandy with a mission to secure crucial high grounds, roads and bridges. In close succession, 30,000 vehicles charged the five separate beaches at Normandy, carrying soldiers who became the first to cross the formidable English Channel since 1688.

Poised to attack the disciplined German Army and seized with the loss of most of their radios and 60% of their supplies during landing, the men at D-Day could not rely on superior technology. In one of history's defining moments, the liberation of occupied France depended on human skill and will power, on anticipating the enemy and charging courageously forward. Ultimately, on D-Day, bravery in combat changed history. The soldiers of six valiant divisions met the most uncertain of

risks to defend the freedom we cherish today, suffering close to 9,000 casualties. As Winston Churchill said of his British troops, 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

Today, as we remember the invasion of Normandy as the turning point of World War II, we commemorate what the defeat of Hitler's army symbolized to the United States and to the world, a landmark in the struggle for Liberty and Democracy.

June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the end of Hitler's ambition for world domination.

In honoring the anniversary of this democratic touchstone, we acknowledge the legacy of America's historic charge—wars fought for truly just causes. We etch this day into our Nation's profound memory so that we may convey to new generations the respect that liberty commands and the gratitude we owe to courage.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL AZEVEDO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Paul Azevedo, a resident of Pacifica, California, located in my Congressional district, who passed away on May 9th. Mr. Azevedo was a popular columnist at the Pacifica Tribune, a local paper, a historian of his beloved town, and above all, a family man.

Mr. Azevedo was born in Sonoma County, California on March 20, 1931. He served in the U.S. Army and earned a degree from San Jose State University. Mr. Azevedo moved with his wife Lydia to picturesque Pacifica 41 years ago where they raised four children, Mike, Rena, Martin and Joane, in this picturesque Peninsula town.

Mr. Azevedo joined the Pacifica Tribune in 1966 as an ad salesman and proceeded to hold almost every imaginable job at the paper before eventually settling into his role as a columnist. Known as "The Reactor", Mr. Azevedo eloquently opined on all matters that affected the Peninsula. Sometimes he merely related historical anecdotes that he thought relevant to the present day. A bit of a maverick, he did not always write the conventional column, but inspired praise nonetheless for engaging his readers on a variety of diverse and interesting subjects.

Mr. Speaker, no one knew more about the Pacifica and no details escaped his steel trap of a mind. In the last "Reactor" column, his family recalled all of the places around town that he loved with no area left out.

As one would expect of a vocal columnist, Mr. Azevedo had strong opinions about politics, however despite those opinions his overriding desire was to insure that his beloved democracy was upheld. That is why in addition to writing his column, he also worked in the local election's office, proofreading election material in English, Chinese and Spanish and although not fluent in Chinese and Spanish, he spotted errors in the materials that fluent speakers overlooked by finding inconsistencies in the text. Mr. Azevedo also looked to preserve the natural beauty of Pacifica as a member of the Open Space Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Azevedo was as much apart of Pacifica as the fog that rolls in off the

ocean and the waves that crash on his beloved beaches. Both his personality and his column will be sorely missed. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him, and all that he meant to family, friends, and neighbors on the Peninsula.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS REEFE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Q. Reeve, whose lifelong dedication to the Santa Cruz community consists of over 35 years of volunteerism and leadership with local organizations. Tom will be retiring from his current position as Executive Director of Leadership Santa Cruz County where he has diligently worked to advance the interests of the organization for the betterment of the community for over 13 years.

Tom first became involved in local politics while attending UC Berkeley in the 1960's. He was soon recognized by many as a community organizer and anti-war activist. His education was interrupted by military service while he served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. After a distinguished tour, Tom returned to receive his PhD in African History in 1974. Following the receipt of his degree, Tom taught History at the University of North Carolina. After a fruitful career as a professor, Tom accepted a position at the University of California Santa Cruz as Director of Career Services where he worked until 1993.

Beyond his extensive professional experience, Tom has been an integral part of the local Santa Cruz community as well. A member of the first graduating class of Leadership Santa Cruz in 1986, Tom has remained loyal to the organization since its inception. Due to his innovative and sustainable proposals, Leadership Santa Cruz has blossomed into a much relied upon organization within our community. Under his tutelage, over 600 members of our community, including members of my district staff, have been guided through an extensive course intended to outline the various facets that make up Santa Cruz County.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Tom on his much deserved retirement and thank him for his contribution to our society. Tom has continuously gone above and beyond the roles bestowed upon him and has left in his wake a legacy of community leadership. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID SICKLER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. David Sickler, a lifelong champion for working families.

Mr. Sickler serves as the Director of the Southern California State Building and Construction Trades Council. Under his leadership, Mr. Sickler has successfully advanced the goals of the Council and has proven to be one of the most talented and effective union

organizers in the country. In particular, he is at the forefront of the national movement to promote and protect the rights of immigrant workers.

For over a decade, Mr. Sickler has served as Chair of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Labor Center's Advisory Committee. His dynamic and compassionate leadership on the Committee make him an excellent role model for people of all ages who seek social justice in their communities.

The celebration of the 40th anniversary of the UCLA Labor Center is a testament to the hard work and tireless leadership of David Sickler and so many others who have dedicated their lives to advancing the causes of working families in this nation. I salute David Sickler, and other great labor leaders such as Dolores Huerta, Reverend James Lawson, and Tom Rankin, for their commitment and determination to bring social justice to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the body to recognize labor leaders of the past, the UCLA Labor Center, and all union organizers throughout America.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY RESERVE SPECIALIST MICHAEL J. WIESEMANN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pride and respect that I pay tribute to Army Reserve Specialist Michael J. Wiesemann for his bravery in the field of battle and his willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Wiesemann lost his life Saturday, May 29, 2004, in a non-combat related injury, while bravely serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom for the United States Army. His sacrifice will be remembered at funeral services on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

Specialist Wiesemann, 20, was born in Valparaiso, Indiana. He later moved to North Judson, Indiana, a small town with a population of fifteen hundred, and graduated from North Judson-San Pierre High School in 2002. He was known as a great artist with a witty sense of humor. After high school, Specialist Wiesemann decided to join the Army Reserves with the hope that it would assist him financially with college, help him fulfill his dream of becoming an artist, and allow him to find himself through the discipline and order that it provides.

Michael's sacrifice for his country is a tribute to his dedication and willingness to put others before himself. Those who knew Michael best describe him as a kind, fun-loving person, who always wanted to help others. He ultimately gave his life while protecting his fellow Americans. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he fought.

Specialist Wiesemann is survived by his mother, Karen Bubac, his stepfather, Robert Bubac, his father, Duwain Wilson, his brother, Travis Bubac, his half-sister, Tori Bubac, and