

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

his fiancée Abigail Trusty, whom he planned to marry when he returned home from Iraq. These individuals were the heroes to a true patriot, so I rise today to honor them and recognize their sacrifice during these tumultuous times.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Reserve Specialist Michael J. Wiesemann. Specialist Wiesemann is the twenty-third service member from Indiana to sacrifice his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his passing comes as a difficult setback to a community shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Wiesemann will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

WELCOME HOME DUSTIN TULLER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome home Army Staff Sergeant Dustin Tuller and to thank him for patriotically answering his nation's call to duty.

America has put our power at the service of principle. We believe that liberty is the design of nature, the direction of history, and that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty. Last, we believe that freedom—the freedom we prize—is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind.

By definition, the success of freedom rests upon the choices and the courage of free peoples, and upon their willingness to sacrifice. In the trenches of World War I, through a two-front war in the 1940s, the difficult battles of Korea and Vietnam, to battling the faceless enemy in the war on terror and in missions of rescue and liberation on nearly every continent, Americans have amply displayed our willingness to sacrifice for liberty and freedom.

Just two days before Christmas, Dustin had just positioned his squad outside a building in Iraq to provide security during the raid when the soldiers came under fire. Despite being shot four times in the legs and pelvis, he returned gunfire and started looking for a concealed position. Soon after, Dustin arrived at a hospital and learned that he would have to have both legs amputated. Having hopes of becoming a physical education teacher, the interruption in his life has not deterred his plans.

On a daily basis, we are reminded of the tremendous costs that freedom often requires. Throughout the history of the United States of America, men, women and families have given their all to further our constitutional hopes and dreams.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress; we are humbled by and appreciative of men, women and families like Dustin Tuller's who are willing to answer their nation's call.

Thank you Dustin, Alisha, Dilyn, Zachery, Dammy, and Lexi. We all owe you a heartfelt debt of gratitude. Welcome Home.

## RECOGNIZING FAITH IN ACTION

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Faith in Action, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the many dedicated individuals who serve in this interfaith volunteer caregiving program.

I had the pleasure of meeting with numerous volunteers from throughout my Congressional District during their visit to Washington, and I was uplifted and inspired by the stories they shared with me.

### FAITH IN ACTION FOR CASS COUNTY

Esther is an 83-year-old woman who has osteoporosis and spinal fractures. She is a lovely lady who has lived alone for 30 years since her husband died, in a home built in 1908 in great need of repair. Esther has no children and is on a fixed income.

When she was diagnosed with spinal fractures, she was in a lot of pain and was told there was nothing she could do. She had lost hope. She first came to the attention of Faith in Action when the agency was told the water in her home was undrinkable. A septic system repairman told her he punctured her well and she should not drink the water. Faith in Action found a volunteer who brings her clean water every week. For years she used a flashlight to find her way in the bathroom, as the light fixture did not work. She feared asking a repairperson to help as another repairperson had taken her valuables. The Faith in Action AmeriCorps Vista Worker fixed her light fixture, and there is now a team of Faith in Action volunteers who takes her to the doctor, to the grocery store, and out to lunch. They clean her house, repair her furnace when needed and wrap her frozen pipes. Faith in Action is there for her whenever she needs help; she is always so grateful and occasionally pays \$5 or \$10 to Faith in Action.

Esther is determined to stay in her home so she can feed the deer and chipmunks. Faith in Action volunteers help to provide comfort and assistance so she can stay in her home as long as possible.

### LAKES AREA INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS

Faith in Action in the Lakes Area received a call last fall from the wife of an 84-year-old veteran of 30 years and two wars. She stated that they needed a ramp because he is confined to a wheelchair, she has a bad back, and it is very difficult to get him out of the house. She even stated that she had dropped him down the cement front stairs onto the cement sidewalk the previous week.

This was in late November and within one week Faith in Action had six volunteers over and completed a ramp for them. It snowed the next day. Faith in Action received a nice thank you from her stating that they love the ramp, they feel much safer now, and her back feels much better.

Faith in Action also received a note a while ago thanking them for giving a woman a ride everyday for 18 days to see her husband in intensive care. She stated that without wonderful volunteers who brought her 30 miles in the morning and home again 30 miles in the afternoon, she would not have been able to visit her husband of 66 years before he died.

### NORTHWOODS INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS ARE ESSENTIAL

Tessie has been a transportation volunteer for Northwoods Interfaith for nearly 4 years and has provided over 500 hours of priceless services to several Carereceivers. Not only has she made her car available when someone needed a ride to a medical appointment, to the bank, or to the grocery store, but she has also made herself available, as a friend, to each Carereceiver that she helps. When asking a Carereceiver what she thinks of Tessie, the Carereceiver responded:

"I consider Tessie to be my own special angel. I thank God for sending her every day. She is a true champion, and there's nothing she wouldn't do for me. For the past 3 years, Tessie has driven me to dialysis 3 times a week and even when she had to pick me up at 5:30 in the morning, she was always cheerful and kind. She helps me with errands, takes me out to eat when I don't feel good enough to cook a meal, and keeps me updated on our church news. She has shared her grandchildren with me, her pets, and her home. She is my family. I can't say enough about Tessie. She is a true example of volunteers at their extreme best."

### FAMILY PATHWAYS SENIOR SERVICES

Every month volunteers are asked to report their activities with clients and turn in their mileage report so they can be reimbursed for their mileage and Family Pathways can tabulate statistics for funding sources. Vicki sent in her report and had driven 1,496 miles for the month. That was much higher than usual. The Volunteer Coordinator visited with Vicki and asked if she had to relinquish 2 of her 5 clients which ones would she be able to give up to another volunteer. After some discussion and consideration, she said, "Oh, I couldn't give up any of them." Her clients can't say enough positive things about Vicki and her unrelenting energy and willingness to help others. Vicki is 90 years old.

Family Pathways also assists a couple that lives in a trailer home in the country. He has severe dementia, she has diabetes and has left-sided weakness due to a stroke. Their children all work, and, although they live nearby, they wanted some company for their parents on a weekly basis. Family Pathways found an older couple that wanted to volunteer together. The Volunteer Coordinator brought the volunteer couple to their home to visit to see if it would be a good match. The couples began talking and visiting, and before long an hour had gone by. There was laughter, teasing, story telling and a whole bunch of good feeling around the room. Yes, it was a good match. This couple now goes out once a week to visit. They have driven them into town for shopping, helped plant flowers around their trailer and thoroughly enjoy their time together.

I am proud to rise on the floor today to commend these altruistic individuals and to recognize a program that is bringing together people of different faiths to care for their neighbors. Faith in Action was created in the spirit of community volunteerism and the nearly 1,000 interfaith volunteer caregiving programs that have developed across the country provide the balm of Gilead. The stories of changed lives as a result of their presence in the community has touched me and clearly provides hope to many individuals in need.