

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.

GENOCIDE IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record a letter sent to Secretary General Kofi Annan signed by 45 Members of Congress asking Mr. Annan to go to Darfur, Sudan, to end the genocide.

I would also like to submit for the record an article from the Washington Post, "In Sudan, Staring Genocide in the Face." The author is Jerry Fowler, staff director of the Committee on Conscience, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

We are staring genocide in the face. Will the world fail to act as it has so many times in the past? Over the next few weeks I will continue to submit stories from leading news sites on this issue. I want the world to know that when historians are looking back at the Darfur genocide and wondering why more was not done, there will be evidence in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that the world knew.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

June 4, 2004.

Hon. KOFI ANNAN,
Secretary General, United Nations
New York, NY.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL: We are extremely concerned that the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, has not received the international attention or response that is needed to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. With the rainy season just weeks away, the window of opportunity is closing.

The situation on the ground is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Urgent, immediate action is needed to prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. Your going to Darfur would call to the world's attention the ongoing slaughter. Precious time is slipping away.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this crisis but the situation calls for even bolder action from the United Nations. We urge you to go to Darfur and stand in solidarity with the people.

The international community must act swiftly. Failure to act will bring certain death to the thousands languishing in camps. The world will wake up 10 years from now and wonder why more was not done to protect humanity. The evidence is clear. We cannot say that we did not know.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf; Donald M. Payne; Tom Lantos; Edward R. Royce; Henry J. Hyde; Christopher H. Smith; Sheila Jackson-Lee; Peter A. Defazio; Michael R. McNulty; Peter Deutsch; Lois Capps; Chris Bell; Wm. Lacy Clay; Martin T. Meehan; Michael M. Honda; Elijah E. Cummings; James P. McGovern; Raul M. Grijalva; Todd W. Akin; Vic Snyder; Barbara Lee.

Ken Calvert; Maurice D. Hinchey; Julia Carson; James T. Walsh; Wayne T. Gilchrest; Carolyn B. Maloney; Edolphus Towns; Michael E. Capuano; Mark Steven Kirk; Chris Van Hollen; Jesse L. Jackson; Sue Wilkins Myrick; Betty McCollum; Brad Sherman; Lucille Roybal-Allard; James P. Moran; Henry A. Waxman; Thomas G. Tancredo; Jo Ann Davis; Luis V. Gutierrez; Gerald D. Kleczka; Timothy V. Johnson; Nita M. Lowey; Sam Farr.

[From the Washington Post, June 6, 2004]

IN SUDAN, STARING GENOCIDE IN THE FACE

(By Jerry Fowler)

In the cool desert dawn on May 16, at the Touloum refugee camp in eastern Chad, 2-

year-old Fatima put her hands on her stomach, groaned and died. Her mother, Toma Musa Suleiman, in describing the death to me the next day, said that Fatima had been sick for 10 days. By the time she died, her skin was pallid and felt like plastic—the effects of malnutrition.

I was seeing with my own eyes what I had been hearing about for several months: Children are dying almost every day in refugee camps in eastern Chad, despite a vigorous international effort to get food, water and other essentials to the more than 100,000 who have fled in fear from the Darfur region of neighboring Sudan.

They are among the 1 million Darfurians who have been displaced from their homes, most of whom are still in Sudan, according to aid groups.

Abukar Adam Abukar, a member of a community health team organized by Doctors Without Borders in the Iridimi refugee camp, one of half a dozen such sites, told me that seven children had died there between May 3 and May 14.

He took me to the dusty flat on the edge of the camp where some of them were buried, in a forlorn line of small mounds of earth.

Why did Toma and thousands like her leave their homes and walk for days through the desert, risking their own lives and those of their children? Their stories were remarkably consistent. Person after person in the camps told me that they had fled after attacks on their villages by Arab Janjaweed militias, who have burned hundreds of villages and killed thousands of civilians belonging to black African ethnic groups. To make matters worse, the Janjaweed are backed by the Sudanese government, which wants to put down rebels drawn from those tribes. Many of the refugees said that the Janjaweed had stolen their animals and other property and that relatives or neighbors, usually men and boys, had been killed before their eyes. The refugees fled with little more than the clothes on their backs and the few things they could load onto a donkey. Many also said they were attacked from the air by the Sudanese government's Antonov bombers, either in their villages or as they fled toward the border.

I went to Chad last month on behalf of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Conscience, which has issued a genocide warning for Sudan. Having now heard firsthand the refugees' accounts of the terror they faced in Sudan and of being driven into the desert, where their government is blocking assistance from the outside world, I have no doubt whatsoever that mass death will ensue in Darfur unless far more international assistance is immediately allowed to reach the displaced who are still there. In short, I fear the specter of genocide.

I interviewed refugees spread over hundreds of miles in eastern Chad. One woman, Hadiya Adam Ahmed, had crossed into Chad only two days before and was living under a tree near the remote border town of Bahai. Spread around her were her few remaining possessions: a blanket, some water jugs, a few bowls. She had left home without food and in two weeks of travel had depended on her fellow refugees for occasional handfuls of soaked sorghum for herself and her nine children. Hadiya had two bullet wounds in her right leg. She said she had been shot by a Sudanese soldier when she and a 17-year-old girl went to draw water from a well for themselves and others who were fleeing.

When asked why their villages were attacked and burned, most of the refugees said it was because of their black skin. They believe that the Khartoum-based government of President Omar Hassan Bashir wants to give their land to his Janjaweed allies who, like him, are Arab. Members of the Zaghawa,

Masalit, Fur and other black African tribes will simply have to go. Like the Janjaweed, the Darfurians are Muslims. But culturally and ethnically they retain an African identity, of which they are proud. They also tend to be more settled than the nomadic Janjaweed. Racism undoubtedly does play a part in Bashir's support of the Janjaweed, as the blacks are seen as inferior.

Ironically, the prospects for peace in southern Sudan also contribute to the conflict. Fearing that an end to the generation-long rebellion in southern Sudan will divide access to the country's resources between the ruling elite in Khartoum and the southerners and condemn Darfur to permanent second-class status, some Darfurians launched an armed rebellion in early 2003. Khartoum responded by unleashing the Janjaweed and its own military on the black African civilian population. The result was what a team of U.N. investigators last month called a "reign of terror."

Those who have crossed into Chad are relatively lucky. An underfunded international relief effort by organizations such as Catholic Relief Services and Doctors Without Borders is providing some food, water, shelter and health care. For the displaced Darfurians who are still in Sudan, however, the situation is more dire. Khartoum has severely limited international access to them. And in the unforgiving desert, the stealing of food and animals, burning of homes and blockage of access to wells—in short, the campaign of the Janjaweed and the government—is tantamount to a death sentence. The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that 350,000 Darfurians will die in the coming months unless the government in Khartoum allows international aid groups dramatically better access to the region.

That raises the question of genocide. Under the U.N. Genocide Convention, adopted in 1948 in the shadow of the Holocaust, genocide is defined as certain actions undertaken "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such." The actions include "killing members of the group," "causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the group" and—particularly relevant to Darfur—"deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part." The convention obliges parties to the treaty, including the United States and 130 other nations—to "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide.

In cases like Darfur, there is always a great deal of hand wringing about what is and is not genocide. But such discussion misses the point: A key element of the Genocide Convention is prevention. It calls for action once it is apparent that genocide is threatened. There is no need for an absolute determination, which is inevitably elusive, that genocide is underway.

And in Darfur there can be no doubt that genocide is threatened. As former U.S. Ambassador David Scheffer once said of Kosovo, there are "indicators of genocide." Whatever the formulation, there is more than enough going on in Darfur to justify preventive action.

Time is of the essence. The rainy season will begin in the next few weeks, making access to Darfur—where major roads become impassable with flooding—difficult, if not impossible.

The government in Khartoum will do whatever it can to forestall any decisive international action. It is well practiced at giving the illusion of taking a step forward while really taking two steps backward. For example, it now is making a show of promising to streamline humanitarian access. But