

Private McGeogh, who was 19, was one of three soldiers killed in a roadside explosion near Kirkuk. She was assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas. Two years ago, she graduated Truman High School, where she was a cadet in the Junior ROTC for four years. During high school, Private McGeogh won numerous awards and recognition for her service to her school and community. She was dedicated to enlisting in the Army, and to serving her country, which she did with distinction.

Before leaving for Iraq she told her family that if she were killed in battle, to remember she died for a reason and a cause she believed in. Those words should be remembered and cherished today and always.

Mr. Speaker, Private McGeogh is a hero. She died trying to make this world a safer, kinder, and more humane place, and for that we are all humbled. Our thoughts and our prayers go to her parents, her family, and her friends. I would like you to join me in commending her limitless courage for our country. She has shown the entire nation what it means to be a hero.

HONORING FATHER JOSE LUIS
OCHOA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect that I rise today to honor Father Jose Luis Ochoa, who is retiring from his post with the parish of St. Pius X in the City of Santa Fe Springs to return to Guadalajara, Mexico and work with the Guadalupe Missionaries. Throughout his career of service, Father Ochoa has spread faith and charity throughout many parts of the world.

Father Jose Luis Ochoa was born in Mexico on December 5, 1940, the third child of seven children. In 1953 he entered the "Diocesano de Mexico" seminar. In 1956, he continued his schooling at the "Seminario de Misiones" with the Jesuits. Even during his vacations from the seminary, he would dedicate his time to travel outside of Mexico wherever there was a need for priests.

On July 10, 1966, he was ordained at the chapel "Seminario de Misiones" and assigned as a missionary to Kenya, Africa. Upon his arrival in Nairobi, Kenya, Father Ochoa began to work as a vicar in the parish of Amakura. While there, he built a secondary school for girls to help instill in them the values of dignity and self-respect and help them reject exploitative and unhealthy practices.

In 1975, he was assigned back to Mexico to serve as a Director to the Department of Promotions and Development. This work was a necessity for the "Instituto de Misioneros de Guadalupe," and he worked with Bishops from different Archdioceses and became responsible for getting financial and vocational opportunities for the missions.

After spending some time in Switzerland, Father Ochoa returned to Mexico once again in 1985 to help form a Seminary School in Guadalajara. While there, he also taught classes at a local school, helped construct a temple and a secondary school and started a food bank for the less fortunate.

In January 1991, he departed to Los Angeles to be an administrator in charge of a home for Guadalupe Missionaries and was in charge of all missionary work. While in Los Angeles, he promoted the Integral System of New Evangelization program. From 1996 to 2004, he served in several parishes of the Archdioceses, with the permission of the Guadalupe Missionaries. His last assignment for the past four years was at St. Pius X in the City of Santa Fe Springs, where he brought great joy to the parishioners.

I want to thank Father Ochoa for all he has done for my community and many communities throughout the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him good health and best wishes in his future endeavors.

MEDICAL DEVICES TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003. This bill will help ensure medical devices are quickly approved and sent to market as intended by the Medical Device User Fee Modernization Act of 2002. In particular, the bill will clarify FDA third-party inspection requirements to ensure companies can use third-party inspectors for two consecutive inspections. Additionally, the legislation will authorize HHS to conduct a study to identify barriers to market entry for pediatric products, which often help small populations and, therefore, are not profitable to manufacturers.

These clarifications are critical to the medical device industry in the United States, which leads the world in the development and manufacturing of medical technology. Medical device companies produce nearly \$78 billion annually and generate nearly 6 percent annual growth. The products produced by these companies have a tremendous impact on our country's economy by creating great high-paying American jobs and consistently generating annual trade surpluses in the billions of dollars.

Advances in medical technology are improving the quality of life for people around the world as new and more effective treatments for various diseases and medical conditions are developed. New medical technology also helps reduce the cost of health care and Medicare as health problems are prevented and treated more easily through early detection, less invasive procedures and faster recovery times for the patient.

The medical device industry is critical to the economy of Indiana as well as the district I represent, Indiana's 3rd district. A large majority of the nation's orthopaedic devices are produced in Warsaw, Indiana, where DePuy, Zimmer and Biomet, three of the Nation's leading companies in orthopaedic devices are located. These companies control more than 60 percent of the global market share of orthopaedic joint replacements and generate \$4 billion dollars annually in sales. The combined economic and societal impacts of these three companies to my district and the state are

highly significant. I commend the House for summarily passing H.R. 3493 and I encourage my colleagues in the other body to vote in favor of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed four votes in the House of Representatives on January 28, 2004. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on the Baldwin of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment to S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on Passage of S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on the Motion to Instruction Conferees on S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Unfortunately, I missed three votes in the House of Representatives on February 3, 2004. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 507, a Resolution expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 157, a Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.J. Res. 84, a Resolution recognizing the 93rd birthday of Ronald Reagan. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

DEATH OF EMMETT BURKE, THE
SON OF ALDERMAN EDWARD
BURKE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my condolences to Alderman Edward Burke and his family on the loss of his beloved son, Emmett Burke. It is with deepest sympathy that I rise to offer encouragement to the Burke family in their time of bereavement.

Mr. Speaker, Emmett Burke, only 30 years old, will be sorely missed by everyone who

knew him. For the past decade, Emmett Burke worked for the Cook County Forest Preserve Police Department. He started in patrol, then was promoted to the canine and search and rescue units, and eventually served as the deputy chief of the police department. Emmett Burke was known for his diligence, his commitment, and his excellence in the field of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I personally understand the undescrivable sadness that occurs when a father has to bury his son. It has been nearly 5 years since I was faced with that same difficult reality. This is why I am able to stand today and encourage Alderman Burke to counter the hurt, pain, and sorrow with strong support from family and friends, and fervent prayers to God, who is the author and finisher of our faith.

And finally, I can assure the Burke family that the present agony felt from the loss of a loved one can only be replaced with the everlasting love and peace of God, the father, Jesus the son, and the Holy Spirit.

So, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathy to the Burke family, my prayers are with you, and know that in our time of mourning, God has promised to comfort us.

THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN VIETNAM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and his Administration have begun a new relationship with the communist regime in Vietnam. Recently, the Vietnamese Defense Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister traveled to Washington for historic visits with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Shortly thereafter, the U.S.S. Vandegrift entered the port of Ho Chi Minh City, the first U.S. warship to visit Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War nearly three decades ago.

This newly forged friendship between the Bush administration and the communist regime in Vietnam comes amidst continuous reports of human rights violations committed by the Vietnamese government.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reports that almost forty Buddhist monks and lay leaders are in prison, under house arrest, or in re-education camps, as well as twenty Hmong Protestants and at least ten Catholic priests in detention.

Freedom of speech in Vietnam is just as bad. According to a report by the Campaign for Freedom of Expression and Information in Vietnam, Vietnam's 500-plus newspapers and magazines are state-owned and vigorously censored while 2,000 of Vietnam's 5,000 websites are currently blocked for disseminating messages the state has deemed "subversive" or "reactionary." Worse yet is the case of a Vietnamese writer and journalist imprisoned just after he submitted written testimony to a Congressional Members' briefing that I sponsored.

Yet, every time I write the State Department, I get the same response, but no action,

just as the letter I am submitting for the RECORD today. The State Department tells me, in their words, "we share your serious concern" and are "deeply troubled by the restrictions that the Government of Vietnam places on its citizens' freedom of expression, as well as other human rights." They tell me that "[p]romoting human rights is a priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam."

If promoting human rights in Vietnam really is a priority for the Bush Administration, why are they having friendly meetings with high-level Vietnamese officials without initially demanding protection of human rights?

Why is the Bush Administration not, instead, condemning the communist regime in Vietnam for issuing a statement that attacks a human rights resolution this body passed with an overwhelming vote of 409-13? That Vietnamese statement, which I submit for the RECORD today, alleges that our Congressional resolution contains "false" and "inaccurate" information. Yet, our resolution is backed by reports from various respected human rights organizations, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and the U.S. State Department. Instead of condemning the reckless statement from Vietnam, the Bush Administration is embracing a communist regime it admits is a human rights violator.

The Bush Administration's hypocrisy and apathetic attitude towards human rights is unacceptable. As long as the people of Vietnam are oppressed, abused, and imprisoned, our President should not get friendly with a communist regime without first demanding protection of human rights.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2004.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MS. LOFGREN: This is in response to your December 30, 2003 letter to Secretary Powell concerning detained dissident Mr. Nguyen Vu Binh in Vietnam. We share your serious concern over his recent sentence and ongoing detention.

The Department strongly condemned the harsh sentence given to Binh on December 30, 2003. No individual should be imprisoned for the peaceful expression of his views. The sentencing of Binh clearly violates international standards for the protection of human rights, including freedom of expression. The U.S. Embassy sent an officer to the court, but he was unable to gain access to the trial, despite repeated oral and written requests to the Vietnamese Government.

We are deeply troubled by the restrictions that the Government of Vietnam places on its citizens' freedom of expression, as well as other human rights. These restrictions violate international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Vietnam has ratified. We consistently urge the Government of Vietnam to adhere to its international obligations to protect the human rights of its citizens. The Government of Vietnam should release Mr. Binh and all others detained or imprisoned for the peaceful expression of their views.

Promoting human rights is a priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. We will continue to press the Government of Vietnam to take steps to improve its human rights record.

Let me assure you that our efforts to promote human rights and freedom in Vietnam continue undiminished. Please do not hesi-

tate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. POLT,
*Acting Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.*

EMBASSY OF VIETNAM,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2003.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
*U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States of America presents its compliments to the Office of the Honorable Zoe Lofgren and has the honor to forward herewith the faxed copy of the Statement of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with regard to passing by the US House of Representatives of H. Res. 427.

The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Honorable Zoe Lofgren the assurances of its consideration.

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam altogether rejects H. Res. 427 Resolution adopted on 19th November 2003 by the United States House of Representatives and the Resolution adopted on 20th November 2003 by the European Parliament on the so-called "situation of religious freedom in Vietnam". These wrongful, negative resolutions do not serve the relations between the United States and the European Union on the one hand and Vietnam on the other.

Alleging false, inaccurate information provided by a handful of extremist elements who take advantage of the mantle of religion and in pursuit of political goals, distort the founding history of the Buddhist Church of Vietnam after the reunification of the country these resolutions slander the policies and practice of religious freedom in Vietnam. Today's so-called "United Buddhist Church of Vietnam" is nothing but a grouping of individuals who are driven by personal ambition and political motives to act against the nation's interest. As a result of their blatant violation of the law and of their attempts to spur confrontation and sow division among the Buddhist followers, this grouping stands completely isolated from the Buddhist congregation and the national community of Vietnam.

Expressing the will of the Vietnamese people, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam supports the consolidation and development of Vietnam's relations with the United States and the European Union on the basis of mutual respect for their respective independence and sovereignty, of non-interference into each other's internal affairs and of mutually beneficial cooperation on an equal footing.

In that spirit, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam urges that the US House of Representatives and the European Parliament stop lending their support to actions that slander the actual situation of religion in Vietnam and undermine mutually beneficial cooperation with Vietnam. At the same time, the National Assembly of Vietnam consistently advocates the enhancement of mutual understanding and narrowing down of differences through dialogue with the US Congress and congressmen as well as with the European Parliament and its members, for the sake of the long-term interests of the nations concerned, and of peace, cooperation and development in the world.

Hanoi, 26 November, 2003.