

Leonard Wood Resident Office, Kansas City District.

Colonel Curtis's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr. for his exceptional commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL OTTO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man named Bill Otto who epitomizes the true cowboy in the spirit of the west. He has led an amazing life and I am privileged to stand here before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize his accomplishments.

Bill comes from a rich western history where he grew up on his father's ranch that had been homesteaded since 1904. His family had been in the ranching business for years and his grandmother used to cook for Teddy Roosevelt and helped bury Calamity Jane. As Bill's brothers and sisters went to school, he trained horses, and by the time Bill was fifteen he was rated as one of the best horse trainers in North Dakota.

Bill gained a reputation for riding the wildest horses as he spent the summers working for the Civilian Conservation Corps. After running the family ranch for a short period at age eighteen, Bill moved to California. He earned his living by grooming horses and working at a boarding stable, and later for a company that owned and rented horses used in the movies. Through a stroke of luck Bill ended up filling in for Jack Connors in a film with Roy Rogers. In 1943, Bill left Hollywood to work at a thoroughbred ranch in Valejo, California where he met his first wife Rella. Bill has spent the remainder of his life working in the Rodeo, training horses, and raising his four kids.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Otto is a talented horse trainer and dedicated family man who brings the heart of the west to life. I am honored to recognize Bill for his great zest for life and his dedication to keeping western traditions alive, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD J. O'NEAL, JR.

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. O'Neal, Jr. of the United States Air Force.

LTC O'Neal was sent to Khobar, Saudi Arabia, to evaluate a maintenance training pro-

gram of the Royal Saudi Air Force. On May 29, 2004, he had just finished eating breakfast at a coffee shop with a colleague, LTC James Broome III, when a group of terrorists attacked the civilian complex where they dined.

Unarmed and in search of safety, LTC O'Neal and LTC Broome headed toward the roof of a nearby building. On the way, the two soldiers came across four civilian contractors who were doing construction on the third floor of the building. LTC O'Neal and LTC Broome informed the workers of the terrorist attack below and safely escorted the civilians to the roof, where the men barricaded the door with a tool box and rocks. Amid the turmoil and gunfire, LTC O'Neal had the presence of mind to use his cell phone to gather information from other Americans he knew were in the complex and relay it to his operations center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The six men remained on the roof, waiting out the attack, for nearly twelve hours with only one water cooler they brought from the third-floor construction site. During that time, the soldiers rationed only one sip of water to each man every hour, in temperatures that reached 120-degrees Fahrenheit.

Once the group on the roof was told the terrorist forces had been isolated in another building of the compound, LTC O'Neal led the group down to the ground floor. At the bottom of the stairs, LTC O'Neal was approaching a steel door that opened up to the street when one remaining terrorist fired a machine gun at him, hitting him four times and also injuring LTC Broome. LTC O'Neal was shot in the left arm, right shoulder, right thigh, and in the torso. Crawling into a space under the stairway, LTC O'Neal remained hidden for 1½ before finally being assisted by a Saudi defense official.

American soldiers like LTC O'Neal put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism and to protect the freedoms and ideals that we as a nation cherish. For his bravery and valor, and for the wounds he received in action on May 29, 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. O'Neal, Jr. will be awarded the Purple Heart.

It gives me great pride to know that LTC O'Neal will be awarded this meritorious distinction. The Purple Heart is the oldest presently used military decoration in the world, dating back to its first use in the American Revolution. In the summer of 1782, General George Washington was ordered by the Continental Congress to cease granting commissions or advances in rank to soldiers in recognition of outstanding valor and merit. Shortly after, in his General Orders of August 7, 1782, General Washington directed that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding." He concluded, "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered a permanent one."

Specifically a combat decoration, it gives me great pride to know that LTC O'Neal will receive this high honor, the Purple Heart, on August 4, 2004. LTC O'Neal embodies the spirit of those who serve and fight to keep America the greatest light of freedom the world has ever known. I thank LTC O'Neal for his brave service and selfless sacrifice. He is a patriot

and a hero. May God bless LTC O'Neal and his family, and may God bless America.

HONORING WISCONSIN STATE TROOPER LES BOLDT

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize before this House, Wisconsin State Trooper Les Boldt, whose heroic efforts recently saved the life of a woman who tried to take her own life by leaping off a bridge in Green Bay.

After receiving notice from dispatchers that an area resident suffering from depression was potentially suicidal, Trooper Boldt set out to find the woman and check on her welfare. Upon locating her car, a high-speed chase ensued that led the two to the top of the Leo Frigo Memorial Bridge, at which time the woman stepped out of her car and attempted to jump off the 200-foot tall span. Realizing what was about to occur, Boldt ran from his patrol car and caught the woman's arm just after she leaped off the bridge, saving her from almost certain death. After a struggle, Boldt and two other law enforcement officials were able to safely pull the woman back over the edge, giving her a second chance at life.

Mr. Speaker, by selflessly putting his life on the line to save one of his fellow citizens, Trooper Les Boldt showed us all what it means to be truly courageous and heroic. His actions deserve our praise, and on behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say thank you and keep up the great work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and missed a rollcall vote. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 388.

COMMEMORATING THE SUCCESSES OF THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAM

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program because it epitomizes what our country has long stood for—giving everyone an equal chance.

Employment fuels the United States economy and builds our communities. Sadly, people with disabilities are often overlooked when it comes to finding jobs. Those with disabilities face a 50 percent unemployment rate, which

is more than 10 times the national average. These are people who can work, and want to work, but who face transportation, environmental, and attitudinal barriers when it comes to finding the employment that will allow them to become self-sufficient, independent members of society.

Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability creates a positive synergy that ripples out to the greater community in the form of reduced dependency on welfare. There are 45 million Americans with a disability, many of whom are forced to rely on public welfare because they have not been able to find employment. Of people with disabilities, some 5.2 million receive Social Security Disability Insurance, 3.5 million receive Supplemental Security Insurance, and 1.3 million who receive both. By tapping into the potential of a person with a disability by offering them an employment opportunity, we can help them to become tax-paying citizens that can help power America's economy and strengthen our communities.

That is why I am proud to commend the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, which provides employment opportunities where they are needed most—to Americans with disabilities.

The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities, which allows them to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide and last year generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD. I am pleased that these JWOD contracts have had such a positive impact, and hope that this is only the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the JWOD Program and encourage my congressional colleagues to do the same.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEMBROKE, GA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate Pembroke, Georgia on its 200th Anniversary in 2004. I'm honored to represent this vibrant city and to call many of its residents my friends.

Historic downtown Pembroke is named for Pembroke Williams who was a judge and a prominent local resident in the late 19th century. The historic district is located in the central business district of this city of 2,500 persons and is characterized by its relationship to the Georgia Central Railroad, which bisects the town. It was founded as a farming town, like so many similar towns which sprouted during that time to serve the agricultural needs of the nation. The layout of the town around the railroad hearkens to a time of great growth, industrial zeal and expansionism.

Pembroke found a thriving life serving the trains that led to the great markets of the coast.

The majority of the structures in the district are of 1930s and 1940s vintage. The city also consists of several blocks of early 20th-Century commercial and government buildings. With the exception of a few buildings, all of the buildings are of one or two stories in height, and most of the buildings are brick or brick-faced buildings with pine timber construction.

The buildings in the district are a variety of styles and materials, all dating from the early to mid 1900s. Most are brick one and two-story commercial buildings and originally had wood or metal awnings over the windows. Today, the buildings show architectural niceties such as terra cotta embellishments, carved cornerstone, and marble commemorative plaques that reflect the pride of simple rural businessmen in their buildings and in their town. The most interesting structures architecturally are the Pembroke Millworks building and the Food bank building. Most of the buildings in the district are in good condition and are currently in use as publicly owned property.

The historic district of Pembroke was created to serve the agricultural needs of the nation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The layout of the town around the railroad, the plethora of commercial structures crowding the verges of the railroad property, and the prim, stolid storefronts of the respectable buildings all hearken to a time of great growth, industrial zeal and expansionism in American history.

The history of Pembroke is the history of early American commerce. Founded as a railroad depot, Pembroke found a thriving life serving the trains that led to the great markets of the coast. When the trains stopped coming and the commerce declined, the town faltered, but managed to remain alive through the tough years. Now on the verge of explosive re-growth as a bedroom community to Savannah, Pembroke is seeking to retain its heritage, while finding new vitality in the influx of new residents.

Much of the historic district, once the province of private industry, is today publicly owned property. The buildings themselves, and their changing uses over the years, offer a glimpse into the working of local government of the last century. At the same time, several of the buildings—the "Welcome Center," the old Jail, and the Tos Theater to name the most prominent—retain elements of some of the more grim elements of its past . . . the stark conditions of prisoners in the jail, the segregated seating in the old theater, the peculiar design of the "Welcome Center" (with slit windows giving the police officers a vantage on the entire downtown.)

The Tos Theater, founded by G.S. Tos, was a quintessential example of the small-town movie palace. Without even a concession stand (candy, popcorn, and sodas were obtained from the drugstore soda fountain next door), the Tos Theater nevertheless was an important social gathering place for the town. With segregated seating (the toilet facilities), the building also recalls some of the social conventions of the 20th Century South, conventions which are fast fading into the past, but should be recalled and recognized.

Pembroke's Historic District is a landscape defined by transportation. First by the railway,

which gave the town its reason for existence and its livelihood for much of its history. Second by horses and mules, the dependence on which beasts of burden helped to define the layout of the city. Third by the car, highways for which have provided the lifeline for the city, keeping Pembroke connected to its larger neighbors for much of the latter half of the 20th Century. The highways—Hwy. 67, Hwy. 119 and Hwy. 280—which converge in Pembroke will help to define its future, as they have its past.

I am proud to recognize Pembroke, Georgia on this its 200th Anniversary. This town has provided much to the state of Georgia and I am proud to have represented it in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO NESHANNOCK HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Neshannock High School baseball team, this year's Class A Pennsylvania State Champions. Head coach, Michael Kirkwood led the Neshannock Lancers to the State Championship game, where they defeated the Muncy Indians by a score of 8-4. The Lancers ended the season with an impressive 23-1 record.

I am happy to see such spirit, dedication, and teamwork flourishing in the congressional district that I represent. I wish the members of 2004 Neshannock baseball team continued success.

I am proud to have such talented young athletes in the 4th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in recognizing their great achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall vote 406. It was my intention to vote "yes" on rollcall No. 406.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to return to private airline screeners, now is the time to continue to focus on passenger safety.

This November, airports will be given the option to apply to opt-out of having Transportation Security Administration TSA screeners in favor of hiring private screeners. If this is allowed to happen, it will be a step backwards in airline security.