

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PV2 JUSTIN RAY YOEMANS, A MODEL OF VALOR IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army PV2 Justin Ray Yoemans of Eufaula, Alabama, who lost his life November 6 while defending our Nation.

Private Yoemans was manning his gun position when his Humvee encountered a roadside bomb during a street patrol of Baghdad, Iraq. According to military accounts, Private Yoemans gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers. He was posthumously awarded a total of five military medals, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Private Yoemans, who was assigned to the Fourth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country at the age of 20. His family and friends describe him as a loving son and a patriot who was proud to serve in the military.

I cannot express the proper words to console his family at the loss of their beloved son. However, I do wish to convey that America shares in your grief as we struggle together to protect our homeland from terrorism.

Private Yoemans loved life and was described by his younger sister as "a little boy inside a great man." America is fortunate to have such "great men" standing up for the cause of freedom. His valor and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

### TRIBUTE TO HENRY G. ATHA

### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I stand before you today to recognize Hank Atha, a man who is credited by his colleagues as doing more for workforce development than any other person in southern Arizona. Mr. Atha is retiring from public service after a distinguished career spanning over 30 years.

Mr. Atha has lived and worked in Tucson since 1948. He is a creative local executive and one of the most experienced workforce development professionals in the country. He served on numerous state and local economic and workforce development organizations and on both the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors professional boards. Mr. Atha promoted legislation at federal, state and local levels. He has international experience and has successfully worked with multi-cultural staff and diverse cultural and economic communities.

Mr. Speaker, in 1984, Mr. Atha organized the Pima County Community Services Department in Tucson, Arizona by combining autonomous federal programs into one department. Over the years he guided the expansion of programming into new areas such as affordable housing, youth education, emergency assistance, homeless services, welfare reform and incumbent worker training.

During his twenty years at the helm of Pima County Community Services, the department doubled in size. He accomplished this by aggressively pursuing state and local funding, federal grants and private support. These efforts resulted in a \$36 million annual budget with 30 separate funding streams for his department.

He pursued the department's mission by supporting the work of local non-profit organizations with as many as 250 grants and services contracts awarded each year. His leadership style welcomed input and encouraged individual initiative. Over the years, many graduate students, adult trainees and motivated young people began their careers in public policy or human-service fields through internships with Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Atha's leadership, Pima County Community Services established one of the nation's first One-Stop Career Centers in order to provide consolidated employment and training services for the City and County. This model, which brought multiple agencies together to provide coordinated services, also proved effective in addressing the basic needs of families in crisis. Mr. Atha oversaw the establishment of the Emergency Services Network in 1986. Subsequent efforts fostered collaboration and innovation in the areas of homeless services, youth programs, and high-tech training. His commitment to closing the wage gap through better job opportunities led to a joint effort with Pima Community College and the City of Tucson to found the Southern Arizona Institute for Advanced Technology.

In the early nineties, Mr. Atha led an all-out response to restore cuts in federal summer youth funds, creating one of the largest summer youth programs, for a city of our size, in the nation. As part of that effort, he promoted legislation that created Arizona's first state-funded summer youth program. He also founded Pledge-A-Job, an annual business outreach campaign to encourage businesses to hire young people seeking career experience during summer breaks. In 2000, he won a Youth Opportunity grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, bringing nearly \$28 million to Pima County as well as creating an integrated system for providing services to young people.

Mr. Speaker, Hank Atha supported many programs that brought untrained homemakers and home health aides to Pima County's Home Health Division, as well as many participants in other community programs, into the Certified Nursing Assistant career track.

One of the activities Mr. Atha worked on recently was to bring together various institutions such as Pima College, University of Arizona, and local hospitals to identify, sponsor and support individuals wishing to enter nursing education programs.

Mr. Speaker, prior to Hank's twenty years with Pima County Government, he volunteered in the Peace Corps from 1966–1968. Following those years of service, he again volunteered his services, this time as a Peace Corps trainer from 1968–69.

Hank Atha received his undergraduate degree from Pomona College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology; graduate studies in Physiology at Washington State University, and received his master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

Mr. Atha taught classes in data analysis, decision-making and program evaluation, as an

adjunct professor at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. He also taught one semester as adjunct professor at the University of Arizona, School of Public Administration. He is a Founding Member and Chairman of the local American Society for Public Administration Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Hank Atha improved the quality of life for many citizens in Tucson, Arizona by investing in people and community-based organizations to strengthen the entire community's capacity to serve those in need, and I ask that the House commend him on his commitment to his community and his country.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes No. 532 and No. 533. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 532, H.R. 1417, the Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act; and "yea" on rollcall No. 533, a bill to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to be in Washington, DC today. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of:

S. 1301, H.R. 5364, H. Con. Res. 430, S. 2965, H.R. 4516, H.R. 3204, H.R. 1350, H.R. 1417, S. 2302, S. 2042, H.R. 5363, S. 2302, H.R. 1417, S. Con. Res. 145, S. 1146, S. 1466, S. 434, H.R. 1284, S. 1727, S. 1241, H.R. 1446, H.R. 1964, H.R. 1113, H.R. 4593, S. 437, S. 2484, H.R. 3936, and S. 2486.

### IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN CHAPPELL FOR HIS ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF A DIESEL FUEL SPILL ON THE SUISUN MARSH WETLANDS

### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Steven Chappell, of the Suisun Resource Conservation District, for his timely actions in protecting the Suisun Marsh wetlands.

Steven Chappell began working for the Suisun Resource Conservation District in August 1994 as a district biologist, and was quickly promoted to executive director, a position he has held for almost 10 years.

On April 28, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. Steven Chappell received notification from the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) that a petroleum pipeline had released diesel oil into the Suisun Marsh.

Mr. Chappell immediately drove to the site to offer his assistance and expertise to the Incident Command Team, comprised of State and Federal agency representatives. He explained how managed wetlands work and took immediate action to close all water control structures on the affected property.

As a direct result of Steven Chappell's quick actions in closing the gates, the diesel oil remained contained within the area and did not enter the Roos Cut, an unimpeded waterway extension which feeds into the tidal sloughs and adjacent wetlands of the Suisun Marsh.

In addition, Mr. Chappell prepared detailed aerial maps of the Suisun Marsh and returned to the spill site that same day. These aeri-als have been invaluable in OSPR's cleanup efforts.

For weeks after the spill, Steven Chappell devoted an inordinate amount of time coordinating with OSPR, the United States Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Kinder Morgan, the owner of the pipeline, in cleanup efforts and in the development of a restoration plan.

Steven Chappell's timely actions helped to avert a major disaster at the Suisun Marsh wetlands. I am proud to commend him today for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Suisun Resource Conservation District and to the people of Solano County.

**CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED AS A 2004 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the children, parents, teachers, and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School. The designation of a 2004 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Award honors only those schools that have successfully achieved excellence in academics and have closed the achievement gap in academic proficiency for all of their students.

The designation of the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is particularly meaningful to me because it is named for the former Congressman Clement J. Zablocki who was my predecessor in the U.S. Congress, and an effective and beloved representative who served the citizens of Milwaukee's south side for many years.

It is evident that the principles of accountability, focusing on what works, increased flexibility, reduction of bureaucracy and the empowerment of parents, has been successfully integrated into the daily philosophy of the Zablocki Elementary School.

Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Patricia Walia this school has not only achieved academic excellence for the students, but has initiated innovative and creative ways of having the children of Zablocki Elementary School involved with community organizations, agen-

cies and businesses that have enriched their lives and broadened their view of the community and world. Dr. Walia has successfully established bonds between her staff, parents and the community that support all of the goals of the school.

The Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is only the 5th elementary school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system to be designated as a Blue Ribbon school since 1982. This is an extraordinary and remarkable achievement.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the children, teachers, and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School and commend their efforts in providing a standard of excellence in the field of education.

**HONORING PFC SHELDON HAWK EAGLE**

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of PFC Sheldon Hawk Eagle of Eagle Butte, SD. Private First Class Hawk Eagle was killed November 15, 2003 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On November 20, 2004, friends and family in Eagle Butte will pay tribute to Sheldon and recognize the one year anniversary of his death with a memorial dinner and walk in his honor.

Private First Class Hawk Eagle graduated from the Cheyenne Eagle Butte High School, in Eagle Butte, SD, in May of 2001. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2002, and graduated basic training from Ft. Sill, OK, later that same year. In 2003 Sheldon became Air Assault qualified and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division. He was deployed to Iraq in March, 2003.

Sheldon, whose Lakota name is Wanbli Ohitika, or Brave Eagle, is a descendant of the Lakota leader Crazy Horse, who helped defeat LTC George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Sheldon joined the Army while visiting his sister in North Dakota and dreamed of becoming an elite Army Ranger. While both humble and quiet, Sheldon's sacrifice speaks loudly about his character.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Sheldon's compassion and service. Sheldon, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Lakota people, continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation and South Dakota are far better places because of his life, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Private First Class Hawk Eagle. His commitment and sacrifice to our Nation will never be forgotten.

**RECOGNIZING RYAN SOENDKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Soendker of Blue Springs, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Soendker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**RECOGNIZING THE A&F WOOD PRODUCTS FOR EARNING THE 2004 SECRETARY OF LABOR'S NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE AWARD**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize A&F Wood Products, a family-owned and operated business in Howell, MI, for earning the 2004 Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award. Founded upon the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New Freedom Initiative works to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the same opportunities to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work and make choices about their daily lives to participate fully in their communities. A&F Wood Products is just one of five companies nationwide to be recognized for their commitment to these ideals.

A&F Wood Products has embraced the philosophy on which the New Freedom Initiative was founded. Working with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, A&F Wood Products is able to provide employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities through accessibility support, training, and a user-friendly workplace environment. Today, 35 percent of A&F Wood Products' workforce are persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, when President Bush announced the New Freedom Initiative in 2001, unemployment for the disabled was as high as 70 percent by some estimates. Today, businesses like A&F Wood Products are working feverishly to slash that number. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing A&F Wood Products for earning the 2004 Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award and for their commitment to the disabled.