

I attended Jesse's funeral and the outpouring of love and respect from his community was overwhelming. Over 300 people were there to honor him.

Jesse joined the Air Force in February of 2003 and was assigned to the 66th Rescue Squadron, an elite group that qualified for rescue duty on a HH-60 Para Rescue helicopter. His mother said Jesse loved that his job was to rescue and save people.

Mr. Speaker, Airman 1st Class Jesse Monroe Samek, at the age of 21, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Jesse's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

DEDICATION OF CPL LARRY E.
SMEDLEY MEDAL OF HONOR
HIGHWAY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on October 30, a dedication ceremony was conducted in Orlando, Florida in honor of Corporal Larry E. Smedley at the Orange County Courthouse Plaza.

Corporal Smedley who died in combat in Vietnam in December 1967 is Orlando's only recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor from that conflict. The ceremony conducted in our community was to commemorate the naming of a section of our Interstate 4 highway from Colonial Drive to State Road 436 in memory of this Central Florida hero. That section of our major thoroughfare was designated by an act of the Florida Legislature the "Corporal Larry E. Smedley Medal of Honor Highway." It was my privilege to attend that ceremony and meet Corporal Smedley's mother Mary Smedley Smith, from Virginia Beach, his brother, Russell Smedley, from Orlando, Florida, and his sister, Valerie Smedley, from Orlando, Florida. I know I join all those in attendance at that ceremony and countless Americans who appreciate Corporal Smedley's heroism and his family's incredible sacrifice to our nation. It is my honor to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the House of Representatives the outstanding and heartfelt remarks from The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Department of Veterans Affairs delivered at the dedication ceremony.

Good morning.

It has been said that "True heroism is remarkably sober . . . It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

History is defined by critical moments . . . sobering moments, costly moments . . . moments that are turning points in time. The United States of America has existed for less than three centuries. And throughout our history, we have been tested, time and again, by defining moments of conflict. Vietnam was one of those moments.

The men who fought there were young and untested. Citizen-soldiers from all walks of life . . . native-born and immigrants. From cities large and small . . . and from towns, villages, and farms. Yet they were bound together in a brotherhood whose lodestar continues to shine bright on an immutable truth given poetic definition by President Abraham Lincoln. "Our reliance" he said, "is in

the love of liberty. . . [and] in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere."

And so the young Americans of more than three decades past fought with a gritty sense of purpose . . . fortitude . . . and, many times, sheer obstinacy. They were tested in the raging fires of adversity at Ia Drang . . . Hue . . . Khe Sanh . . . Pleiku . . . and in a thousand clashes and skirmishes remembered, now, only by those who fought them.

Those battles, known and unknown, prove one thing—there is the possibility for triumph . . . dignity . . . and great honor in even the most difficult, the most trying of circumstances. Especially when these qualities are rooted in men dedicated to each other and to the principle—not the objective—for which they fight. Men descendent of a common creed—One Nation, under God . . . and guardian of a common trust—Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Men like Corporal Larry E. Smedley, United States Marine Corps, who served America and served others in the highest tradition of America's greatest patriots . . . and who paid the cost of that selfless service with the coin of incredible sacrifice.

The true mettle of those who love Liberty is tested in moments such as the December night in 1967 when heroism emerged in the jungles of Quang Nam Province . . . heroism larger than life itself . . . full with its attendant valor, purpose, and sacrifice.

Corporal Smedley's awe-inspiring bravery is the stuff of American legend. In him we see the mighty strengths and quiet virtues of the American spirit. In him we see the outward courage and inner character of the American soldier . . . sailor . . . airman . . . Marine . . . and Coastguardsman. In him we see the very best of what it means to be an American. Though we are poorer that he was taken from us, we are richer for what he so selflessly gave us.

By his devotion to country and to his comrades on that night so long ago, Larry Smedley joined the revered ranks of America's heroes from Valley Forge . . . Fredericksburg . . . Belleau Wood . . . Normandy . . . and the Chosin. Together, they wrote boldly . . . largely . . . and indelibly . . . across our great National chronicle of military history.

For the story of America is the story of America's defenders . . . in war and in peace . . . at home and abroad. A story whose chapters speak eloquently of Duty, Honor, and Sacrifice. A story whose words and phrases recount unbreakable bonds of camaraderie forged in service to country. Whose words speak softly of beloved family and friends, and lives forever changed by the wounds of war . . . and whisper of faithful comrades forever young, cut down in life's prime. It is the story of Corporal Larry E. Smedley, United States Marine Corps. A hero who served his country . . . who served others . . . and who stands tall in the most honored pantheon of American patriots.

By today's ceremony, the spirit [of] liberty that Lincoln extolled lives here, among Central Florida's towns, fields and groves so familiar to Larry Smedley, the young boy. And by this dedication, the indomitable spirit of Larry E. Smedley, the young Marine, lives here in perpetuity . . . amid the expanse of the ribbon of highway stretching to the unbroken horizon of America's Sunshine State.

On this day of dedication . . . at this time of remembrance and reflection . . . we honor great deeds . . . great achievement . . . and great personal fortitude. We honor the memory of an ordinary American who served America in the most extraordinary way.

As one who, like Larry, served in the Republic of Vietnam, I struggle today to find

words that can give proper honor to the painfully short life of my brother-in-arms, Corporal Larry Smedley . . . knowing full well that words alone will never be enough.

And so, with your indulgence, let me close with the poignant words of the English poet, Laurence Binyon, whose poem "For the Fallen," was written in honor of England's World War I dead. I read from it today in memory of America's fallen hero—Corporal Larry E. Smedley:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning

We will remember them.

May God always bless America and the sons and daughters who so courageously defend her.

STATEMENT REGARDING IDEA
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher and principal, the issue of special education is very personal to me. I know firsthand that too many children in the United States are deprived of a quality education because the federal government has not met its commitment to special education.

That is why I give my qualified support to the conference report on the Improving Education Results for Children With Disabilities Act of 2003 (H.R. 1350). Above all, this legislation reaffirms that all children have right to a high quality education tailored to their needs, and that the federal government has an obligation to ensure that school districts and educators have the appropriate resources to provide it. Indeed, this conference report is a step in the right direction.

Every child learns at his own pace and our educational system must be able to accommodate the needs of each individual student. Accordingly, this legislation allows students, schools, parents, and teachers to focus more of their time and energy on the individualized education programs (IEPs), and less on paperwork and procedure. The effect will be a more stimulating and constructive environment for students.

The IDEA reauthorization conference report increases parental involvement in the education of children with disabilities. Parents will have more opportunities to consult with teachers to deal with problems in an early and effective way, without the need to go through formal due process channels. It provides Parent Training Institutes, where parents can learn to use the resources available to them when working with schools to get the best education for their child. Additionally, in fifteen states IDEA will implement a pilot paperwork reduction program to help expedite the development and execution of IEPs.

This bill contains provisions for early intervention for students with special needs and mandates ongoing updates on student progress. It allows students to stay in the same, specially tailored program throughout their entire educational career, even if they switch schools. This provision is especially

critical for the over one million children who find themselves homeless every year. Homeless children are four times more likely to suffer from disabilities. Allowing children to carry over their IEPs when they switch schools will go a long way in helping these children get the best education possible.

The IDEA reauthorization bill improves the handling of discipline and safety issues for students with learning disabilities. It requires schools to determine if a special-needs student's behavior is the result of the disability itself or of poor IEP implementation when determining proper disciplinary action. Further, children who are subject to discipline cannot be put into alternate placement for indefinite periods of time and cannot have their educational program suspended altogether. This is another important step forward in the education of special-needs students.

Although I support this conference report, I am disappointed that it does not fully meet the commitment made by the federal government to our schools. The federal government has promised to cover 40 percent of the cost of IDEA. In reality, federal funding has consistently fallen short by as much as half. When we in Washington fail to fulfill our pledge to children with special needs, our federal mandates roll the burden over to state and local entities that are often forced to divert money from other crucially important programs to keep promises that we have not. This is unacceptable and cannot continue.

Nevertheless, this conference report represents an important step forward in securing basic educational rights for children with special needs. I support the bill and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARRY BALLARD HARRIS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Harry Ballard Harris, an outstanding gentleman and dedicated community member of Cisco, Utah. Harry has led a full life, including eighty years working as a cowboy and rancher and thirty years working for the State Highway Department of Utah. He recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday and it is a privilege to recognize his contributions to his community and his zest for life before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Harry grew up in Elgin, Utah, and began working as a ranch hand driving cattle at the age of sixteen. He worked for the Utah State Highway Department for thirty years in a remote area where sanding was shoveled by hand and medical care was not readily accessible. As a result, Harris became both a part-time medic and deputy sheriff. In 1975 he was awarded the outstanding male employee for his service to the state.

Harry also took river sediment samples for the Moab U.S. Geological Survey and received the John Campanius Holm award and the Thomas Jefferson award for providing weather information to the National Weather Service for more than thirty-seven years. He also served his community as an election judge and part-time school board member.

Harry married Wava Robb in 1937 and together they ran a small service station and the post office, where they encountered many interesting people from all over the world. There is even a Johnny Cash song that was inspired by an adventure in Cisco when Harry helped him change a flat tire.

After his wife's death in 1969, he married Ruth Maxine a few years later. Through their joint role working at the highway 128 service station they were named the 1986–1987 Tourism Ambassadors for the Canyonlands Travel Region. They promoted the area through colorful signs that talked of the scenic attractions of the area, recreational opportunities, locations of local churches and services to tourists and natives alike.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Ballard Harris is an outstanding member of his local Utah community who has served his local government and the people of Utah with dedication and pride for several years and remains a constant fixture of the lives of the people around him. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize his life and service. Thanks for all your hard work Harry and I look forward to congratulating you on your 100th birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on November 16, 2004, I missed rollcall vote No. 531. Rollcall vote 531 was on recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 531.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL LELAND BATEMAN

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Paul Leland Bateman, a constituent of mine from Cypress, California. Mr. Bateman passed away recently at the age of 94 from natural causes.

He was born in Redlands, California. He attended Gardena High School and participated in football and track. He went to Compton College where he also participated in football and track eventually winning a track scholarship to the University of Southern California (USC). At USC, he played on the 1931 and 1932 National Champion Trojan football teams under Howard Jones. As a member of the "Thundering Herd," he helped to break Notre Dame's 26 game winning streak and chalk up the Trojan's first victory in South Bend.

He met his future wife, Ruth Loupe when he was the driver for her school bus at Compton High School. They married in 1932 and moved to Lynwood. Mr. Bateman taught at Lynwood Jr. High School beginning in 1939 and then transferred to Compton College where he taught physics and coached football, baseball,

basketball and track for 33 years until his retirement.

During World War II he taught pre-flight ground school at Independence, California for the Army Air Corp. He also earned his wings, although he was never officially in the military.

He also worked as an engineering consultant in the development of specialized electrical motors for aircraft and aerospace applications. He owned and farmed dates at a large ranch near Hemet, California. Mr. Bateman was a life-long train hobbyist and traveled extensively on U.S. Railroads to see America.

Mr. Bateman participated in Compton Jr. Chamber of Commerce, served on a water board and was president of the Tanglewood Homeowners Association in Cypress, California.

He is survived by three daughters, Marcia Gilchrist, Patricia Pearce, and Linda Baham, as well as six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is remembered for his achievements in athletics and engineering as well as his lifelong dedication to education.

GOODBYE, CONGRESSMAN QUINN AND CONGRESSMAN HOUGHTON

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to say goodbye to two of my mentors and friends, Congressmen QUINN and HOUGHTON.

When I first came to Washington, you both helped me find my way and helped me learn the ropes in the Congress. For that, I owe you both an enormous debt of gratitude.

JACK, you taught me that it is possible to strike a balance between Republican values and labor's needs. Essentially, how to be a New York Republican in Congress.

Since you've been here, you've always had the ability to distinguish between the political and the pragmatic, and you've built your reputation as a voice of reason in this sometimes-unreasonable world.

Your constituents always came first, and if your successor can serve the twenty-seventh district of our great state of New York remotely as well as you have, they will be in good hands. Well done, my friend.

Congressman HOUGHTON, you sir, are the epitome of the American statesman. Frankly, your many accomplishments speak for themselves, and your long and distinguished record both in business and in government guarantees you a place in the Pantheon of New York's public servants.

You have much to be proud of, but I suspect your finest hour came with passage of the Liberty Zone Act, which provided billions to help our fellow New Yorkers in Manhattan rebuild from the rubble of the 9/11 attacks. For that, all New Yorkers owe you their sincere thanks.

AMO, JACK, I wish you nothing but the best as you leave the Congress today, having done a great service to America.

Your constituents thank you, our Nation thanks you, and as you return home, finally able to spend more time with your beloved families, I wish to convey the thanks of the family you're leaving behind here in Washington.