

HONORING ASSISTANT SHERIFF
RICHARD BRESHEARS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Sheriff Richard Breshears for 35 years of dedicated service to Stanislaus County. Richard will retire from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department and will be honored at an event held in California on June 23rd.

Richard began his career as a Stanislaus County Deputy Sheriff in 1970 where he worked in Patrol and Adult Detention. He was assigned to the Investigations Crimes Against Persons Unit in 1973. He was in this unit for almost 18 years, starting out as an investigator and moving up the ranks to Lieutenant. In 1991 Richard was promoted to Captain and served as Commander in both the Custodial Division and the Operations Division. In 1997 he was appointed to Assistant Sheriff and he currently commands the Operations Division.

Mr. Breshears graduated from the FBI National Academy in Virginia in 1982. He has also been a member of numerous law enforcement committees. He is an alumnus of Leadership Modesto, a training program for up and coming community leaders. Richard has served for a number of years as chair of the Law Enforcement Day. He is currently President of the Stanislaus County Police Activities League, a position he has held for 8 years, and he is a member of the Stanislaus County Advisory Board on Substance Abuse. Richard has served on the US Attorney's Eastern District Law Enforcement Executive Council for many years. In 1999 he received the Sheriff's Department "Medal of Merit" for exceptional meritorious service, the second highest award presented by the department.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Sheriff Richard Breshears upon his retirement from public service. Although his career in public service has ended, his contributions will be felt for generations to come. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Richard a fulfilling retirement.

IN VERMONT, FOOD FROM FAMILY
FARMS IS GOOD BUSINESS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize that two businessmen in Vermont, Steve Birge and Mark Curran, the owners of Black River Produce of Proctorsville, Vermont, were recently selected runners-up for the National Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

Twenty-five years ago Steve Birge began Black River Produce, today a \$27 million produce company, when he saw the poor quality of the produce used in the local restaurant in which he worked. Black River originally delivered fresh, local produce to local restaurants in the Proctorsville area of central Vermont. But after he met Mark Curran (while

hitchhiking!), the two expanded the company, working with local farmers so that they could supply restaurants with the freshest and most healthful produce available. Today, Black River delivers high-quality produce not only throughout Vermont, but also into parts of western New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts, and eastern New York. It supplies not just restaurants, but grocery stores, schools, hospitals, ski areas, and nursing homes.

Black River Produce has sales of more than \$27 million a year, a work force of 100 employees, and a fleet of 30 refrigerated trucks and two tractor trailers.

I salute Black River Produce's commitment to providing its customers with the highest quality foods. The company distributes high-quality Vermont foods, supporting not only local farmers, but other small businesses such as Grafton Cheese, Cold Valley apples, and products from Vermont Butter and Cheese. They are an integral part of the Vermont Fresh Network, which links local farms to local chefs.

Although during out-of-season periods (Vermont, after all, has long winters) Black River distributes produce from out of state, and although it buys fish in Boston, its commitment to local agriculture and local business is noteworthy. In a time when both agribusiness and outsourcing have wrought havoc with traditional American family farms and with American businesses, I salute the remarkable accomplishment of Black River Produce in supporting local access to locally produced foods. Steve Birge and Mark Curran, and their many employees, have shown businesses around the nation that distributing the products from family farms is and can be good business, and that profits can flow both from helping local businesses, and from providing consumers with healthful foods.

CONGRATULATIONS, ECO/SPRINGFIELD, LLC IN AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed privilege to note the exceptional achievement of eco/Springfield, LLC, Agawam, Massachusetts as the recipient of the highest honor bestowed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to small worksites, the approval as a Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) participant in the consultation program. Currently fewer than 750 worksites in the country share this honor of SHARP recognition.

SHARP is a program created to provide incentives and support to smaller business owners who meet and exceed the OSHA standards, eco/Springfield, LLC is a strong example of such a business. With the recognition in this OSHA consultation program comes several services at no additional cost to the business owner. These services include recognizing hazards in the workplace, providing a written report that summarizes the findings of this analysis, assisting in developing and maintaining an effective safety and health program, and offering training and education to the employer and employees at the worksite.

I am very proud of all my constituents in this workforce for their tremendous efforts in working with the Massachusetts Consultation Program to receive this honor. Once again, congratulations to all of the men and women who work hard each day at the eco/Springfield, LLC, in Agawam, Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING NATHANIEL STITT
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel Stitt, 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 333, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities and earning numerous merit badges. He has held such leadership positions as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Nathaniel has also been on staff at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for the past four years. For his Eagle Scout project, Nathaniel built drying racks for the Volunteer Fire Department at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

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

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Torrey Stoffel-Gray, who was recently killed in action in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Torrey Stoffel-Gray was a 19-year-old Marine from Patoka, Illinois. Patoka is a rural town in my district with a population around 630. At 16 he left Patoka to enter Lincoln Challenge, a military-style alternative school at Rantoul, Ill. Many friends and family say that Lincoln Challenge changed his life and helped him find his way. This young man was recently killed in action in Iraq when his convoy was struck by rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire in the Al Anbar Province. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray is survived by his mother, Mary Stoffel, his stepfather Jerry Stoffel and his three brothers, Brandon, Russell, and Blake. Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray was awarded the Purple Heart, which was presented to his mother at the time of his burial. Not enough can be said about Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray and the rest of our brave men and women serving in Iraq. These soldiers are risking their lives every day to ensure our freedom here at home and for others throughout

the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

REMARKS FOR SERGEANT WILLIAM E. HALL, AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 1953, the Headquarters of the 40th Infantry Division declared that Sergeant William E. Hall (US54024606, Infantry, United States Army, 224th Infantry Regiment) distinguished himself by heroic achievement near Kumhwa, Korea, on the 16th of June and 17th of June 1952. As Sergeant Hall's platoon advanced up an enemy-held hill, the enemy who was waiting in ambush, let loose with a murderous attack. Many casualties were sustained, including Sergeant Hall, who suffered painful wounds. With complete and utter disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Hall fully exposed himself to enemy fire in order to rally and encourage his men. All radio communications had been knocked out by enemy fire, but Sergeant Hall courageously remained exposed to enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire in order to maintain communications by voice and call for reinforcements. The courage, outstanding devotion to duty, and determination displayed by Sergeant Hall under extremely hazardous conditions were directly responsible for maintaining vital communications and resulted in the arrival of needed reinforcements. Sergeant Hall's outstanding courage while risking his life was inspiring to his men and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Sergeant Hall entered the Federal service from Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 177, 178, and 179. I was regrettably absent from the chamber on May 17 during rollcall votes 177, 178, and 179. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 177, "yea" on rollcall 178, and "yea" on rollcall five.

CONGRATULATIONS, ANTHONY F. HEISLER

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anthony F. Heisler of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Lt. Heisler is a recent graduate of the George Washington University where he re-

ceived a dual Bachelor of the Arts in German Languages and Literature and in History. A resident of Northeast Philadelphia, Lt. Heisler had always aspired to join the Army, and it is his work in college as a cadet in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) of Georgetown University of which he is most proud.

In his capacity as a cadet, Lt. Heisler was responsible for the oversight of over 80 Army cadets. For his service, Lt. Heisler has won numerous awards, including the Lieutenant Harry W. Apraker, Jr. award, which is given to the cadet who contributes the most to the mission accomplishment of the Georgetown University ROTC program. Upon his commissioning, Lt. Heisler has been assigned to the Field Artillery branch of the Army.

I am eternally grateful to Lt. Heisler for his service to the United States, and I wish him continued success as he begins his career in the United States Army.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the history of our great Nation the cause of freedom has not come easily, but it has come to those who have the will to attain for themselves and for their countrymen. Our Nation has been blessed to have great leaders and visionaries who crafted the Constitution on a new independent Nation. Later, similar strength was needed to eliminate the scourge of slavery. Today, we continue the struggle to make sure that all men and women can taste the sweet nectar of freedom. While we rightfully praise and celebrate the great leaders and visionaries who created and shaped this Nation, let us never forget that even their great work would have fallen short had it not been for the millions of soldiers willing to surrender their life to give the cause of freedom to others.

It was Edmund Burke who once aptly stated: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The birth of our Nation itself was due to good men who refused to submit to an unjust rule. Time after time, in battle after battle American men and women have not fled from mortal danger, no instead they have rushed towards it. Our brave soldiers built this Nation, first with independence, then with the righteousness of eliminating slavery, and finally in the last century they built this Nation in the eyes of the world, not only as a superpower, but as a Nation that values humanity and kindness over the tyranny of others. It has been said that the generation that came back from fighting World War II was in fact the 'greatest generation' and I would be hard pressed to disagree. Our brave soldiers went to Europe and the Far East to save massacred peoples; they had no choice but victory. Even now, we look back in pain and imagine the horror that could have been had they not been successful. They came back from this war to end all wars and raised a new generation of Americans. They created the greatest middle-class ever seen in the history of the world. Their domestic suc-

cess ensured a great future for our Nation, their success abroad ensured life and liberty for millions around the world.

I see this same courage and strength in the eyes of our current generation of soldiers. They bear the burden of a new world, in which the greatest threats against our life and freedom are often unseen. They also bear the hope of a Nation and a world that clings to the hope of peace and stability. It was the great statesman Adlai Stevenson who said: "Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." It is clear that the torch has been passed from the 'greatest generation' to a new generation of men and women willing to dedicate their lives to protecting ours. Our Nation is truly blessed in so many ways, but our soldiers continue to be the greatest protectors of our blessings.

Perhaps the greatest literary reminder we have of the sacrifice our soldiers make in battle is the poem In Flanders Field written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD of the Canadian Army:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

This poem describes the feelings of Lieutenant Colonel McCrae after the battle of Ypres in 1915. Our soldiers go to war knowing that they may not come back; they go to war knowing their comrades may not come back with them, and yet they do not relent. The courage of our Armed Forces can not be questioned, their dedication can not be taken lightly; truly their sacrifice must be honored dearly.

During this Moment of Silence I want to acknowledge the brave soldiers from my home city of Houston who died fighting for our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan:

Sp. Adolfo C. Carballo, 20, Houston, Texas, Died: April 10, 2004, Baghdad, Iraq; Pfc. Analaura Esparza Gutierrez, 21, Houston, Texas, Died: October 1, 2003, Tikrit, Iraq; Sp. John P. Johnson, 24, Houston, Texas, Died: October 22, 2003, Baghdad, Iraq; Sp. Scott Q. Larson, 22, Houston, Texas, Died: April 5, 2004, Baghdad, Iraq; Sgt. Keelan L. Moss, 23, Houston, Texas, Died: November 2, 2003, Al Fallujah, Iraq; Pfc. Armando Soriano, 20, Houston, Texas, Died: February 1, 2004, Haditha, Iraq; Cpl. Tomas Sotelo Jr., 20, Houston, Texas, Died: June 27, 2003, Baghdad, Iraq; Staff Sgt. Brian T. Craig, 27, Houston, Texas, Died: April 15, 2002, Afghanistan.

The names of those brave soldiers and all soldiers who have died fighting for our nation will always be synonymous with the cause of freedom. It takes that rare individual, who in fact does not see themselves as an individual, but as a piece of a greater mission. I hope and pray for the safe return of our soldiers fighting abroad, I cherish and honor our veterans who served before. Let us take this Memorial Day to heart, for everything we love and hold dear in this great nation of ours was