

A tall and athletic nineteen-year-old, Chance Phelps attended Moffat County and Palisade high schools where he was known for his fun-loving nature and being an avid outdoorsman. He came from a family with a rich military tradition, his father John being a Vietnam veteran, and his sister Kelley working at the Pentagon. After the terrorist bombings of 9–11, Chance knew that he had to do something for his nation, and resolved to join the Marines. As a dedicated member of our Armed Forces and as a patriot, he answered the call of duty, embarking on a journey to defend freedom and independence.

Randy Rehn was known as an athlete and a prankster. At Niwot High School, he was a football player and an all-state wrestler. He was a loving husband and the new father of a six-month-old girl. I know that Randy's daughter, family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of these young soldiers and their families. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Soldiers like Randal, Mark, Chance, and Randy embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and their devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. These brave soldiers have made all Americans proud and I know they have the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on this Memorial Day and remember our fallen heroes, I would like to offer special recognition for four incredibly brave men from my district who sacrificed their lives fighting the war on terror.

On September 10, 2003, Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Robsky, Jr. of the 759th Ordnance Company was killed when an improvised explosive device he was called on to neutralize detonated. Staff Sgt. Robsky was 31 years old.

On September 15, 2003, 31 year old Staff Sgt. Kevin Kimmerly of North Creek, New York was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the streets of Baghdad.

On April 8 of this year, a rocket-propelled grenade killed Army Spc. Isaac Michael Nieves as insurgents in Bani Saad, Iraq, ambushed his patrol. Spc. Nieves, from Sidney, New York, was 20 years old.

And on April 11, Easter Sunday of this year, 21 year old Pfc. Nathan P. Brown of South Glens Falls, New York was ambushed while on patrol with his unit in Samarra, Iraq. Nathan Brown served in the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, 1st Armored Division out of Glens Falls, New York.

Each of these remarkable young men left behind family and friends they loved and cared for. They were cut down in the prime of

life by those who hate the very freedoms these soldiers, these Americans, these heroes, were trying to protect.

What makes their sacrifice even more special is the fact that not only were they fighting against the terrorists who have declared war on America, but that they were also fighting for millions of Iraqi citizens who yearn for the freedoms that so many of us take for granted.

With each passing day in the war on terror I think about these heroes and the ultimate sacrifice they made so our mission can be victorious. It is because of men like Joe Robsky, Kevin Kimmerly, Isaac Michael Nieves, Nathan Brown, and the hundreds of other Americans who lost their lives that we must succeed in our mission. I refuse to tarnish their memories by fighting this war in vain.

This Memorial Day, and all others afterward, will have extra significance for me. Casting a vote to send our troops into harm's way is the most difficult thing I have done since coming to Congress. While I remain convinced of the justness of our cause, I now have an even greater appreciation for our men and women fighting the war on terror thousands of miles away from their homes and families.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the memories of the 20th District's bravest soldiers. I will spend my Memorial Day praying for their families, for the successful completion of their mission and for the safe return of all our troops. God bless them all, and God bless America.

CONGRATULATING BOB LINDNER
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Bob Lindner, who is retiring from the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over our nearly twenty year working relationship, there were a few times that he may not have realized that I considered him a friend, but I am proud to state for the record that I do.

Bob Lindner is a model example of the dedicated but unsung civil servants who make our government work. Those of us who are elected or appointed to policy level positions like to think we are running things, but the truth is that policy is only as good as it is implemented. Bob is a master of understanding the underlying policy and applying it in a practical way to achieve the desired outcome.

Bob, who will turn 62 next week, is retiring after 39 years of civil service. He most recently served as the Chief of the Planning Division for the Baltimore District for the past five years. He is responsible for a staff of 75 engineers and scientists. He has led a strong Civil Works Program that includes the geographic area of our Nation's Capital and portions of six States, and includes projects in the planning, design and construction phases.

Bob's career has been highlighted by numerous accomplishments, including the Scranton and Olyphant Local Flood Protection Projects, Lock Haven Flood Protection Project and numerous projects solving flood control, navigation and erosion problems. It has been

through the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project that I came to work most closely with Bob. In fact, it took me some time to forgive him for retiring before the project is completed; however, I have come to recognize that he has devoted much of his time in the Corps to training the next generation of managers to follow in his footsteps.

Over the years we faced many obstacles with the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project, including budget cuts, an audit, and conflicts among partners, but Bob always managed to keep the project moving forward. We had our battles when I thought the Corps should be more flexible, and he thought I was a bit too ambitious. However, I always knew he had the best interest of the country, the Corps, and the project at heart, and we grew to respect one another.

From 1992 to 1999, Bob was a manager in the Programs and Project Management Division. This included six years as Acting Assistant Chief of the Division. He helped oversee the development and execution of a \$2 billion dollar planning, design and construction program dispersed over 27 military installations and civil works and environmental restoration projects in the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins and Chesapeake Bay.

Prior to 1992, Bob served as Chief of the Project Development Branch in the Planning Division, where he was responsible for the study and plan formulation phase for Civil Works water resources projects. Many of the projects constructed or in construction today, started as studies under Bob's leadership—including those in Scranton, Olyphant, the Wyoming Valley and other projects that reflect highly on the Baltimore District today.

Bob is a trusted confidante. He is known throughout the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works community for his practical solutions to complex issues.

Bob has been honored through numerous awards, including the Army Superior Civilian Service Award, the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Outstanding Supervisor of the Year for the Baltimore District and Outstanding Supervisor of the Year for the Federal Executive Board for Baltimore Region.

While Bob is a hard worker, he is completely dedicated to his wife Doris and their two children, Nancy and David. They reside in Baldwin, Maryland.

I want to thank Bob for his service to the Nation through his Army and Corps of Engineers career. Bob's knowledge, skill, and abilities developed over a lifetime of dedicated service as an engineer and civil servant, his contribution to his profession and society, and his honesty and ethical standards make him deserving of our recognition today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representative please join me in congratulating Bob Lindner and wish him all the best for a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTISTIC
TALENTS OF TYRON MORRISON

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous artistic ability of a

young man from my Congressional District, Tyron Morrison of Woodland Hills High School. Tyron is the winner in the 2004 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery."

Tyron's piece, entitled, "T.L.," is an impressive portrait in acrylic paint of a young man's face, with a strong use of highlight and shadow.

Tyron's artwork was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I am certain that his family is proud of her artistic talents as well as this accomplishment.

It gives me great pride and pleasure that Tyron's painting will be representing the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be set up in the United States Capitol in the coming weeks. The winners of the Congressional Art Competitions held in each Congressional District will be displayed in that exhibit.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Tyron's artwork, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display throughout the next year. It is truly amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." I would like to thank these vibrant young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

FALLEN HEROS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Private First Class Chance Phelps.

PFC Phelps, who spent much of his youth in Dubois, Wyoming, died in service to his country near Baghdad on April 9, 2004, Good Friday.

Chance, just 19, had been in Iraq for a month as part of the 1st Marine Division, based at Twentynine Palms, California. He volunteered for the mission during which he was fatally wounded, serving as a machine gunner on an escort vehicle for an Army convoy from the Syrian border to Baghdad. Chance demonstrated incredible valor and courage and will appropriately be awarded the Purple Heart.

As his mother, Gretchen Mack, noted, Chance didn't have to be a Marine, he wanted to be a Marine. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, his greatest desire was to serve his country and fight to preserve America's freedom and liberty. He did it. Both his father, John Phelps, and his mother are firm in their conviction that he willingly made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country.

Like many Wyoming children, Chance spent time hunting, fishing and working cows at a friend's ranch. A true All-American boy, he was a star football player who made friends easily. He leaves behind a large, loving family and many friends who will miss him dearly.

The way people felt about Chance was clear at his funeral service in Dubois. Hundreds of people lined the main street, young and old, each person holding aloft an American flag as Chance was carried to his final resting place in a horse-drawn carriage. It was a spontaneous demonstration of the love and admiration Chance inspired in anyone he met, and a testament to the sense of loss, and undying love of our country, that we all feel now that he's gone.

Chance will be sorely missed, but he will forever remain a hero in the hearts of the people of Wyoming.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day we honor the sacrifices of a new generation of heroes who gave their lives unselfishly for the safety and security of our Nation and our world.

Private Jim Hergott is one of these brave young Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of democracy, freedom, and liberty.

Last July, Private Jim Hergott became the first Minnesotan killed in action in Iraq. A graduate of Shakopee High School, Private Hergott was struck by a sniper while guarding the National Building Museum in Baghdad.

Private Hergott has set an example of service to which few will be called and for which all are grateful. Jim Hergott will be missed, but his contributions endure.

We enjoy the blessings of living in America as a result of men and women throughout our Nation's history who toiled, sacrificed, and struggled to ensure we would have an unparalleled quality of life.

These blessings remain with us today as a result of the men and women who continue to toil, struggle, and sacrifice on our behalf.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Private Hergott and all of the fallen heroes of this generation and those who came before. I ask you to join me in honoring Private Hergott and remembering his fellow heroes to whom we owe so much.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Billie L. Miller for his dedication to his country and exemplary service during World War II. I commend Mr. Miller for his commitment to liberty and justice and for his dutiful service in carrying freedom to the world.

World War II is filled with stories of heroism, selflessness, patriotism and a relentless desire to secure a peaceful and prosperous future for the United States of America and the international community. Brave men left their ordinary lives in order to serve a cause greater than themselves. Mr. Miller was among those great men to take up the call of service and sacrifice.

A man of courage, Mr. Miller served in the 92nd Bombardment Group as a stealth gunner on a B-17 bomber and participated in numerous flying military missions. As a prisoner of war, captured by the enemy, he was forced to trudge alongside his American comrades during an 86 day, 488 mile march from Gross Tychon, Poland to Halle, Germany. A true guardian of freedom, Mr. Miller kept his morale high and persevered, earning several honorary medals and helping America achieve greatness.

I am often reminded that our country has been blessed with great people and leaders; Americans who rose to the challenge when their country was in need. I take great pride in representing a district with so many heroes.

In June of this year, the Slippery Rock Area High School of Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District will honor Mr. Miller for his service and bravery during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Miller for his dedicated service to our country. The spirit of his sacrifice lives on in the strength of the United States of America.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today we honor those men and women who have fought and died for the cause of freedom. The cost of freedom is not small, and throughout history our nation has risen to accept this mortal cost so that our fellow citizens of the world could be free.

This generation of Americans, like the generations before, has been called on to serve our great nation with honor, upholding our ideals for people at home and around the world. We are in debt to our brave men and women in uniform who have heeded the call to service in conflicts around the world throughout history, most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today on the floor of the people's House, we pause to offer a special tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Our brave men and women in uniform selflessly sacrifice their own tomorrows so that we may live in freedom. Their families, and especially their children, make sacrifices for us too. As these children grow into young men and women, we need to remind them that their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their parents were not made in vain. We must remind them that as the Bible says, "in the path of righteousness there is life, [and] in walking its path there is no death". Most important, we need to remind them that they are the inspiration for their parents' sacrifices; that their parents sacrifice so that they and their children and grandchildren may know the blessings of liberty.