

women in uniform who have risked life and limb in the name of Liberty and Freedom. I wish to give special attention to LTC Juan Cristobal Gomez III, an extraordinary man who devoted his life to God and Country.

Those of us from the San Luis Valley and Northern New Mexico were privileged to know this man of exceptional character and profound faith. LTC Gomez always said "When you honor one veteran, you honor all veterans." Through this tribute to Juan, I pay homage to all who have served and sacrificed for this great Nation.

Juan Cristobal Gomez III was born in Durango, CO in 1946 and was raised on the Gomez Ranch in Frances. He enlisted in the Army June 2, 1969 at Ft. Polk, LA, and then graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1970. During his time in the Army and Army Reserves, Juan was stationed with Ft. Carson, CO, Evans Army Medical Center, CO, and William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Ft. Bliss, TX. He served on active duty with Evans Army Medical Center Unit during Operation Desert Storm, and also spent time with Medcom Unit #15281 in Korea in 1996 and again in 1998. Throughout his career he received many military awards and attended several military schools. Juan retired from the United States Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1996.

Juan touched the lives of everyone he came into contact with, always parting with "I love you" or "God bless". After he retired from the Army Reserves, he continued to serve his country through the work he did with veterans. He exemplified the notion that even when the uniform is placed in the closet, a soldier's duty is never complete to his Nation.

In November of 2003, Gomez was honored with an award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for "furthering the goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society by fostering and perpetuating patriotism in communities throughout the San Luis Valley and Northern New Mexico." Juan cherished his friendships with our Medal of Honor recipients and honored them in all he did because of who they are and the values they embody.

Colorado and the Nation were at a great loss on July 10, 2004, when we lost LTC Juan Gomez. However, the life Juan led inspired us all; he challenged us to give a little of ourselves for the betterment of our Nation. We pay tribute this Memorial Day to thousands of veterans like LTC Juan Gomez, patriots who gave selflessly to protect this great Nation, and community leaders who inspire those around them by their service to a cause greater than themselves.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL JOHN T. SCHMIDT III TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal John T. Schmidt III, who died on May 11

from injuries sustained while in combat in Iraq and in service to our country.

John was born in Carmel, New York and was a graduate of Oviedo High School in Oviedo, Florida. This fine young man was just 21 years old.

Lance Corporal Schmidt was a proud member of the United States Marine Corps, and today he was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. We remember today John's courage and his ultimate sacrifice to our nation.

Greater love hath no man than to give up his life for others. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy John leaves behind.

He was the son of John Schmidt, Jr. of Bunnell, Florida. His additional family included his mother and stepfather, Barbara and Eric Jimenez, and another stepfather, Donald Porricelli, all of Danbury, Connecticut; and his maternal grandparents, Richard and Jean Backlund of St. Augustine, Florida. To all of John's family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Lance Corporal John T. Schmidt III's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service as a Marine and his life as a wonderful son, and in remembering his dedication to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JAN ELIASSON, SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary diplomat, a remarkable representative of his native Sweden, a friend and admirer of the United States, and a man whom Annette and I count as a dear, dear friend—Jan Eliasson, the Ambassador of Sweden to the United States. Jan is now leaving his position here in Washington, D.C., and shortly he will assume the critical role of President of the United Nations General Assembly, the first Swede to serve in this post.

In a biographical article, an American magazine reported that Jan Eliasson is referred to by his friends and family as "James Bond" "because of his charm, elegance, and rugged good looks." The same article described Jan as "brilliant, serious and dedicated to strengthening the role of the United Nations, as well as improving the lot of man." Mr. Speaker, I know Jan Eliasson, and I believe that these descriptions suit his persona and his character to perfection.

Another facet of Jan that I particularly admire and respect has been his commitment to the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg. At the request and with the support of the United States Government, Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish Legation in Budapest at the height of Nazi deportations of Hungarian Jews to death camps. Through creativity, tenacity

and grit, Wallenberg saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews, including my wife Annette and myself. After the liberation of Budapest, Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviet military, and he was never seen outside the Soviet gulag since then. Sweden did not press the Soviets for his release, and many Swedish diplomats saw him as an example of what a diplomat should not do. Jan Eliasson disagreed strongly with that view. He has been one of the strongest and most effective advocates of Raoul Wallenberg, and he has been a leader in Sweden in honoring Wallenberg's humanitarian heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the position of President of the UN General Assembly is critically important, and Jan Eliasson comes to it at a critical time in the history of the United Nations. But he also brings an exceptional background that makes him uniquely qualified to lead the General Assembly at this time.

As Jan takes the helm at the General Assembly, the United Nations faces demands for reform. The Secretary General has already made positive and far-reaching proposals, and the Congress is preparing to consider legislation on that same issue in the next few weeks. The President of the General Assembly will also chair a summit this fall to review the Millennium Development Goals on sustainable and equitable global development.

Jan served as Sweden's Ambassador to the United Nations from 1988 to 1992, and at that same time he served as the Secretary General's personal representative on Iran/Iraq. In 1992 he was appointed the first Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, and in that post he was involved in UN operations in Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique and the Balkans. Few Presidents of the General Assembly come to that position with the broad experience as well as the intellectual and emotional commitment to the United Nations that Jan brings.

During his five years as Sweden's ambassador to the United States, he has contributed to strengthening our bilateral relations in a critical time as we here faced the shock and tragedy of September 11th and engaged in the fight against terrorism. For six years prior to his assignment in Washington, Jan was Deputy Secretary of State in the Swedish Foreign Ministry, a key position in the formulation and implementation of Swedish foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, while I am enthusiastic about Jan Eliasson's new opportunity, we also bid him farewell with serious reservations. He has been a truly outstanding representative of Sweden in the United States. He has brought a genuine love of America as well as a deep understanding and sympathy of our country as well. Jan was an exchange student and graduated from high school in Indiana. He has spent well over a decade as a Swedish diplomat living in New York City and Washington, D.C.

My wife, Annette, and I will sorely miss Jan and his wife Kerstin. We wish them well in their very important new assignment in New York, and we look forward to seeing them in New York and again in the Nation's Capital.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 7

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the emergence of China throughout Asia relating to security and economic consequences for the U.S.
SD-419

JUNE 9

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Western Hemisphere Initiative regarding safety and convenience in cross-border travel.
SD-419

JUNE 21

2:30 p.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to American history.
SD-430

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
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