

share the stories that depict their unwavering commitment to their fellow citizens and their calm and collected action in the face of great challenge.

Mr. Speaker, Matthew Zedwick is one of the many courageous men and women who have served our country in Iraq as a member of the Oregon National Guard. On June 13, 2004, his quick action under pressure saved the life of his comrade, Sgt. Sean Davis. Sgt. Zedwick was driving a Humvee when two roadside bombs exploded near his convoy. Despite being wounded by shrapnel, Sgt. Zedwick dragged Truck Commander Sgt. Davis safely from a burning vehicle and then returned to the vehicle under heavy enemy fire in an attempt to retrieve the body of Spc. Eric McKinley, who had been killed in the blast. While he was unable to retrieve Spc. McKinley, he was able to retrieve a radio and call for help. His quick thinking and courage under fire saved his own life and the life of Sgt. Davis. For his actions, Sgt Zedwick became the first Oregon National Guardsman since World War II to be awarded the Silver Star medal and a Purple Heart for his valor.

Jordan Bilyeu is another hero who endured the devastation of the Tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean in December of 2004. While vacationing in the Phi Phi Islands, off the shore of Thailand, Jordan was swept up in the water that unexpectedly came crashing toward the beachgoers. Jordan clung to a palm tree while riding out the worst of the Tsunami and eventually was swept into the third story of a nearby hotel. During this ordeal, Jordan was able to assist in the rescue of a woman who lost her legs who had also been pulled into that hotel room, and worked to assist others who had been injured in this tragic natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, in Deschutes County we owe thanks to several heroes for their quick action at work. On September 13, 2003, Al Ewing's, Corky Metteer's, Tim Wiley's, and Adam Carpenter's emergency efforts saved the life of Stu Martinez when he lapsed out of consciousness. Stu's colleagues quickly ran to his rescue and performed CPR techniques until medical help could arrive. These employees at Wilderness Garbage in La Pine were prepared to react after taking critical life saving and CPR classes administered by the Oregon Mountain River Chapter of the Red Cross one month before.

Deschutes County District Attorney Mike Dugan is another hero who helped avert another tragic accident on the job and saved the life of a young boy in the Deschutes County Courtroom. When a young child started choking on a large piece of candy, District Attorney Dugan rushed to assist the child and used an abdominal thrust technique to dislodge the candy from his throat. The entire episode took only a few seconds, but it is an act that this young child will remember for the rest of his life.

Kathleen Krahmer is a hero whose day-to-day efforts impact the lives of many in her community. On May 23, 2005, Kathleen donated her 57th pint of blood, for an astonishing total of more than seven gallons of blood donated to the Red Cross. Not only is Kathleen a blood donor, but every winter she knits hats and donates them to local schools or to the Bethlehem Inn, a homeless shelter in Bend. This, Mr. Speaker, is just the beginning of her service to others. She is actively involved in the Sparrow Club, an organization

that helps critically ill children, and has helped collect money for the Tsunami Relief program. As a teacher she is an inspiration and exemplary example to her students and her fellow citizens and has shown that countless acts of kindness truly do make a significant difference.

Mr. Speaker, the next individual I'd like to honor demonstrates that you can be a hero at any age. Spencer Brennan has already made a significant impact on those around him at the age of 14 and I'm sure that his tradition of helping others will continue for many years. As a young child Spencer fell very ill, but he battled back to overcome his illness and never gave up during his most difficult challenges. Now, he works for the benefit of other children as a volunteer for the Sparrow Club. For the last two years, Spencer has worked to raise money for the Sparrow Club and to support other children who face medical crisis. For his service, he was awarded the prestigious "Dameon Award" for his compassion, courage, character and conscience.

The next hero I would like to highlight, Kim Meeder, is an individual who has worked very hard to make a difference in the life of troubled teens, abused kids and adults across Oregon and our nation. The work being done by Kim and her husband Troy at the Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch is tremendous. Kim has helped pair abused and neglected horses with troubled individuals seeking solitude and comfort. The ranch gives these individuals a place to rekindle their spirits and recover from the problems of their past.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by talking about a collaborative effort in central Oregon that provides medical coverage for those without coverage. Since opening just over a year ago, the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic has completed approximately 5,000 free examinations in Deschutes County. Three of these volunteers have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Dr. Tom McGranahan, a retired anesthesiologist, has worked over 600 hours assisting doctors and training others in the use of new electronic medical records while serving as the clinic's resident computer expert. Cindy Cocanower, an area pharmacist, has utilized her expertise so the organization can provide medications at little or no cost to VIM patients. She has donated over 200 hours of her time and expertise and spent countless hours working on similar endeavors outside the clinic. Sharon Lichti, a retired college professor, has been the lead volunteer charged with training dozens of new volunteers since the opening of the clinic. The contributions of these individuals have provided medical coverage for many uninsured individuals throughout central Oregonian, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals being honored on June 1 demonstrate that each of us can be a hero in our community and we are grateful for all that they've done and continue to do.

CELEBRATING HAL AND TINA SMITH FOR 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal and Tina Smith for the dedica-

tion they have shown to each other over their 65 years of marriage.

On June 1, 1940, Hal Smith and Tina Ball were married. Through 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 (soon to be five) great-grandchildren, they have been a shining example of unconditional love and mutual respect for each other and those they come to meet.

This dedication to, and respect for, each other has been the key to a successful marriage for all these years. During their life together, they have raised a beautiful family—a family strengthened by the strong morals and humanistic values they embodied for their children.

They have lived their lives free from regret and have persevered and overcome any trial that has come their way. Hal and Tina have always held family to be paramount and have engendered this legacy of love in their children.

Aside from the strong family values that they have demonstrated, they also have a love of travel, and they have always emphasized the importance of learning and education in their family, which echoes their strong belief that they must leave this world a better place than they found it. Tina expressed this through her work with museums; Hal through his political career.

Mr. Speaker, these 2 individuals have been like a second set of parents to my wife, Laurie and I. They are a very important part of our lives. Their great influence has been a constant in our lives as they have loved and supported us over the years and throughout my political career. We are proud to be among the privileged group they call their friends. Their commitment to each other and to their community is deserving of recognition and honor, so it is a pleasure for me today to salute this marvelous couple. I encourage all of my colleagues to salute such wonderful examples of family values, like Hal and Tina Smith.

DISCUSSING THE PERILS OF CAFTA WITH LEGISLATORS FROM CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I welcomed legislators from Central American countries to discuss the perils of CAFTA. I submit my opening remarks for the RECORD.

Thank you all for coming to this important briefing on how the Dominican-Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement was passed in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. I would like to thank Congressman Becerra for hosting this briefing with me, and of course, the Central American legislators for traveling up here to share their experiences with us.

There are innumerable reasons to oppose CAFTA, in the United States and in Central America. Governments will have little to no control over the investments of foreign companies, and foreign investors will not have to comply with International Labor Organization standards when they invest in Central American business ventures. Workers' rights will be undermined, especially for women workers, farmers and maquila workers. The current labor rights abuses prevalent in

some Central American countries will run rampant under CAFTA's weak labor provisions. Countries will enjoy greater tariff benefits for goods made by workers whose rights have been denied.

Family farms in Central America will fall victim to CAFTA, which will threaten locally grown produce and undermine food security for Central Americans. Basic public goods and services, such as education, health care and water will become privatized, as governments will lose the flexibility to subsidize these services. Expensive brand-name drugs will have expanded patents, and inexpensive generic medicines will have greater restrictions. Poor people will not have access to life-saving pharmaceuticals.

Yet these concerns could not be fully considered or debated by lawmakers in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. CAFTA was brought up suddenly, in the wee hours of the morning, with no public notice, and many lawmakers did not get the chance to investigate what they were voting on. Is this how far-reaching legal reform bills should be considered? Of course not. And the real story of how CAFTA was pushed through the legislatures of Central American countries will undercut any legitimacy its ratification may have.

Please join me in welcoming the lawmakers who opposed CAFTA in their respective legislative assemblies when it was considered, and who have traveled here to continue to oppose CAFTA. Let me introduce: Diputada Doris Gutierrez, from Honduras; Diputado Victor Manuel Sales, from Guatemala; Diputado Hugo Martinez, from El Salvador; and Diputado Salvador Arias, from El Salvador.

MEMORIAL DAY AND HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day we will once again mark a day of remembrance for those who have died while serving our Nation. Memorial Day is a single day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should remember their sacrifice every day, a special honor is reserved for Memorial Day.

More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this Nation fought since the first colonial minutemen took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each soldier who died during those many battles was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the Nation.

While this Nation can never fully repay those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, I believe the United States must continue to do more to honor our brave soldiers, veterans and our military families. Their sacrifices are the foundation of our Nation's freedom.

During my years in Congress, I have consistently given high priority to the interests of our country's veterans. I feel strongly that protecting veterans' rights and benefits is the least we can do for those who have devoted

years of their lives in service to our Nation. Only by providing the best possible resources and facilities and fully compensating veterans for disabilities, can we repay the dedication of service personnel who sacrificed for their country.

One area in which adequate funding is absolutely necessary for veterans is health care. The lack of sufficient resources in our VA hospitals has reduced the ability of medical professionals to provide quality care. Our budget should be a reflection of our national priorities and yet this year the House Leadership cut veterans healthcare by \$13.5 billion.

It is critical that we fulfill our moral obligation to honor our Nation's veterans with the health, education and retirement benefits they have earned through their service. I have joined my colleagues in introducing a new GI bill, endorsed by the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans, to improve benefits for men and women in uniform today and provide long overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. It will help members of the National Guard and Reserve, as their service in Iraq and Afghanistan has been above the call of duty, and will improve veterans' health care by increasing resources, bolstering mental health care for returning soldiers and blocking prescription drug co-payment increases.

So, on this Memorial Day, let us never forget that we in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. We can start to pay that debt by remembering what they did and what they stood for, and by promoting policies that honor their service and reflect the values of our grateful Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MARLIN T. ROCKHOLD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Private First Class Marlin T. Rockhold. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Private First Class Rockhold leaves behind the most important legacy any man can leave: a strong and healthy family who knows he loved them with all his heart. His love and commitment to his wife Davonna, and his desire to adopt and nurture their daughter Therashia is the best testament to his character and to his heart.

Private First Class Rockhold's joy for life and his commitment to the men and women he served with are remembered by his family, his friends, and his fellow soldiers. He used his incredible sense of humor and memorable smile to ease the worries, fears, and disappointments of those around him. His positive attitude will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Private First Class Rockhold's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen.

Marlin, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL TAKES TOP HONORS IN TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Philadelphia High School for taking top honors in the Technology Competition at the National 2005 Tour de Sol.

The National 2005 Tour de Sol, a nationwide competition, allows students and entrepreneurs to showcase their efforts to design vehicles that approach zero carbon emissions and use renewable fuels. The Tour de Sol highlights the largest innovations in alternative-energy technology and advanced fuel vehicles, showcasing the future of the clean-energy and transportation industry. The cars are put through rigorous tests to assess emissions, fuel economy, and other technical standards.

The Tour de Sol provides a key platform for vehicle manufacturers, students, and entrepreneurs to demonstrate future designs and current products that aim to reduce oil and carbon emissions to zero. This year, over a dozen teams from all over the United States and Canada participated in the Tour de Sol Championship, which began in 1989. The competition aims to inspire students and businesses to design, build, showcase, and use concept vehicles that push the envelope and work toward the ultimate goal of the event.

The winner of the coveted "Greenest Vehicle" was awarded to one of the only high school teams to enter the competition, West Philadelphia High School, for their electric car called The Saturn. The team beat university and private teams from around the country for developing a vehicle that demonstrates high energy efficiency. The Saturn ran the equivalent of 280 miles per gallon of gasoline, with a greenhouse gas reduction of nearly 80 percent.

I salute the students, faculty and team sponsors who worked tirelessly over the past two years to construct a hybrid vehicle that uses biodiesel fuel instead of gas to create a cleaner environment. I applaud your efforts and congratulate you on a winning design that makes all Philadelphians proud.