

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA REIN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Christina Rein for her creativity and ingenuity.

Last year, like many parents, Christina felt the frustration of crumpled diapers when they were placed in her diaper bags. She decided she was going to do something about it. With the inspiration from her children, she designed Diapees and Wipees, a pouch created to carry a few diapers and wipes that has helped her tremendously in raising her baby boy.

After numerous hours of research on how and where to market her invention, Christina founded the Christina Leigh & Company in 2004. Through her company, she has been able to help relieve the stress of many other parents, as well as starting a fashion trend. Recently, she attended the annual International Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association Trade Show and appeared on morning shows to advertise her product. Her product comes in many fashionable designs and can be purchased in baby boutiques and stores in several states or from her website.

Today, I want to recognize Christina Rein for her outstanding accomplishments. Her success as a loving mother and a successful entrepreneur is admirable, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF BRAVO BATTERY FORWARD, FIRST BATTALION, 109TH FIELD ARTILLERY DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the 126 members of the Bravo Battery Forward of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who have returned after service in Iraq.

We welcome home our brave soldiers with gratitude for their selflessness. During times of war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Through voluntary military service, Americans proudly uphold ideals, consistently emerge as leaders and valiantly ensure democracy.

The Bravo Battery consists of: Richard Osborne Adams, David Paul Anthony, Stephen John Arnold, Richard Anthony Aulicino, Joseph John Baloh III, Michael William Bauder, James Lee Bell, Joshua Michael Bohinski, Jason Otto Bolesta, Joshua

Brandes, Dennis Michael Bressler, Travis C. Brigalia;

Christian Benjamin Brown, Mark Earl Brown, Ronald Joseph Bruza Jr., Kyle Edward Buff, Robert Anthony Burge, Kevin Thomas Burritt, Raymond Charles Cannell, Gary Bruce Caton Jr., John Lawrence Cavanaugh, Richard Lloyd Chesnet Jr., Gerald B. Cobb, Scott Elliott Cousins, Ryan Hazen Craig, Christopher Alan Daniel, Scott Anthony Domanowski, Robert Patrick Donahue, Dean Emery Doty, Nicholas Andrew Dulina, William Sanderson Dutzar, Jason John Ellison, Eric Anthony Eppler, Eugene Joseph Everett;

Rodney Stephen Fedorchak, Robert Allen Franks, Terrance Charles Frederick, James Joseph Gallagher, James Michael Gallagher, Patrick Edward Gallagher, Tomas Rafael Garcia, Mario Luis Gonzalez Jr., Jeremy James Granahan, Nicholas Joseph Guzenski, Justin Matthew Harris, William Joseph Harris, Kelly Scott Harter, Kevin Patrick Hettler, Bruce Alan Hinds II, David Andrew Hoover, Kevin Thomas Hoover, Christopher Andrew Hudock, Matthew David Jacobs, Elijah Kareeme Jones, James Joseph Kanja;

Daniel Steven Kankiewicz, Christopher James Keen, Christopher Warren Keller, Brendan Kevin Kelly, Jared Raymond Kennedy, David John Kinney, Rory Francis Kirwan, Rhyann Lee Kleiner, Neil Charles Klings, Nicholas Andrews Kopco, Raymond Louis Krzak, Brett David Kunkle, Charles Cushing Ladd V, George Leibman, Matthew Lipo, Billy Joe Lorah, Phillip Glenn Losito, Andrew Lukashewski, Brian Lukashewski, Joseph Andrew Lukashewski, Matthew Lupico;

Nicholas Richard Lynn, Leonard John Macking III, Brian Jason Martin, William Frank Marusak, Michael Aloysius McKeown, Adam Charles Metz, Kenneth Paul Miller Jr., Robert Jason Miller, Robert John Miller, Paul Minnicks IV, David Joseph Miscavage, Cliff Antonio Morales, Joseph John Novackowski, Patrick Francis O'Boyle, Walter Robert Ohl, Thomas Robert O'Leary, Charles Alex Pavlick, Francis William Petroski, Kris Sean Petrosky Sr., Tony Phan;

Francis Joseph Poperowitz, Neil Aaron Ravitz, Jason Rexford Robbins, Timothy Michael Roberts, Jeremy John Rusczyk, Stephen Mark Rutkowski, Sean Paul Sarokas, John Sedon IV, Daniel Thomas Seip IV, Christopher Jude Sicurella, Jonathan Neil Silva, Anthony William Skrypski, K. Jaime Sorber, Daniel Christian Stella, Robert Paul Stemick, William Fredrick Stiefel Jr., Jamie Lee Sult;

Justin George Thomas, William Lewis Thubbron, Jonathan David Torres, Daniel Kieran Walsh, Nicholas William Walters, Wesley James Waters, Leonard Kenneth Weston Jr., Adam Thomas Wilcox, Aron Preston Wright, Joshua Paul Yetter, Michael Lee Yetter, Eric Mark Zagata, and Robert Louis Zamoch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JANE M. HARTLEY, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Captain Jane M. Hartley of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Captain Hartley is retiring after serving the people of this great Nation for 27 years.

Captain Hartley was an accomplished officer who always put country, duty, and honor first. Throughout her illustrious career, Captain Hartley was honored with the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal twice, 9/11 Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal twice.

In addition, Captain Hartley blazed a path of progress by being the first woman to have a command in the Fifth Coast Guard District and the first woman in the Coast Guard to become Captain of the Port of Wilmington.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Captain Hartley will remain in our area after her retirement and continue to be an important part of our community.

Captain Jane M. Hartley has served her nation and citizens in an exemplary manner, and her devotion to the security of our country should serve as an example to us all.

May God bless her and her family, and may God bless the men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration, what is now the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since the VA's inception, more than 33 million Americans have become veterans, and 25 million veterans are alive today.

When President Hoover declared the Veterans Administration to be "one of the most important functions of Government," he couldn't have been more right. It is one of our greatest callings and duties to provide care for those who sacrificed so much to preserve the liberties and freedoms we enjoy.

The importance of this anniversary isn't just to mark the longevity of a federal agency, it is to honor and recognize the department's quality execution of its great and noble mission

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

“... to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

The Department of Veterans Affairs operates the largest integrated health care system in the country, maintaining 1,300 clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, and other medical sites, and it is a system which pioneers advances in medicine, such as telemedicine and prosthetics, which improves the lives of all Americans, not just veterans. In fact, three Nobel Prize in Medicine recipients were VA doctors.

Indeed, in keeping true to its mission, the VA has provided benefits to many spouses and dependents of our Nation's veterans by providing housing loan assistance and education benefits; and, when a veteran's noble life comes to its end, the VA's mission does not end, as it provides burial assistance for families, operating 120 national cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico.

It is our responsibility, Mr. Speaker, as representatives of this great Nation's veterans, to uphold our commitment to them; to provide for them and their families the best care available; and to do that, we must enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to endure and build upon its impressive legacy.

Today a new generation is coming to understand the sacrifices that come with service. As they join the ranks of our Nation's veterans, our commitment to them cannot be any less than it has been to past generations, and to the veterans still with us that depend so greatly on the Department's care.

And so, though we mark a great milestone in the Department of Veterans Affairs history, let us not forget that its mission continues and that its success is dependent on our dedication to its cause.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article from U.S. News and World Report, dated July 18 of this year, “Military Might,” that powerfully demonstrates the impact of today's Department of Veterans Affairs and the legacy it is building for future veterans.

[U.S. News & World Report, July 18, 2005]

MILITARY MIGHT

TODAY'S VA HOSPITALS ARE MODELS OF TOP-NOTCH CARE

(By Christopher J. Gearon)

Three summers ago, Augustin Martinez's skin was yellow. He was in pain. And physicians at Kaiser Permanente, his usual source of care, were baffled. The frustrated Martinez, a retired Lockheed Martin engineer in San Jose, Calif., asked his brother, a New York physician, for advice. After consulting colleagues, his brother advised him to go to the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in nearby Palo Alto. Martinez, a former Navy petty officer 2nd class, was entitled to VA care (eligibility depends on several factors, including date and length of military service, injury, and income). But his brother's recommendation took him by surprise. Better care at a VA hospital? But he went—and was quickly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer by Sherry Wren, chief of general surgery, who operated on him within days. He has relied on VA hospitals and clinics ever since. “They run a good ship,” says Martinez, now age 72.

That they do, say healthcare experts. Routinely criticized for decades for indifferent care, attacked by Oliver Stone in *Born on the Fourth of July*, the VA health system has performed major surgery on itself. The care provided to 5.2 million veterans by the nation's largest healthcare system has improved so much that often it is the best

around. And in the new VA, patient safety is a particular priority. Before making the first incision, for example, surgeons conduct a five-step audit to be sure they don't cut into the wrong body part or person. Doctors and nurses are unusually conscientious about hand hygiene, to reduce infections caused by carrying germs from one patient to another.

Technology helps, as would be expected. Martinez is particularly impressed by the computerization of patient records. When he visits, his doctors and nurses instantly call up his medical records, including test results (his cholesterol is high and he suffers from asthma), CT scans, and medications via laptop, which has become as ubiquitous a tool at VA facilities as a stethoscope.

Paper delay. But computerized records are more than a convenience. If all patient information could be reviewed on a computer screen and updated with each new test and observation, studies suggest that many of the medical errors that kill hospital patients would be prevented. Keeping everything on paper has been shown to delay care, force 1 in every 5 lab tests to be repeated, and cause unnecessary hospitalizations. But switching to computerized records can cost millions of dollars at a single hospital, so relatively few medical centers outside the VA have changed over.

“The information is right at your fingertips, right at the bedside, right when you're making decisions,” Wren says. Besides giving her a quick snapshot of a patient's progress, the system automatically displays the latest and best studies and guidelines for that patient's condition. The screen also prompts her about preventive measures. If she calls up the record of a diabetic patient, for example, she is reminded to perform or schedule foot and eye exams, which diabetics must have regularly to prevent amputation or blindness.

Such prompting is largely why the VA vaccinates 92 percent of patients ages 65 and older against pneumonia versus 29 percent 10 years ago, says Jonathan Perlin, the top doctor in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Outside the VA, he says, the rate averages below 55 percent. “The increase not only has saved the lives of 6,000 patients with emphysema,” says Perlin; “we've halved hospitalizations for [patients with] community-acquired pneumonia.”

And the computerized system reduces medication errors, blamed for thousands of deaths in hospitalized patients, by flagging an order if there's a possible drug interaction, if the dosage doesn't match a doctor's order, or if there is a potential allergic reaction. Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Lance Sweigart of Laurel, Md., takes six medications for arthritis, high cholesterol, and depression. The 61-year-old Sweigart says he has “never gotten the wrong medication” at VA facilities in Baltimore.

All drugs carry bar codes, as do patients' ID bracelets. Both are scanned before a medication is administered to make sure the drug and patient match and last-minute order changes are caught. It's not yet sophisticated enough to offer the appropriate dosage, but Isabel Sotomayor, a nurse at the VA Medical Center in Washington, D.C., says the system snags one or two potential errors every day during her medication rounds.

The impact of such changes is real, says Harvard School of Public Health professor and renowned patient-safety advocate Lucian Leape. “Recent evidence shows [that care at the VA system] is at least as good as, if not better,” he says, than care delivered elsewhere. In the 1990s, for example, the VA began using a new way—since adopted by the American College of Surgeons—to evaluate surgical quality. It enabled VA surgeons to reduce postoperative deaths by 27 percent

and post-surgical complications by 45 percent. Recently published studies have found that the VA rates much better than Medicare fee-for-service providers in 11 basic measures of quality, such as regular mammograms and counseling for smokers. Late last year, the *Annals of Internal Medicine* published a study showing that the VA had “substantially better quality of care” than other providers in many of nearly 350 indicators of quality, such as screening and treating depression, diabetes, and hypertension.

Overhauling a system of 157 hospitals, 134 nursing homes, and 887 clinics is never finished. Recent reports by the inspector general of the Department of Veterans Affairs have highlighted such problems as cancellation of surgeries, unexpected deaths, and radiology backups at VA facilities in Florida. Surgeries have had to be canceled at some facilities because surgical supplies were unavailable or improperly sterilized. But John Daigh, who as assistant inspector general for healthcare inspections is responsible for exposing such flaws, says that VA top brass haven't retreated into denial. They “have stepped up to the plate and fixed the problems” that his investigators uncover.

That, too, is evidence of a seismic shift, brought about not by high-tech breakthroughs but by a fundamental change in VA culture. A new emphasis, on patient safety and on a work ethic that stresses constant examination of the processes and procedures that go into caregiving, arrived in 1994 when Kenneth Kizer, former director of California's Department of Health Services, was tapped to run the VA health empire. His mission, as he saw it, was to remake the unwieldy system into one of the world's safest and finest. Kizer started holding doctors, administrators, and managers directly accountable for the quality of their patient care, linking, for example, how many heart-attack patients received recommended beta blockers and aspirin to job reviews. And the performance for each facility was made public, which turned out to be a major motivator. “People competed like hell,” says Kizer, now president of the nonprofit National Quality Forum, which develops national standards for assessing the quality of healthcare.

Kizer was immersed in studies of patient safety years before the Institute of Medicine's jolting report in 1999 of hospital errors that kill tens of thousands of patients. To cultivate a “culture of safety” at the VA, he created a National Center for Patient Safety, and to head it up he brought in James Bagian, a former astronaut who had investigated the space shuttle Challenger accident for NASA.

Bagian's hire was “one of the smartest things [Kizer] did,” says Leape. Both an engineer and physician, Bagian brought to the VA unique skills and a zealous commitment to safety. “It was like being in two different worlds,” Bagian says of the move from NASA to the VA. “One had a very constructive and methodical approach to how we identify problems, decide whether they are worth fixing and then fix them versus one that was done much more like a cottage industry, where decisions are based on what's my opinion or how do I feel about it today, which is not how you should run healthcare today.”

Out loud. Bagian wanted people to report mistakes or close calls in treating patients. Such intelligence was crucial if safety was to be improved, because many errors happen because of a flawed system rather than a careless individual—a chart mix-up that could have ended in surgery on the wrong patient, the incorrect medication given to a patient because it was stored next to another one with nearly the same name. At today's VA

hospitals, patient safety teams identify every step that led up to a blunder or close call to determine needed changes. For example, the VA has instituted a process to ensure that surgeons operate on the correct person or body part. One step includes asking patients to say their full names and birth dates out loud and to identify the body part to be cut.

Bagian's greatest challenge was shifting the attitudes of VA staffers. Few people reported a gaffe, for fear that they or the person who made it would suffer. "The VA had the most punitive, hardest culture I had ever seen," says Kizer; he and Bagian wanted to change the VA's punishment-oriented ways to an open, nonpunitive environment. But the staff didn't begin to respond until top managers showed they were serious. In the new VA, for example, managers could be fired, fined, and even jailed for retaliating against workers who file mistake reports.

Reports began coming in. More than 30,000 close-call and error reports have been filed at the VA without anyone being punished. "Staff gets to have input about how to provide better care," says Sotomayor, a VA nurse for 15 years. "The attitudes of people have changed." They take pride in the results, such as a decline in patient falls and a pacemaker redesigned by the manufacturer because of a close call. And other hospitals have noticed. Jennifer Daley, chief medical officer and senior vice president of clinical quality at Tenet Healthcare Corp., is using the VA as a blueprint to improve performance at the nation's second-largest for-profit hospital operator.

"There is room for improvement," says Bagian. "We're not perfect, make no mistake about it." But now the drive to enhance safety has become an accepted part of the VA. Caregivers on the front lines turn in a steady flow of ideas, such as requiring that doctors key in the full name rather than the first few letters when ordering a prescription. That minimizes the chance, say, that a patient who needs clonidine, a blood-pressure medicine, will get clozapine, an antipsychotic.

Augustin Martinez simply appreciates that he took his brother's advice. "I was fortunate I was a veteran. Otherwise, I don't know what else I would have done," Martinez says. "I don't think I would be here today."

SMALL STEPS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

These are a few of the changes the VA has put in place to make patients safer.

FALLS

Problem: In older patients, falls were the top cause of injury and the No. 1 cause of deaths resulting from injury.

Solution: Bedside floor mats. Putting the bedside table, call button, and light switch within easy patient reach. Outfitting at-risk patients with hip protectors.

Did it work? In a six-month trial at 31 VA facilities, there were 62 percent fewer major injuries from falls.

INFECTIONS

Problem: Infections caused by an antibiotic-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus aureus*, largely spread by healthcare workers' hands, were killing patients or making them very ill.

Solution: In 2001, the VA's Pittsburgh Healthcare System mounted a hand hygiene campaign, raising awareness of the need for disinfecting hands and for gloving and using gowns and masks, and making sure such supplies were always at hand. At the same time, infection monitoring was increased.

Did it work? Such infections have been cut 85 percent in the general surgical unit, 50 percent in the surgical ICU.

BLOOD THINNERS

Problem: Delays in follow-up care for discharged patients taking blood thinners such

as warfarin, which can cause bleeding complications if patients are not carefully monitored.

Solution: The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System in Michigan recently required doctors to ensure that these discharged patients are seen within a week in one of its clinics. Their blood levels and medication dosage can be checked, and they can be counseled about diet, because certain foods interfere with blood thinners.

Did it work? It's too early for clinical results, but reportedly all such patients have had follow-ups, lab tests, and counseling within one week of discharge.

HONORING PHIL AND BRYSON GAPPA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil and Bryson Gappa for their act of patriotism and selflessness.

As a visual statement to help others remember, Mr. and Mrs. Gappa created a memorial dedicated to honor those who sacrificed their lives for our country. One hundred and seventy hand-painted ornaments, each recognizing and honoring a Texas soldier killed in Iraq, adorn two large trees in the front lawn of their Lewisville home.

The memorial and tribute to the soldiers also serve as a heartwarming display for families of the victims. One family described seeing the memorial as a special and spiritual experience. They were moved that the couple had put time and effort into a cause when never even having met many of the soldiers.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Phil and Bryson Gappa for their wholehearted public display of respect and patriotism. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted American citizens, but serve as an inspiration to others.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF ALPHA BATTERY FORWARD, FIRST BATTALION, 109TH FIELD ARTILLERY DIVI- SION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the 124 members of the Alpha Battery Forward of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Kingston, Pennsylvania, who have returned after service in Iraq.

We welcome home our brave soldiers with gratitude for their selflessness. During times of war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Through voluntary military service, Americans proudly uphold ideals, consistently emerge as leaders and valiantly ensure democracy.

The Alpha Battery consists of: Jean Luc Robert Adams, Thomas Charles Albanese, James Robert Albright, Kevin Francis

Armitage, Tyler Scott Barnes III, Bernard Alfred Barry III, Jason John Bedew, John Willard Bedew, John A. Bilski, Jarrad J. Bogaski, Craig Joseph Bondra, Charles Earl Boyer;

Donald Brenner, Frank Donald Brizgint Jr., Andrew Khareme Brown Jr., Nikolas James Butrej, David Wayne Butz, Robert Leo Charnichko, Stephen Nicholas Chronowski, Nicholas Anthony Cipriani, Kevin Jeffrey Clocker, Michael Thomas Collis, Richard John Colorusso, James Randall Conley, James Henry Crown, John Daniel Crispell, William Patrick Cunningham, Erik Lee Daniels, Robert Darin Davis, Brian Lee Deats, Steven Eugene Deininger, Anthony Delgiudice, Anthony Joseph Derosia, Timothy James Dickson, Matthew Christopher Dohman, David Russell Duke Jr.;

Cory Alfred Dumont, Rodney Everett Durant Jr., Anthony Thomas Eddy, Matthew Charles Eddy, Jason Daniel Ellis, Jeremy Edward Endrusick, William Andrew Eppley, Gomez Juan Francis Fernandez, Timothy James Finley, James Carl Fisher, Hando David Galutia, Michael Brian Gifford, Daniel Robert Giniewski, Steven Frederick Griffiths, William Robert Grosz Jr., Charles David Gundrum, James Allie Harper III, Pierce Samuel Heffner, Sean Michael Hess, Joseph Patrick Hogan Jr.;

Eric Ronald Holzman, James Jesse Hoskins, Ian Charles Hughes, Michael Huntzinger, Michael Joseph Jeziorski, Gerald Wayne Johnson II, Dylan Stewart Jones, Richard Michael Jones, Christopher Kashi, Matthew Thomas Kearns, Peter Scott Kelchner, Avery Reed Kessler, Sean Paul Kilbourn, Joshua Boyd Kimmins, Ronald Joseph Knorr Jr., William Lawrence Koepke Jr., Paul Anthony Konschnik;

Mark Steven Kozen, David James Krzak, Jeffrey Anthony Kwiecien, Joshua James Lake, Sean Michael Lehman, Colin Michael Liput, James Edwards Mason II, Jeffrey Charles Mead, Michael Carmine Meloro, Heath Adam Middaugh, Dominic Michael Nardelli, Ronald Otto Neher Jr., Jed Joseph Nolan, Matthew Brent Noll, Adam Charles Olisewski, John David Oros, Keith Leon Paller, Jason Palmer, Joseph Michael Perrins, Robert Richard Perrins, Robert A. Pissott Jr., Charles William Plantamura, Brian Douglas Powell, Richard Lee Herman Price II, Mark Anthony Robinson, Anthony Jason Rodriguez, Donald Paul Rorick Jr.;

William Roy Ross Jr., Edward Arnold Rowell, Walter Charles Rudaski Sr., Joseph Andrew Ruotolo, Scott Allen Seelye Sr., Robert Daniel Senchak, Erik William Shaw, Jeremy Paul Shuman, Gordon Alan Simerson, Robert J. Slovik, Andrew Sromovski, Bret Joseph Stemrich, James Reeves Stokes, Brian Patrick Turlip, Jarret Paul Tuttle, Jason Francis Veneziale, Victor Verdekal, Randy Joseph Wagner, Charles A. Williams, Geoffrey Michael Williams, Lawrence Michael Wolfe, Michael Anthony Yuscavage, Vincent Roger Zardus, and Daniel Joseph Zyskowski.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.