

Dallas took time to phone home to get caught up with his family and hear news from Texas.

He was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. Sergeant Frederick Wysingle, who recruited SPC Dallas in July 2003, said he was the perfect soldier. He was proud of the work he was doing and had just relayed to his family news that his platoon had recently curbed insurgent activity in Iraq. Promoted two months prior to his death from private first class, his promotion was made official two days after he died.

Just a few weeks prior to his death, Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr. sent an engagement ring to his girlfriend. He was truly a soldier who understood his duty, and planned for a future beyond his service to his country.

It was my honor to represent Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

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RECOGNIZING BRANDON JAMES MYNATT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James Mynatt of Kansas City, Missouri, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Brandon will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Brandon has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James Mynatt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Mynatt in the United States Congress.

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CONGRATULATING THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Lawrence County Builders Association (LCBA), on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 25 years the LCBA has worked diligently to provide support services to its builder and associate members. This nonprofit trade association has also worked tirelessly with the National Association of Home Builders and Pennsylvania Builders Association to create a positive regulatory and legislative environment to keep housing and

general construction affordable. I recognize the LCBA for all of their hard work and dedication to education and professional development for all of its members.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of the LCBA. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Lawrence County Builders Association.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF PFC RAMON A. VILLATORO, JR.

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**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Private First Class Ramon A. Villatoro, Jr., who lost his life supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Villatoro, 19, joined the United States Army on July 24, 2004. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Shortly thereafter, he reported to his first assignment at the Replacement Detachment. Within a few days, Mr. Villatoro's leadership and dedication was recognized and he was assigned to the K Troop, 3rd Squadron, and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment on January 7, 2005. Mr. Villatoro was committed to his role in his Primary Military Occupational Specialty, as a 19D, Cavalry Scout.

Mr. Villatoro was deployed to protect our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 3, 2005. Prior to leaving on his envoy to Iraq, Mr. Villatoro was promoted to Private First Class (PFC). Unfortunately, Mr. Villatoro's tour in Iraq ended when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle on July 24, 2005.

Mr. Villatoro's strength of character and valor earned him well-deserved recognition, including: Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous); National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge (Posthumous). He also received the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous); and the Weapons Qualification Badge, which certified him as an expert in certain rifle weaponry. Finally, Mr. Villatoro was awarded a Purple Heart, currently the oldest military decoration in the world, awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded or killed in the line of action.

Surviving Mr. Villatoro is his wife of eight months, Amanda Villatoro. Mrs. Villatoro is expecting their first child in three months. Also surviving Mr. Villatoro is his family, all of whom reside in Bakersfield, CA.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences, to Mr. Villatoro's family, for the loss of his life. His loss symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His service represented his commitment to protect his family, community, and our Nation. Mr. Villatoro's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

COMMENDING THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE STEERING COMMITTEE

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**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to extend my thanks towards the committee, for inviting me to partake in today's celebration.

Since its inception, The Puerto Rican Day Parade of WNY, Inc, has brought the history and heritage of Hispanics to the forefront of this areas long standing cultural legacy. The Puerto Rican Day Parade allows people from all over western New York to come and enjoy themselves as they preserve a part of there culture.

This parade does not only supply this community with a day long celebration of beauty and pride, but empowers the community by celebrating the history of Puerto Rico.

And lastly the parade supplies a positive outlook for this community. This parade is a example of how prosperous a future the Hispanic community has, and its prominent role in the direction of western New York.

Thanks to the selfless and tireless efforts of this committee, for the last 3 years the Puerto Rican community has had the ability to collectively share and embrace there heritage right here in Buffalo.

I, Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, on behalf of the 27th Congressional District, would like to show my gratitude towards the committee.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific (rollcall vote 454); and on the motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, S.J. Res. 19, Calling on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (rollcall vote 455). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

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IN MEMORY OF THOMAS HERRION

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Thomas Herrion, from Fort Worth, Texas, and his passion for life. He died at the tender age of 23 after collapsing in the San Francisco 49ers locker room following a National Football League exhibition game.

Thomas was one of seven children growing up in south Fort Worth. He often played the drums at church where his father was the minister. While attending Polytechnic High School,

he was a 4-year starter for the football team, a center for the basketball team, and competed in discus and the shot-put on the track team. When he wasn't competing or studying, he worked to help support his family. After high school, he went on to play for Kilgore Junior College and the University of Utah.

Thomas will be remembered as a hard worker and someone who lived his life to the fullest. He always had a bright personality that made everyone laugh, and he had passion for life and infused this zeal into everything he did. His ultimate dream, after finishing his NFL career, was to return home to Fort Worth and help his community. Thomas wanted to get his teaching degree and coach football. First in his heart was his mother—he wanted to always be there for her and planned to her the house of her dreams.

I extend my condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Herrion. His legacy will serve as an inspiration those who strive to achieve their dreams and live life to the fullest.

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RECOGNIZING GREGORY ALLAN POLITTE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gregory Allan Politte of Kansas City, Missouri, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Gregory will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Gregory has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Gregory has been involved with scouting; he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Gregory Allan Politte for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Politte in the United States Congress.

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CONGRATULATING THE ADULT LITERACY LAWRENCE COUNTY ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Adult Literacy Lawrence County (ALLC), on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 25 years the ALLC has worked diligently to provide support services to adults that struggle to read. This organization was launched when New Castle Public Library's director, Ms. Roux, heard Al Bennett of the U.S. Dept. of Education speak about li-

braries taking responsibility for developing literacy programs. Securing non-profit status in 1996, the ALLC officially became a community-based organization.

This non-profit organization has worked tirelessly to create a positive environment to meet the changing needs of the community. The agency offers tutoring, ABE and GED, family literacy, and computer literacy components. From July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 more than 240 adults participated in one or more ALLC program components. Additionally 1,048 children read more than 5,000 books as they competed for a ride in the Summer Reading Kickoff Parade. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the ALLC for all of their hard work and dedication to continued education and literacy competence of its community members.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of the ALLC. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Adult Literacy Lawrence County.

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TRIBUTE TO J. ROBERTS DAILEY

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**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a pillar of the political community last month. On Saturday, August 13, J. Roberts Dailey passed away at Westminster Village, a retirement home in Muncie, Indiana.

J. Roberts Dailey was a leader of unparalleled reputation in public service. His tenure in the Indiana General Assembly where he served as Speaker of the House was marked by the consistent pursuit of principle and the interests of the people of Indiana.

Bob Dailey entered politics in 1952, serving 2 years on the Delaware County Council. He was a precinct committeeman between 1958 and 1978 and was Delaware County's GOP finance chairman between 1963 and 1978. He had been a delegate to every Republican state convention since 1954.

Dailey, a real estate agent, was first elected to the Legislature in 1976 before being elevated to Speaker in 1980.

In 1992, Dailey received one of Ball State University's highest honors, the Medal of Distinction for leadership and service to the state and university.

Six years later, he was named chairman of the Christian Coalition of Indiana, a state affiliate of the national organization that was a trailblazer in conservative Christian politics.

As he was to an entire generation of aspiring Hoosier leaders, Bob Dailey was my friend, a mentor and a true role model. He will be missed by our community and our state, but his example of integrity, faith and conservative leadership will continue to challenge and inspire future leaders for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire State of Indiana, I extend heartfelt sympathies over the loss of J. Roberts Dailey.

Indiana will never forget Speaker Dailey.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BURLINGTON ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city of Burlington Electric Department. What an incredible achievement!

One of the great experiences I had as Mayor was seeing, close up, how much it mattered to Burlington's citizens that we had public power, and not a for-profit corporation, delivering the electricity our city's households and businesses need. The results are clear. Burlington today has some of the lowest electric bills in the state. And that is no small matter when families are hard pressed by increasing gasoline and fuel oil prices, and the difficult economy that is faced by so many.

When the goal of a department is to provide the best quality service at the lowest possible cost, rather than huge profits and big CEO compensation packages, amazing things can happen. Through innovative and creative management and by utilizing aggressive energy efficiency measures, electricity use in Burlington is 1 percent below what it was in 1989—saving Burlington customers some \$6.7 million a year. Burlington is using less power at a time of economic growth—a remarkable achievement. Since 1995 average rates have decreased by 17 percent. Clearly there is something very right about the Burlington Electric Department which the rest of Vermont and America can learn from.

Several years ago I brought a number of the most innovative electric departments in the country together for a meeting in Washington. I was very proud that the BED showed itself to be one of the very best in the nation. Given the major energy crisis that our country now faces, I am confident that BED will continue to come forward with bold and innovative ideas to protect our rate-payers and our environment.

Whether it is in the normal operation of business, or dealing with power outages from an ice storm or a blizzard, the employees of Burlington Electric serve the people of Burlington with real dedication. Whatever the job is, they get it done.

To Mayor Clavelle, Barbara Grimes, BED's General Manager; to the Electric Commission; and the City Council; and most especially to the men and women who not only work for the Electric Department but make it work for all of Burlington:

Congratulations on BED's hundredth anniversary.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO MEGAN ELIZABETH DAY, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance