

Schnaars, Andrew Stevens, Kurt Tahara, Amber VanderReyden, Blake Varab, Mark Wyrick; Bass: Ben Jarvis; Sound Tech: Dawn Supper; Color Guard: Elise Arvidson, Marlene Arvidson, Tiffany Baker, Karen Berndt, Veronica Boggs, Heather Dean, Mikala Ellsworth, Ashley Elsasser, Laken Fordyce, DeAnna Jackson, Danielle Johnson, Leanne Johnson, Brittany Kauffman, Yolo Lopez-Perez, Alyssa Lung, Anne Lypka, Emily Mathieu, Jessica Meade, Alisa Peffley, Julie Reusser, Evanna Rodriguez, Brittany Rushing, Jessica Scott, Rachel Sirinek, Madeline Valle, Kristen Weaver, Megan Whitacre, Chellie Zou, Sara Zou.

The people behind the performers also deserve a note of congratulations. They include Director of Music Gay Burton, Assistant Band Directors Scott Spradling, Bryan Golden, April Oppenheim, and Steve Peterson, Dance & Color Guard instructor Colleen Molnar, Sound Technician Scott Preheim, and Percussion Specialist Derek Felix. Your hard work leading up to and throughout the season, planning the program, scheduling practices, and leading the band at competitions have been rewarded through their accomplishment. Shirley Dyer also deserves a note of thanks for helping make things run smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, as the parent of two teenagers myself, I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the parents that help the band run efficiently. Your dedication to your children shows through on the field of competition in their award-winning performance.

Again, on behalf of very proud parents and the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their Class B State championship.

CONGRATULATING HARRY
ARMSTRONG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clovis City Council member Harry Armstrong of Clovis, California for receiving the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award. The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council and The Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno sponsor this prestigious award.

Harry Armstrong was born in Merced, California. Upon graduation from Merced Union High School he joined the American Armed Forces and fought in the Korean War. He is married to Jeanine and has three children: Tom, an attorney; Jim a businessman; and, Megan, a teacher.

The basic characteristics to be considered as a candidate for the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award are integrity, strength of character, exemplary ethical behavior, ability to build consensus, serving the public interest and vision for enhancing the community. Mr. Armstrong embodies every one of these characteristics and has set a standard by which all future public servants should use as a guide in their own service to the community.

Harry Armstrong is noted as standing firm against forces that would sweep aside the freedoms and ethics of our democratic form of

government. Never did he blink or stray from his standards and beliefs in the process of public involvement in honest government. He has shown his strength of character in steadily standing by his morals and values.

A member of the Clovis City Council since 1970, Harry is the longest serving council member in the State of California. He was elected Mayor of Clovis on four occasions. Mr. Armstrong's leadership is not limited, however, to the Clovis City Council. He has also served on numerous boards and committees, President of the League of California Cities, Chair of the Fresno County Transportation Authority and the Clovis Planning Commission.

Mr. Armstrong's ability to stand up for what is right and encourage others to do the same is what has given him the continued, never straying, support of the community. His history of involvement and knowledge has created an environment for others to listen and learn.

The leadership and commitment Mr. Armstrong has shown for the community has never wavered, nor his honor in service. He personifies a man of principle and integrity. I am honored to express the gratitude the community has for Harry Armstrong and stand to show our appreciation.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO RAMOS
PEREIRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Ramos Pereira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ramos Pereira is a member of the November 30 Democratic party and a member of the pro-democracy opposition in totalitarian Cuba. Unfortunately, those who believe that freedom, liberty, and the right to worship are the birthright of all men and women are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami (IBCM), Mr. Ramos Pereira was arrested on January 25, 2002 for participating in a mass offered on behalf of all the political prisoners in Cuba. IBCM also reports that on February 28, 2002, Mr. Ramos Pereira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 5 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Ramos Pereira is currently languishing in the deprived conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in democracy and freedom of religion.

Mr. Ramos Pereira is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be

remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said, in his second inaugural address, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country."

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured in totalitarian gulags. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Ramos Pereira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

A TRIBUTE TO SGT. 1ST CLASS
JAMES "JIM" S. OCHSNER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. 1st Class James "Jim" S. Ochsner of Hope Mills, North Carolina, for serving his country valiantly with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC in Operation Enduring Freedom. On November 15, 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Ochsner sacrificed his life when an improvised explosive device was detonated while traveling near Lawara, Afghanistan. He was courageously serving his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan, and our prayers and heartfelt thanks go to his family in this time of grief.

At an early age, Jim had a desire to serve in the military. His father was a Green Beret who served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Jim was proud of his father's service and commitment and strived to be just like him. In 1987, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as an artilleryman and served three years in Bamberg Germany with the 2nd Battalion 14th Field Artillery. Jim later served in the 82nd Airborne and completed a tour in South Korea before serving as a Special Forces Soldier. In 2004, he graduated from the Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course and served as an intelligence specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.

Jim is a highly decorated soldier, receiving the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal for valor, the Army Commendation Medal for service, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. In addition, he received the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badges, and the Special Forces Tab.

Jim loved his family, and he is survived by his wife Ann, son Nicholas, and daughter Megan, who heard from him often during his deployments. He is also survived by his parents, Robert and Sandra, of Beach Park, Illinois, and his brother MSG Robert Ochsner II.

As a member of the U.S. Army, Jim dedicated his career to defending the values this nation holds dear. By risking his life to ensure the safety of others, John made the ultimate sacrifice. His valiant actions and steadfast service remind us of the gratitude we feel toward him and all the other servicemen and women who have lost their lives serving as guardians of this great country. John was indeed a man of courage and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, may the memory of Sgt. 1st Class James "Jim" Ochsner live on in our hearts, and may God's strength and peace be with his family.

CONGRATULATING MR. VERNON
CONRAD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vernon Conrad of Reedley, California as the honored recipient of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce "Agriculturist of the Year" award.

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce awards an individual who exemplifies leadership and integrity in the Central Valley's agricultural business community every year at their awards luncheon. This year the organization could not have chosen an individual who is more deserving of this prestigious honor.

Mr. Conrad is a fourth generation Californian and his family has deep roots in east Valley agriculture; dating back to the late 1800s. He is a lifelong resident of Fresno County as a Reedley community member where he grows grapes and tree fruits. It is from this background that Vernon emerged as a respected agriculturist in the community. His leadership with the Fresno County Farm Bureau and Fresno County Board of Supervisors sets the bar high for those who follow in his foot steps.

Mr. Conrad served two terms as Fresno County Farm Bureau President and during his time with the Farm Bureau Mr. Conrad worked tirelessly to promote the Valley's agriculture agenda on a national level. He traveled to Washington, DC twice to testify before Congress on some of the Farm Bureau's major issues, such as concerns over water and acreage.

His concerted efforts on policy and advocacy eventually led Mr. Conrad down another path of activism as a Fresno County Supervisor. As a three term board member, Vernon, tackled various county dilemmas with renewed energy each time a new problem emerged. He focused on improving the efficiency of Fresno County operations, dealt with funding challenges and land use and zoning issues.

As if overcoming obstacles faced by the county and the farming community wasn't enough, Vernon also found time to serve on various committees and associations to work actively with agriculture groups. He was a board member of the Alta Irrigation District, Kings River Conservation District, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Kings River Water Association. Through his work with these organizations, Mr. Conrad earned a seat representing California on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Natural Resources

and Water Committee, on which he served as chair for five years.

Vernon Conrad's extensive efforts as an advocate of agriculture and the community have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. It is with great pleasure that I stand today and congratulate Mr. Conrad for all of his achievements, and thank him for his commitment to our Valley.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR KENNY
FOREMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements and life of Pastor Kenny Foreman. I've had the privilege of knowing Pastor Foreman for many years, and can personally attest to his lasting legacy of achievement through selfless ministry. His is the epitome of a life dedicated to serving others.

Pastor Foreman has been in ministry for over 50 years and has served as pastor of the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose, California for 35 years. Originally from Crowley, Louisiana, he has built the Church from just a few members to 10,000, offering over 70 vital ministries to meet the needs of the community.

Born the youngest of three children to Hansel and Mabel Foreman in Crowley, Louisiana, he was on the road ministering full-time as an evangelist by age 17. Pastor Foreman married Shirley Lowry in 1957, who has been his partner in commitment to ministry. Later, they would be joined by their two sons, Ken and Kurt, who are also part of the Cathedral of Faith team.

In 1965 he came to San Jose as the Pastor of The Friendly Bible Church, and soon after produced a weekly half-hour television program entitled, "Kenny Foreman Presents Abundant Living," which was syndicated nationally. Today, Kenny Foreman is the only local minister and programmer who has remained on the air for 35 years. Throughout these years he has never received any income for his television ministry; all financial support received is funneled back into the operations of the ministry.

It soon became evident from the growth that the church would have to build. Thus, the Cathedral of Faith, a sanctuary that would seat nearly 3,000 people and its accompanying support structures, was conceived in Pastor Foreman's spirit. Eventually, the Grand Opening of the Cathedral of Faith was celebrated on March 15, 1981.

Pastor Foreman and Cathedral of Faith have an absolutely amazing record of community involvement. The work of the church has exploded into over 70 active Ministries including Reaching Out, a food assistance program which operates from a 16,000 foot distribution complex serving 50,000 families annually, and providing food for 200,000 people; California Youth Outreach, originally founded as Breakout Prison Outreach in 1982 in order to meet the needs of young men and women that had fallen prey to gangs and drugs, it also serves on the Mayor's gang task force; and Chaplaincy Ministry a program consisting of over 200 trained Chaplains who visit rest homes and convalescent hospitals each week.

Pastor Foreman's lifelong commitment to service has been honored by many organizations, and I am delighted to offer my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Pastor Kenny Foreman on his 40th Ministry Anniversary at the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose, California and to call Kenny Forman and Shirley friends.

HONORING CAPTAIN MICHAEL
NOBLE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity to honor Captain Michael Noble. Born into a military family in Dallas, Texas in 1977, Mike Noble has experienced much in his short lifetime. His father, MG William Noble (USA, retired) and mother, Imogene, are no strangers to serving their country. William was a founding member of the 101st Airborne and served the division throughout World War II.

Mike graduated from St. Mark's High School in 1997, and then went on to the University of Texas. He entered the Army ROTC program and graduated with honors in 1998. Upon receiving his commission he went into Military Intelligence School and, subsequently, the Army Language Institute. After completing jump school, Mike followed in his father's footsteps and was assigned to the 902nd MI group of the 101st Airborne, a special honor.

Mike served with the NATO and U.N. peace-keeping forces in Kosovo. On September 11, 2001, Mike was working with NATO Command in Brussels. When he received news of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., he was immediately flown back to the United States, going to work at the Pentagon while it was actually still on fire. He would not leave the building for 17 days.

Most recently Mike was active in Afghanistan and involved with the liberation of Iraq. He was severely wounded on April 13, 2003 and medically retired from the military. I am proud to employ this two-time Purple Heart recipient as the military and veterans affairs liaison in my Irving office. His dedication to his country is commendable; Mike Noble is a true American hero and an inspiration to us all.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PAUL C.
WHITE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Paul C. White of Fresno, California. He is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years Sheila White, their six children: Paul II, Crystal, LaShelly, JePahl, Brandon, and Bryson, and his five grandchildren; Paul III, Asia, Kennedy, Darion, and Jaylin.

As a past Assistant Executive Director for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Paul is remembered by all who knew him for his commendable service to the