

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM GAYNOR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William (Bill) Gaynor whose deep patriotism and compassionate heart has brought strength and comfort to numerous military families in Logan County, Colorado.

Bill is a proud Marine who proudly served from 1958–1962. As a Vietnam vet, he went on to serve in the American Legion. Bill was Post Commander for two consecutive terms, Vice-Commander for the State of Colorado, and Vice Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National American Legion for three consecutive terms.

Bill was involved in Marine recruiting for 28 years. When a young Marine that Bill helped to recruit became seriously wounded in Iraq in 2004, Bill found a new purpose for his knowledge and background. As he helped this local family react to the crisis caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq, Bill discovered that most local military families had limited knowledge of military procedures and processes. Bill, his wife Denise, and friend LuAnn Travis reacted to this need and formed the Military Family Support Group. This group has been able to locate and reach out to all of the families in the county with children or family members serving in the military. This group has met once or twice a month for almost 2 years, giving families the chance to share news, information, and concerns with each other about their loved ones.

Bill is always willing to make himself available on a moment's notice to any family—in times of celebration as well as times of crisis. Members of the military from Logan County have received hundreds of cards from local citizens, boxes of goodies and supplies, as well as cards made by school students for Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays through the efforts of the Military Family Support Group.

Marines such as Bill are trained to think independently and act aggressively with speed and initiative. Bill demonstrates this by his constant willingness to react swiftly to the needs of the local families. They turn to him because they know his heart is with his family, the American people, and the young men who serve to protect them. Bill never passes up an opportunity to honor or speak on behalf of veterans or members of the military. The United States Marines are the world's finest warriors and they are devoted to each other and the cause of freedom. Bill is in his heart and soul a United States Marine and lives the motto—'Semper Fidelis'—always faithful.

Mr. Speaker, our precious veterans are heroes who have left their homes to defend our Nation, and then returned to be valued members of their communities, showing their children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. I want to take this brief moment to honor Bill Gaynor for the sacrifices that he made and his continued commitment to all of those who serve our great Nation in the profession of arms. May God bless his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY
AND RESEARCH ACT (H.R. 4200)**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (H.R. 4200). This legislation rolls back responsible forest management practices and threatens to undermine vital environmental protections.

Proponents of H.R. 4200 claim that the bill would ensure prompt implementation of recovery measures in Federal forests following weather events such as wildfires and hurricanes by expediting the evaluation of forest conditions and accelerating the recovery of downed and damaged timber. But in reality, the legislation aggressively auctions off public resources to private interests in the name of responsible stewardship. It goes too far in promoting the economic value of harvesting timber over the ecological benefits of preserving trees.

Proponents of H.R. 4200 use the words "recovery" and "restoration" to excuse logging practices that will slow the recovery of forests, streams and wildlife. Forest scientists from 169 universities across the country oppose this bill, arguing that no reliable evidence exists to support the assertion that fire-adapted forests might be improved by logging after a fire. These experts point to a series of studies that concluded just the opposite—that post-disturbance logging impedes the process of regeneration by compacting soils, spreading invasive species, causing erosion and degrading water quality.

Most outrageously, H.R. 4200 would downgrade forest ecosystems by exempting "salvage logging" activities from the environmental protections guaranteed in the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. Through exemptions and waivers, H.R. 4200 offers a blank check to pollute waters and harm endangered wildlife.

H.R. 4200 is both unwise and unnecessary. The success of the timber salvage effort following Hurricane Katrina demonstrates that existing Federal laws do not prevent land managers from implementing timber recovery. Using their existing authority, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management quickly and effectively completed one of the largest timber salvage projects ever, recovering 676 million board feet of timber from the national forests in Mississippi impacted by the hurricane.

When properly managed, timber harvesting is a necessary and appropriate use of our Federal forests. But careful environmental stewardship of our forest resources is needed today to ensure that genuinely healthy forests—with all the benefits they offer—will be available to future generations. H.R. 4200 falls dangerously short of this standard.

NIDHARSHAN ANANDASIVAM, 2006
NATIONAL SPELLING BEE, 8TH
PLACE WINNER**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nidharshan Anandasivam, the young Brownsville scholar who came painstakingly close to victory in the 2006 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, placing eighth to beat his personal best during the four years he competed in the national spelling bee contest.

As a student from Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, Nidharshan loves learning the origins of words and the way words change through different languages. This hobby helped him qualify through nine intense rounds, correctly spelling difficult words such as "physis," "festucine," and "wehrmacht."

All South Texans are proud of this native son. It is one thing to be a great speller; it is another thing to have the ability to compete on live national TV—at such a young age.

Nidharshan's success comes from his diligent studying, completing internet spelling courses and spelling study guides daily. In the weeks leading up to the competition, he studied over three hours each day. To be a young teen and have an exceptionally committed resolve for his academic pursuits demonstrate Nidharshan's maturity and hardworking nature.

This year's spelling bee featured 275 spellers, which is the most participants in the history of the spelling bee. To place eighth out of 275 participants is an incredible experience that Nidharshan can cherish for the rest of his life.

I congratulate Nidharshan Anandasivam on his achievement of placing eighth in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding scholar for his unwavering determination and dedication. Mr. Speaker, this young teen has inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

RECOGNIZING NOAH BRANDT EBER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah Brandt Eber, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah Brandt Eber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.