

On June 13, Mr. Day had returned to the Washington Street Fire House after responding to a fire earlier in the night. As the overnight shift began, Michael had been working in his office when a coworker found him unconscious. While his fellow firefighters did all in their power to resuscitate him, they were unable to do so.

A lifelong resident of Providence, Mr. Day came from a family of firefighters, which included his father and three brothers. He attended LaSalle Academy and after graduating from the fire academy, he was appointed to the Providence Fire Department in 1979. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from Rhode Island College in 1980 and another B.A. in Fire Science at Providence College in 1981.

Michael was promoted to Lieutenant in 1989, the same year he was honored as the Providence Firefighter of the Year and received the Heroic Action commendation for rescuing four people from the roof of a burning house. This was just one of many times he would be recognized for his outstanding service and courage on the job. He was promoted to Captain in 1995, Battalion Chief in 2000, and most recently to Deputy Assistant Fire Chief on June 30, 2005. He oversaw operations at multiple fire stations and was the top ranking officer of his shift. Michael had just completed his final class in the Executive Officer program at the National Fire Academy.

As a beloved father figure to his fellow firefighters, I have no doubt that Michael Day will leave a lasting legacy to the entire Providence Fire Department and the Providence community. I extend my condolences to all who knew and loved Michael Day, especially his wife, Cynthia; his son, Michael; and his daughters, Amanda, Brianne and Stephanie. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
SAMUEL R. AND JESTINE W.
FOSTER

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House a milestone in the lives of an all-American family. Fifty years ago, on June 14, 1956, Samuel R. Foster and Jestine Wright were united in a marriage that inspires all of us who know them. Both dedicated their lives to public service as school teachers and administrators. Early in the era of school integration, Sam Foster was selected as principal to start a new school, Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, South Carolina. This was a great challenge for an African-American educator, but Sam rose to the challenge and won the respect of students and parents, white and black. Sam Foster moved from education to elective office and served with distinction in the South Carolina General Assembly. He became known throughout the state for his wisdom and ability and especially for his facility to see all sides of an issue and cut to the essence of an argument. Sam Foster completed his career in public service as a commissioner on the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.

All who know the couple well know that Sam Foster has derived much of his wisdom and insight over the years from the counsel of his wife, Jestine.

Two sons were born to Sam and Jestine Foster, Sam and Alan, both of whom have been successful in their own right, bringing further distinction to their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I call the Fosters to the attention of the House because their marriage and family are exemplary and worthy of recognition throughout the Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO CHERYL
MCKISSACK FELDER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cheryl McKissack Felder, a distinguished member of the business and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, to teacher Leatrice and architect, William D. Berry McKissack, Cheryl McKissack Felder's passion for the skill and art of design/build evolved through five generations of master builders. In sustaining the McKissack tradition in a male-dominated industry, Cheryl's innovative ideas and business leadership skills has proven to be triumphant in exceeding the expectations of clients and colleagues alike.

Joining the family business in 1989 after achieving her Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Howard University, Cheryl holds a unique position in the construction and engineering industries as the head of the Nation's oldest African-American and women-owned design and construction firm. Her hands-on and close client interaction management approach assure clients that every detail of each project will be handled with care and precision. With McKissack providing services throughout the United States, Cheryl has contracted over \$50 billion dollars in projects. Some of Cheryl's most distinguished clients include the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Housing Authority, Dormitory of the State of New York, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New Jersey Port Authority and Philadelphia International Airport.

With offices in Philadelphia and New York, Cheryl has pioneered the McKissack company to today's, McKissack & McKissack, LLC; the corporate entity and holding company and 721 Chestnut; a real-estate company. Cheryl serves as the President of The McKissack Group, Inc., a full service construction management firm specializing in new construction and renovation projects. She is the Chief Executive Officer of McKissack and Associates, Inc., a professional architecture firm that provides conceptual and schematic design, preconstruction administration and design development services. Cheryl stays on the cutting edge of technology as the Chief Executive Officer of M&M Solutions, LLC, an information technology firm providing advanced web-based technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), infrastructure, telecommunications and IT project management. Services

provided by MMS include business process integration, web development, multimedia design, wireless communications and application development.

Cheryl is also a community leader. She has served as the Vice Chair of the Philadelphia Authority of Industrial Development, and co-chair on Philadelphia Mayor John Street's Transition Committee for Small Business. Cheryl is also an active member of the National Liberty Museum Board, where she has been honored as a "Hero of Liberty" for her support of humanitarian initiatives and promoting the responsibilities of a free and diverse America.

A strong community leader and a business mogul, Cheryl prides herself with her most dedicated and greatest accomplishments of being a wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Cheryl McKissack Felder as she offers her talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Cheryl McKissack Felder's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

A STIRRING STORY ABOUT
SERGEANT CEDRIC CALDWELL

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share with my colleagues a stirring story about Sergeant Cedric Caldwell, one of my constituents, from Rock Hill, South Carolina. His story is one example of the brave men and women serving in Iraq.

[From the Herald, May 28, 2006]

ROCK HILL SOLDIER SAVED LIVES OF COMRADES IN IRAQ WHEN BOMB SHREDDED CONVOY TRUCK

(By Andrew Dys)

The U.S. Army convoy rolled where death lives.

About 30 miles north of Baghdad. Night in Iraq couldn't have been darker. Late April, a little more than a month ago.

Rock Hill's "Corn Dog," Sgt. Cedric Caldwell, manned the front machine gun on one of the convoy escort trucks. A sergeant from California named Torres was beside him. A private first class named Squires drove.

The truck looked like America. A black guy, a white guy and a Hispanic guy.

But Iraq in the night is not like America where so many spend nights howling about blacks and Hispanics. In Iraq in Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, your brothers who don't look like you are all you've got.

No color matters but the indigo of night and the yellow of fire and the red of blood.

"All of a sudden, there was a loud explosion, and I fell down inside the cab on Torres," Caldwell remembered.

The truck rolled and tipped over on its top.

"I must have gotten knocked out for a minute," Caldwell said. "Then all I could see was fire and smoke everywhere. Except for the picture in my mind. It was just like a photograph. My wife and my daughter. It's

true. Your life does flash in front of your eyes. I saw it."

Caldwell saw the hatch opening for the truck and climbed through as the calls of "I'm hit! I'm hit!" pierced the night and cut through the flames.

Caldwell didn't run for the safety of the roadside ditch. He didn't call for a doctor for himself. He pulled Torres to safety through the hatch. Then he dragged Torres about 20 meters from the truck so the explosions wouldn't kill him.

The munitions in the truck were blowing up in the fire. Bullets, shells, shrapnel designed to kill the enemy now trying to kill them.

"I could still hear screaming," Caldwell said.

PUTTING OTHERS' NEEDS FIRST

Again, Caldwell didn't run for safety.

"All I could see was Squires' hand," Caldwell said. "So I reached in, grabbed on, and pulled him out."

Squires was burning alive.

"It was like a stunt double in the movies," Caldwell said. "His whole legs were on fire. I rolled him around to try and put the fire out, but it didn't work. So I took off my vest and my shirt and tried to smother the fire."

Finally, the fire was out, but Squires' clothes were so hot Squires was still burning. Shirtless, bare-chested in a place where snipers are the law, Caldwell knelt in the road and pulled off Squires' clothes. Finally, he got Squires to the ditch.

Before the medics arrived, Caldwell poured what water he could find over Squires' wounds.

"I kept telling him he was going to be OK, that he was going to live," Caldwell said. "He was yelling. I was yelling. But I wasn't going to let him die. Both of them are really good soldiers. They would have done the same for me."

Torres suffered a broken arm and other injuries and is now back at Fort Bragg, N.C., where all three soldiers are based. Squires is in intensive care at the Brook Army Medical Center burn unit in San Antonio, Texas, hospital officials confirmed.

Caldwell suffered a concussion and has a dent in his forehead where an ammunition box thumped him. He has shrapnel in his leg. He has cuts and burns on his face and hands. His back is covered with an 18-inch burn.

STRONG SENSE OF HONOR, DUTY

He is a sergeant with responsibility for 14 men. He said his superiors have put in for a Purple Heart for his wounds in action and a Combat Action Badge, and either a Bronze Star or Silver Star for valor.

Caldwell could have come home, too. But he chose to stay in Iraq.

"My men here need me," Caldwell said by telephone this week.

Caldwell's wife and parents were distraught that he was injured, but they rejoice he is alive. Maybe even more, they take pride that Cedric Caldwell did what every man hopes he would do when an overturned truck is on fire with men underneath that truck.

Caldwell did not run. He didn't ask for help for himself. He helped his men.

"He went back," said the Rev. Willie Caldwell, the father. "I prepared myself when he left that my son could come back in a pine box. I supported this war then and now. I believe in freedom. It's not cheap. And then when he was at the hospital, he saw all those other guys who are hurt worse. He told me, 'Daddy, I need to stay. These guys need to come home, not me.'"

Caldwell's wife, Tiffani, is a military child whose parents are both immigrants from the Caribbean. Her father came from Jamaica to the Air Force. He served in the first Persian

Gulf War. Her mother came from Barbados to the Army.

Torres came from Mexico, Caldwell said.

Americans gnash their teeth over immigration, ask for fences to be built or borders to be shuttered, while the sons and daughters of immigrants or immigrants themselves fight the wars over freedom.

"CORN DOG": A LOCAL HERO

"My best friend is a hero," said Travis Canty, who has been "like a brother" with Caldwell since both were little kids in Rock Hill. It is Canty who spilled the beans that the nickname "Corn Dog" comes from Caldwell eating corn dogs for lunch during school.

"He didn't run. He didn't hide. He saved those guys," Canty said.

Caldwell went first to Kosovo when the war on terror began. He was home a short while, then spent almost a year in Afghanistan. A few months with his wife and then Iraq. Caldwell was home for a few days in January, just missing the birth of daughter Tiffani. He saw her, kissed her and his wife a few times, then went back to Iraq.

And then he cheats death. And still he stays in Iraq.

"I guess my military background prepared me for this," Tiffani Caldwell said. "I haven't cried yet. My husband is alive. He is a soldier. He'll come home when his deployment is finished."

RETURN TO A SIMPLER LIFE

Caldwell's enlistment is up in February. He said he's not staying in the Army.

"No way, no more Iraq," said Williatte, his mother.

"We are done," said Tiffani, his wife.

Caldwell plans to come back to Rock Hill with his wife and daughter. He'll play music in his father's Abiezer Baptist Church. He wants to be a Realtor.

"I truly believe that without God, me and Torres and Squires would not have survived," Caldwell said.

Caldwell may be right.

Maybe God wanted the black and the Hispanic and the white guys to live.

But one thing seems to be for sure.

A Rock Hill guy, Northwestern High class of 1998, who joined the National Guard while still in high school then leapt into active duty and never left, didn't leave his brothers to die in the dirt and flame and blood of Iraq.

Monday, on Memorial Day, no monuments will be etched with the names Torres or Squires on granite.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 861—RESOLUTION ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite the crafty language in this resolution, there is no connection between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. The Global War on Terror and the War in Iraq are not synonymous.

The President has admitted this, yet the Republican Party in this House continues to support his failed policies in Iraq under the guise of fighting terror—consistently providing billions of off-budget funding, allowing waste, fraud and abuse to go unchecked and failing to exercise even the semblance of oversight. So, instead of debating solutions for Iraq

today, we are discussing a non-binding resolution that is equally as short-sighted and devoid of direction as President Bush's Iraq policy.

We all have unwavering pride for our troops. The quagmire that Iraq has become is not the fault of the troops who have performed superbly—it is the failure of the President to plan for a transition to peace.

That is why I support the Murtha resolution. It would provide a plan for peace, redeploy our troops and allow us to bring them home as soon as practicable.

Let's stop the carnage. Our presence in Iraq makes stability impossible. By remaining in Iraq, we make both Iraqi and American soil less secure. Let's bring our troops home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Community Church in Boulder City, Nevada, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The Grace Community Church began as an inter-denominational Protestant religious church in April of 1932, and the first service was held on January 29, 1933. The church was officially dedicated on February 22, 1933, "to the glory of God and the Blessing of Man." The church quickly became a center for various community groups, and assumed a key role in the development of the community.

The Reverend Thomas Stevenson of California, who gave his first sermon in the unfinished basement of the church, was chosen as the church's first minister, and led the church's congregation until 1937. The Reverend Harold Eymann replaced Reverend Stevenson, and the formal by-laws for the congregation were adopted and the church was incorporated under state law during Reverend Eymann's ministry. Reverend Eymann left Grace Community Church in 1942, feeling he should serve as a military chaplain during World War II. Reverend Winston Trever from Azusa, California served from 1942–1949. The Reverend Olaf Stoeve ministered at Grace from 1949–1953. The Presbyterian Reverend Earl Seymour Fox (1953–1961) found the congregation growing and recommended that two services be held on Sunday and a building be added next to the American Legion Hall, which soon became Fox Hall.

Boulder City incorporated as a Nevada Municipality in 1960 and inherited all government land leases. The Reverend Guy Holliday (1961–1978) became the minister, and Grace Community Church entered a 50-year lease for the land under the church facility. The Reverend Melvin Pritts (1978–1982), from First Methodist Church of Phoenix, succeeded Reverend Holliday. The Reverend M. Kenneth Criswell (1982–1985) arrived from Ventura, California in time to give support and leadership to the committee working on the church's 50th anniversary. He found a debt-free church and a vital, caring congregation. The Reverend Dr. John J. Rousseau (1985–1990), who served three Methodist churches in Hawaii, arrived on July 1, 1985. The Reverend Dr. Richard Smith (1990–1999), was serving