

TRIBUTE TO ESSAY WINNER, MR.
SEAN DOHERTY

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, every year in my district, I ask students in grades 8th and 12th to participate in an essay contest. This year's contest focused on the issue of protecting our nation from terrorism.

I am pleased that so many students chose to enter this essay contest. Unfortunately, however, there can only be one winner in each group: 8th grade and 12th grade. This year's 8th grade winner was Sean Doherty from Elmhurst, Illinois. He attends St. Charles Borromeo School in Bensenville, Illinois. The 12th grade winner was Katie Horton from Addison Trail High School. She lives in Addison, Illinois.

This is Mr. Sean Doherty's essay, entitled: "How does the Homeland Security Agency protect us from Terrorism?" is as follows:

The Homeland Security Agency (HSA) is a government agency responsible for tracking down those responsible for terrorism against the United States of America. It is part of The Department of Homeland Security. It works closely with the FBI, CIA, and other agencies to track down terrorists and those who are planning an act of terrorism, before they can commit such an act.

Those responsible for the vast majority of terrorism against the United States are Muslim terrorists who operate in cells around the world. They seek to destroy us because of our basic freedoms such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion. They will stop at nothing to destroy us; death is no border to them. To them, death is when they will be rewarded. This can be seen by the frequent homicide bomber attacks that occur.

The HSA uses wiretaps, satellite imaging, email monitoring, and various other methods to track down terrorists. The terrorists use every tool at their disposal to evade capture and kill innocent Americans, so the NSA should and must use every tool at their disposal to stop terrorists before they can attack.

At airports, the HSA uses metal detectors, bomb sniffing dogs, cameras, and physical searches of bags and passengers to make sure our airlines are safe. One machine, the Chemical Trace Examination (CTex) machine can even detect explosives by their density. At ports, containers are scanned with x-rays and gieser counters to make sure nothing that can be used for a terrorist attack is transported into the country. Also, some containers are even searched physically.

The PATRIOT Act is a piece of legislation that was passed after September 11, 2001. It is designed to help the HSA track down terrorists. It makes small changes to already existing laws so that the process of hunting down a terrorist cell is streamlined. For example, the PATRIOT Act allows the HSA to wiretap or monitor a suspected terrorist without a court warrant. If a court warrant were required, the terrorist could be tipped off and destroy evidence or flee the country.

In order to reduce terrorism, we need to stay in Iraq and Afghanistan. If we stay there, we can start to spread more moderate feelings about western culture throughout the region. The people of those countries already show their gratitude to the United States for bringing democracy to their coun-

tries, now imagine if the whole Middle East was democratic and freedom of speech and religion were commonplace throughout. The world would be a better, safer place.

Another additional precaution we need to take is to secure our borders. We need more border patrol agents and more Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and sensors on the northern and southern borders. If we do these things, the risk of terrorism both at home and abroad will be significantly lowered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SOLDIER COLBY FARNAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor today to recognize the life of Army Spec. Colby Farnan of Weston, Missouri, who passed away in Taji, Iraq while in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a son, brother, and friend Colby is missed by many.

Colby was a strong member of our community. He was active in various high school sports, where he nurtured the leadership skills and sense of teamwork that so many people came to admire. His service as a coach in the youth baseball league was just one example of his desire for wanting to help our community. Colby's service to our country was an extension of his support of the community and a commitment to making a better future for us all.

I offer my condolences and support to the many people that Colby had an impact on. In the wake of their loss, the Farnan family has embarked on a campaign to honor our fine men and women who have perished in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The family and community of Weston, Missouri are raising money to provide communities with Battlefield Cross statues to remember the lives of the fine Americans that gave their life for their country.

The lives of all our soldiers are remembered everyday and the efforts by the Farnan family and friends can be appreciated all Americans. I am exceptionally proud of our troops, their families, and their communities in their support of one another. All of Northwest Missouri and America should follow the example that is being set by the people of Weston, Missouri in their 5K Walk to Remember fundraiser and support of our troops.

IN HONOR OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROGER P. ROY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to State Representative Roger P. Roy, who after 30 years of service has chosen not to seek another term in the State House of Representatives. This extraordinary man is undoubtedly a valuable asset to the State of Delaware and a friend to all. He has been described as not only a compassionate and accomplished citizen, but also an admirable

leader. An enduring professional representing his beloved Limestone Hills-area district, he truly is a distinguished Delawarean.

In addition to serving his district, he serves as the Chairman of the influential State Bond Bill Committee, where his leadership has been instrumental in the Committee's sound financial management, earning Delaware's bonds the highest rating. Representative Roy has also worked to protect Delawareans, authoring the State's version of Megan's Law and sponsoring legislation that requires registered sex offenders to have their status indicated with a designation on their driver's license. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Transportation Management Association of Delaware, he has worked to bring innovative transportation solutions to the State.

As his 15 consecutive terms in office acutely demonstrate, he is well recognized and respected by his constituents and colleagues. He actively participates in the community through sponsorship of youth athletic teams, American Legion Post #29, and by serving on the Board of Directors of the Central YMCA and the Mid-County Senior Center.

I congratulate State Representative Roger P. Roy for his years of remarkable service and countless contributions to the State. I am sure that as he begins to spend more time with his wife, Paula, their two daughters, Michele and Tanya, and their grandchildren, he will remain an integral member of the community. I would like to thank him for the many contributions he has made to the State of Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN DIEHL FOR HER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEER SERVICE WITH THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jean Diehl for her more than 30 years of dedicated volunteer service with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where she has served as a major community force in establishing and developing the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. Jean's enthusiasm and deep love of the Tinicum Marsh has provided decades of consistent strength and leadership through the Concerned Area Residents for Preservation of the Tinicum Marsh (CARP) and later the Friends of the Heinz Refuge (FOHR), ensuring that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy and learn from the treasurers of our Nation's natural heritage protected through our National Wildlife Refuge System. I was pleased to work with Jean and others to make the dreams of this unique National Wildlife Refuge a reality, promoting conservation and a cleaner, healthier environment for both wildlife and the citizens of the greater Philadelphia region.

The history of Tinicum Marsh, the largest remaining freshwater tidal wetland in Pennsylvania, goes back to the first settlements in the region in 1634. Swedes, Dutch and English diked and drained parts of the marsh for grazing. At that time, the tidal marshes measured over 5,700 acres. The rapid urbanization since

World War I reduced tidal marshes to approximately 200 acres. The remnant of this once vast tidal marsh is protected by the Refuge.

Jean first discovered the wonders of Tinicum Marsh as a youth while exploring the wilds of her neighborhood and learned of their endangerment through her involvement with Girl Scouts. Jean soon became an active member of CARP, a grassroots conservation organization that worked closely with government and political leaders to preserve and protect Pennsylvania's largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh. Through much of Jean's leadership with both CARP and as President of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge, as well as her community work with the League of Women Voters and with many other concerned local citizens, the Tinicum National Environmental Center (later renamed to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum) was established. Jean's leadership helped with the passage of four pieces of Federal legislation adding both land and funding for the refuge.

Ever the environmental champion, Jean has worked diligently over the past 30 years to ensure the future of the Reserve. Her work helped realign Interstate 95 to avoid paving over this important wildlife habitat; raise funds for the purchase of the Tinicum Lagoons to be included in the Refuge; establish the Tinicum Treasures Bookstore (all proceeds of which are used to support refuge educational and biological programs); and create the Cusano Environmental Education Center. Jean Diehl has, indeed, truly served our Nation as a founding parent of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. I commend Jean Diehl for her outstanding service. She is among Pennsylvania's finest, and I am honored to bring forth her particular accomplishments at the Tinicum Refuge before this body and our Nation today.

EMERGENCY ROOMS HAVE REACHED A BREAKING POINT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a New York Times editorial entitled, "Emergency in the Emergency Rooms" into the RECORD. This article emphasizes the fact that our Nation's emergency rooms and hospitals are seriously ill-equipped to manage major disasters such as the human costs of natural disasters or the occurrence of pandemic influenza. They are also failing to meet the challenge of increased demand by the poor who must use the emergency room for primary care because they cannot afford or do not have health insurance.

According to the Institute of Medicine, about 500,000 (five hundred thousand) ambulances are being redirected from full emergency rooms to others far away. Furthermore, patients awaiting admission to the hospital may spend from eight hours to two days in the emergency rooms before a hospital bed becomes available. Not only are our emergency rooms filled past capacity, but they also lack the services of critical specialists such as neurosurgeons, further crippling the ability of hospitals to immediately treat patients in medical crisis.

The editorial identifies a few causes for the emergency room crisis. First, the number of people seeking treatment in emergency rooms has increased sharply over the past decade. Also, in the same time period, some 700 hospitals and 425 emergency departments have been forced to close due to cost pressures. More importantly, the result of these situations is serious overcrowding, only worsened by a massive influx of patients who seek routine care in emergency rooms because they are either uninsured or on Medicaid but incapable of finding doctors who agree to treat them.

This issue has grave consequences on the United States population as a whole, but it particularly affects the more than 60 million plus uninsured people in the United States, a population that will increase as employers are gradually eliminating health coverage. Ultimately, the United States will suffer greatly at the hands of large scale disasters if we do not improve our preparedness in hospitals and emergency rooms.

Some proposals to develop our emergency rooms include an end to diverting seriously ill patients to far away hospitals and alternatively diverting poor patients who congest emergency rooms seeking standard care. Of course, this would necessitate expanding health insurance coverage to the millions of uninsured and offering more primary care clinics and doctors to underserved neighborhoods. However, in the long run, the addressing of the emergency room crisis will cost the United States much, much less than the consequences.

[From the New York Times, June 21, 2006]

EMERGENCY IN THE EMERGENCY ROOMS

The nation's emergency rooms have been stretched thin for at least a decade or more, but a new analysis suggests that they have reached a breaking point. Their plight underscores how dreadfully unprepared we are to cope with a major disaster like pandemic influenza or mass casualties from a terrorism attack.

The crisis in emergency medical care was laid bare in three reports issued last week by the Institute of Medicine, a unit of the National Academy of Sciences. Half a million times a year ambulances are diverted from emergency rooms that are full and sent to others farther away. Emergency room patients who need admission to the hospital often spend eight hours or more—sometimes even two days or more—on gurneys in the hallways, waiting for a hospital bed to open up.

Some emergency rooms lack the services of key specialists, such as neurosurgeons, who shy away from emergency room duty because many uninsured patients can't pay and their malpractice premiums would skyrocket because of the risky nature of emergency cases. What is not known is how many people die as a result of delays in treatment or inadequate care under chaotic conditions. No measurement system tracks such data.

The emergency room crisis has many causes, none of them easily or cheaply resolved. The number of people seeking treatment in emergency rooms has jumped sharply over the past decade or so, from 90 million in 1993 to 114 million in 2003. Over the same period, cost pressures forced the closing of some 700 hospitals, almost 200,000 hospital beds and 425 emergency departments. The result is severe crowding, exacerbated by a huge influx of poor people seeking routine care who are either uninsured or on Medicaid but unable to find doctors willing to treat them. By law, emergency rooms must accept

all patients, whether they have insurance or not.

The institute's experts have many proposals for easing the situation, ranging from new regional systems to improve the flow of patients to the most appropriate and least crowded emergency rooms to an infusion of money to cover unpaid emergency care and to bolster preparedness for large-scale disasters. The most important change would be to stop diverting seriously ill ambulance patients and divert instead the poor patients who clog emergency rooms seeking routine care. That would require extending health coverage to the uninsured and providing more primary care clinics and doctors in poor neighborhoods.

RECOGNIZING LARRY W. WEIGLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colonel Larry W. Weigler, Vice Wing Commander of the Missouri Air National Guard in St. Joseph, MO. Colonel Weigler will retire from the 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joseph, MO effective May 3, 2006 after more than 36 years of dedicated service in the Air National Guard.

The Colonel has been a member of the armed services since 1969 when he enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard as an aircraft mechanic. In 1972 he received an Officer's commission to become an aircraft pilot. During his exemplary career Colonel Weigler participated in numerous overseas deployments including Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Colonel Larry W. Weigler, who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES LEE
RACKERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. James Lee Rackers of Jefferson City, MO.

Mr. Rackers was born in Jefferson City, on December 27, 1933, son of Lee and Helen Heisen Rackers. He attended Central Missouri State University and graduated from Lincoln University in 1956, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary School Education. He earned his masters in Secondary School Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was united in marriage to Nancy Brettschneider on November 24, 1955. They were blessed with four wonderful children, three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Rackers began his career teaching at Helias High School in the fall of 1956. He was the head basketball and track coach and assistant football coach. He was the Athletic Director from 1966 until 1967, when he became Assistant Principal. In 1971 Jim became the