

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOHN D. MORTON

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero. SFC John D. Morton made the ultimate sacrifice when he gave his life in Afghanistan while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. John was not only a courageous soldier, but a dearly loved father, brother, son and friend. It is with heartfelt sadness and my deepest sympathies that I stand before you and pay homage to a true defender of freedom.

As a senior at Powell County High School, SFC John Morton felt the call of duty and enlisted in the United States Army. His service to our country sent him all over the world—Somalia, Haiti, Iraq and Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 74th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance), 173rd Airborne Brigade based in Vicenza, Italy.

On December 15, 2005, John's patrol was on a mission in the mountainous area around Kandahar, Afghanistan when they were confronted by Taliban fighters. John suffered a fatal wound to the chest. On December 28, 2005, SFC John Morton was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

John had a strong commitment to his country and to the uniform that he wore. He believed in his mission in Afghanistan and in the war in Iraq. Along with being an American soldier, John was a beloved father and husband. It is with grief, sadness and humility that I thank John's parents and two sisters. I also wish to thank John's wife, Sarah, and his three children Joshua, Scarlett and Olivia for making the ultimate sacrifice.

John's death is a great loss to the state of Kentucky, to our country, but most of all, to the entire Morton family. I know in my heart that SFC John Morton will always be remembered as an American hero.

PROTESTS AT MILITARY FUNERALS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, approximately 138,000 troops are serving in Iraq and hundreds of thousands more are stationed at bases all over the world. These men and women bravely volunteered to serve their country and fight to preserve the democratic ideals we as Americans hold dear. It is because of them and the sacrifices they make, I rise today to bring attention to a very serious issue.

On a rainy November day in my district, a group of protesters gathered at the funeral of SGT Kyle Wehrly—the first resident of Galesburg, IL to die in Iraq. During the funeral, they shouted cruel, hateful words at the mourners. Upon hearing the protesters might show up at the funeral, a group of students from Knox College in Galesburg organized to silently stand in front of the protesters, raising their umbrellas to block the hateful words and plac-

ards from the family members and friends of Sergeant Wehrly.

In response to the emotionally charged and widespread attention this incident and other similar protests brought to the State, Illinois Lieutenant Governor, Pat Quinn, proposed a new law preventing protests at funeral services throughout the State. The Let Them Rest in Peace Act prohibits protests within a 300-foot zone around any funeral or memorial in Illinois from 30 minutes before a service until 30 minutes after. "No grieving military family should be subjected to vile epithets and signs at the funeral service of their loved one who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our country," Quinn said in a recent press release. "This legislation strikes an important balance between the First Amendment religious rights of families to bury their dead with reverence and the expression rights of those seeking to harass mourners at a funeral service."

I wholeheartedly support free speech and the right of every American to exercise that right. I also strongly believe the rights of families privately mourning the loss of loved ones are violated and the contributions of our fallen military heroes are belittled when funerals are targeted for picketing and other public demonstrations. Picketing of funerals only cause emotional disturbance and distress to grieving families, which is why I support the Lieutenant Governor's proposal. The Let Them Rest in Peace Act allows family members to peacefully mourn while preserving free speech. Under the Lieutenant Governor's law, people can still protest, they just have to do it from 300 feet away.

I commend the students of Knox College for the decency they showed the family and friends of Sergeant Wehrly by peacefully and silently creating a barrier between them and the hateful, painful words of the protesters. I hope their actions help bring further attention to this issue so we can better honor our men and women in uniform, while continuing to uphold our treasured first amendment rights.

TRIBUTE TO A TRUE AMERICAN HERO, DURWARD LEE "SWEDE" REYMAN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Durward Lee "Swede" Reyman. Swede quit high school a week after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, at the age of 18. He volunteered to join the Army Air Corps to protect and defend the country he dearly loves.

After serving in various locations in the United States he was trained for Arctic Search and Rescue and was sent to serve 1 year in northern Quebec, Canada, where he was responsible for driving sled dogs. Upon returning to the States he volunteered for the paratroops and was assigned to the Army Parachute Infantry. He completed jump training in February of 1945 in Fort Benning, GA. Swede was then sent to the Pacific as part of the 11th Airborne, 188th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion where he made a combat jump on Luzon Island in the Philippines. Swede made a total of seven jumps during his time in the military.

Following the drop of atomic bombs in Japan in 1945, Swede's unit was the first to set foot in the country of Japan. They served as the Honor Guard for GEN Douglas MacArthur during his arrival in Japan.

Following the war, Swede returned home and married his sweetheart Hope, and together they raised four sons, D.L. Junior, William Craig, James Mark, and Jeffrey Charles. Jeffery served 4 years in the United States Air Force.

Swede has been actively involved in ceremonies marking the anniversaries of World War II events. He went to France for the 50th anniversary of D-Day in June 1994 and made a jump with several other WWII survivors. Additionally he made jumps in Russia and Australia in 1995 in ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of V-E Day.

Swede's favorite phrase that he says to himself daily is "They gave their tomorrows for our todays." He doesn't know who to attribute this quote to, but he states that it always makes him think of the cemeteries full of veterans who died and were buried far from home. They had bravely fought and died for our freedoms.

Today I am proud to honor Swede for his courage, patriotism, and service to our Nation. He helped protect our democracy and kept our homeland safe by placing his life on the line. Swede truly is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today.

Mr. Speaker, we maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Swede Reyman who are willing to fight to defend them for us. It is for these reasons Swede deserves the very highest praise and deep appreciation from the residents of Colorado and from this esteemed body.

HONORING PETER M. AYLWARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor a great soldier, a great husband, a great father and a great American—soon-to-be BG Peter M. Aylward.

This Friday, February 17, 2006, my good friend COL Peter Aylward will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Peter is currently serving as the joint staff and deputy director for Anti-Terrorism, Force Protection and Homeland Defense. Peter has served our country in many ways including being a member of the White House Task Force for Disaster Reduction and Tsunami Warning and Planning and led the DOD Pandemic Influenza Task Force for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense.

As 1 of 11 children, Peter is a Massachusetts native who began his illustrious military career in 1976 when he enlisted in the 1/26 Cavalry Squadron as a reconnaissance specialist. Peter earned multiple degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, a masters from the Marine Corp University and a master's degree from the National Defense University. He has served in a variety of command and staff assignments and won multiple honors and medals including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense

Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with one silver and one bronze oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster and many other awards.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have such a great and dedicated man protecting our country. It is truly an honor to publicly salute BG Peter M. Aylward on the House floor today and bestow our heartfelt thanks for his tireless efforts on behalf of all Americans. I thank Peter, his wife Sandra and their sons, James and Jeremy, for all the time they have given up as a family to make sure our country is safe. We sleep easier because of Peter's commitment and dedication, and I congratulate him on his recent promotion.

TRIBUTE TO GRAYCE BODGEN ARNOLD

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Grayce Bodgen Arnold was originally from Philadelphia, PA, and arrived in Arizona through her husband, John Patton Arnold, who had been commissioned by Popular Mechanics and the Triple A Automotive Association to publish the first motor tourist guide of Mexico in the mid 1950's. The family, then including their first two children, moved to Nogales, AZ. The family later moved to settle in Tucson, where their third child, Janie, was born.

Throughout this time Grayce had been developing her cooking and artistic talent. While she lived in Doylestown, PA, her neighbor Sara Lee was a constant presence in Grayce's kitchen, sampling her cooking. At the same time she was also working on her artistic talent, she worked with famed Tucson artist Ted DeGrazia at his studio. In addition to her artistic and cooking talents, she also developed her business skills.

Through the years, her business ventures brought her in contact with many people, including film stars Faye Dunaway and Joanna Cassidy, and then Governor George W. Bush. Also it was at this time that her designs for Patagonia's first three postcards came out, displaying her civic involvement to promote Patagonia as a tourist destination.

In 1976, Grayce's son, Dr. John David Arnold, bought the Miner's Old Home in Patagonia, which was built in 1905. At the time, the house was not in good condition, but was remodeled to be made fit for living, and is where Grayce lived until the end of her life. This is also where Grayce Gift and Candle Shop operated from for almost three decades. Grayce's artistic talents are displayed in her shop, which is more than a shop, instead it is more like part museum and art gallery. Grayce's artistic collections include her award winning sand cast candle dioramas, creative masks and one of her greatest sculptures, her rendition of the Tarahumara man squatting in contemplation in traditional dress.

Grayce was inspiring; she was so full of life, physically active and ran her own business

until the age of 97. She would be the first to tell you that age is irrelevant, after all, while in her sixties she belly danced, remarried and launched her artistic career. She always told her children, "be creative, never stop dreaming, and help others." She was an amazing woman who will be remembered to those who loved her and to the many whose lives she touched.

HONORING CAPTAIN KEVIN C. MURRAY

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CAPT Kevin C. Murray, who lost his life while performing his duties as a Columbia River bar pilot on the night of January 9, 2006.

Where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean is spectacularly beautiful, yet it is also the worst river bar passage in North America. Columbia River bar pilots have steered vessels in the lower Columbia across the treacherous bar since 1846, making it one of the oldest businesses in the Pacific Northwest. This shallow bar has claimed some 2,000 vessels and 700 lives since the early 19th century.

During a transfer back to the pilot boat *Chinook*, in heavy winter seas, Captain Murray, 50, a resident of Ilwaco, WA, and Boothbay, ME, was thrown into the ocean waters. Despite the valiant efforts of his crew, Captain Murray succumbed to the frigid ocean temperatures. He is survived by his wife, Lori Stetson Murray, and his mother, Phyllis Murray, of Boothbay Harbor, ME.

Captain Murray was a seasoned, experienced scholar of the seas. He began his career working on towing vessels, towing semi-submersible oil rigs in and out of the Gulf of Mexico. He later captained a 700-foot oil tanker, the *Blue Ridge*, and held an unlimited master's license allowing him to captain any size vessel in any waters in the world. He had extensive experience in the waters from Alaska to San Francisco, resulting in his recruitment by the Columbia River Bar Pilots in 2004. Fellow Columbia River bar pilots remember Captain Murray as a wonderful person, a strong, silent type, with a quiet, hidden sense of humor.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Lori, his wife; Phyllis, his mother; and all of his family and friends. This tragic drowning, the first loss of a Columbia River bar pilot since 1973, highlights the danger that these brave pilots face daily in navigating the Columbia River bar, also known as the "graveyard of the Pacific". The bar pilots navigate cruise ships, U.S. Navy vessels, foreign vessels and cargo vessels, inbound and outbound on the Columbia River through the bar. Their skills and work are crucial aspects of the economic health of the deepwater ports of Oregon and Washington and the livelihood of the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Speaker, I rise not only to honor Captain Murray, but to honor all of his fellow bar pilots on the Columbia River, who stand as their own class of heroes of the sea.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. C.W. NEWSOME

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it was with overwhelming sadness that I learned of the passing of The Reverend Dr. C.W. Newsome last week. For more than 40 years my friend and mentor Rev. Charles Newsome served as a moral compass for our community. For more than 40 years he was our spiritual rock and for more than 40 years he was our seeker of justice. There was no question in his mind or ours why God put him on this earth. Rev. Charles Newsome came to us to lead the way in the struggle for economic and social justice and to heal the scars of racism on our country and our community. And he did. With strength and trust given to him by the people he served, he fought for the rights of all people to seek opportunity and to be free from bigotry. He understood that there was no other way for us to build a lasting integrated and strong community. Year after year our friend led the efforts for better housing, schools, jobs, and health care for everyone. So very often he took his church, North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, and its members into the forefront of these battles. Rev. Newsome knew the strength of the church depended on its involvement with the daily needs of its members and our community. Over these many years I have enjoyed our conversations, treasured his friendship, and highly valued his counsel on a wide variety of issues.

Reverend Newsome was born on June 15, 1924, in Brenham, Texas. Prior to his commitment to the faith ministry, he served valiantly as a U.S. Marine, in the Segregated Corps, fighting against Nazi fascism in the European Theater of World War II. An injury forced him to leave the service and he eventually came to Richmond, continuing to support our country's effort by working in the shipyards. His participation in shipbuilding and that of the countless African Americans who migrated west during the war, led Richmond to become one of the leading industrial hubs of the world. Today his legacy and that of all of the men and women who built our country's warships has been memorialized as Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park.

With an insatiable appetite for learning, Reverend Newsome attended Contra Costa College for his AA Degree, the University of California Berkeley for his undergraduate work, Bishop College in Dallas to study theology, and received his Doctorate from Reeds Christian College—Western Theology Seminary in Los Angeles. Following the completion of his studies, he began his life's work. Rev. Newsome's ministry has included Organizing Pastor of Holy Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond, and heading the Community Baptist Church in Santa Rosa, California. In 1966 he took on the pastoral duties at North Richmond Baptist Missionary Church. Building on his congregation's stature in the community as the first "Negro Baptist Church of Contra Costa County", Rev. Newsome continued to break new ground in the name of social justice. He led laborers to fight for equality in the workplace and led families to fight for safety in our schools and on our streets.