

Perhaps we don't need a literacy class. But we all benefit from an educated and capable work force.

Perhaps we don't need to put our own children in Head Start. But we need to know that every child with a desire to learn and grow and reach toward their dreams has a place to go and people to help them.

Perhaps—if we're lucky—many of us will go through our lives and never have a desperate need for emergency services—for food and shelter and for clothing.

But we need to be part of a community where every person in need has somewhere to go, someone to turn to, someone who cares.

And perhaps, if we are fortunate, few of us will have a need for the day-to-day, make-or-break help that Christopher House routinely provides. But that doesn't mean we don't rely on Christopher House.

Because it comes down to this—all of us rely on Christopher House to answer this important question: Who can we count on? Who is there for us? Who cares enough to do the hardest work for the people who need help the most?

Every day, the people who devote their lives as staff and volunteers and donors to Christopher House answer those questions through their actions.

We can count on Christopher House. Christopher House is there for us. And Christopher House has been doing this vital work for 100 years, and with our support should continue for many more.

Christopher House's history means a lot to me—because it has always served precisely the population that I work with every day as a member of Congress. When it started a century ago as part of the settlement house movement, Christopher House focused closely on the population that has always been the sustaining life of our city—the immigrant community.

Today, Christopher House still serves our immigrant population—now largely Latino. It is a population whose steady influx breathes oxygen into Chicago's lungs and reimagines our city every generation.

From the time it opened, Christopher House has been there for all of us, because its leaders have understood that treating the newest Americans well means that all of us are treated better.

So, Mr. Speaker, with this resolution, we recognize Christopher House for its century of contributions to Chicago.

To the "House with a Heart," I say from the bottom of my heart—thank you very much. Thank you for enriching and improving the lives of Chicagoans for the last 100 years and we look forward to many more years of your services.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ DANIEL
FERRER GARCÍA AND LUIS
ENRIQUE FERRER GARCÍA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about José Daniel Ferrer García and his brother

er Luis Enrique Ferrer García, both political prisoners in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García is the regional coordinator for the Christian Liberation Movement and his brother Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García is also active in the same movement. They are peaceful pro-democracy activists who believe in the cause of freedom for the people of Cuba. Because of their steadfast belief in human liberty, and their constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, these courageous brothers have been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García has been harassed and detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 2002, he was forced from a bus and beaten by the tyrant's thugs because of his activities and ideals. Amnesty International reports that Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García, in December 1999, was sentenced to 6 months of "restricted freedom." In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, both brothers were arrested. Subsequently, in two sham trials, Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag and Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García was sentenced to 28 years in the gulag.

While confined in the inhuman horror of Castro's gulag, both brothers have been the constant target of abuse. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

"On January 1, José Daniel Ferrer García reported serving 45 days in a punishment cell for protesting the suspension of correspondence and the delivery of food and medical supplies from his family. He did not receive food or water during the first 3 days of his confinement and slept on a cement floor. Authorities confiscated his Bible and prohibited any contact with other prisoners."

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García was transferred to a punishment cell for having bravely refused to militarily salute a warden of the gulag. The Department of State Country Report describes the true horrors of a punishment cell: "Prisoners sometimes were held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees, and multiple forms of abuse.

These two brothers are brilliant examples of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, these two brothers are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Luis Enrique Ferrer García, José Daniel Ferrer García and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks Texas Independence Day. 170 years ago today, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Just as American patriots declared their independence from the tyrannical British Empire's military domination and established the first true democracy in the modern age, Texas declared its independence from Mexico to restore their political rights.

After July 4th, 1776, democracy became a common goal for all people of the New World, but one that we would have to fight for.

Texas declared its independence after many peaceful years as a part of a Mexican federal republic because Texans lost their political rights when Mexico became dominated by military dictatorships.

In 1824, a military dictatorship took over in Mexico that abolished the Mexican constitution. Facing an even more oppressive regime than the British Empire, the Texas Declaration of Independence states that Texas's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Declaration of Independence was also fully justified because this military dictatorship had ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people of Texas—Anglos and Tejanos.

The new military dictatorship refused to provide for trial by jury, freedom of religion, or public education for their citizens.

When Texans and Tejanos peacefully protested the undemocratic changes to Mexico's government, they were imprisoned unjustly.

Failure to provide these basic rights violates the sacred contract between a government and the people, and Texans did what we still do today—stand up for our rights by declaring our independence to the world.

In response, the Mexican army marched to Texas to wage a war on the land and the people, enforcing the decrees of a military dictatorship through brute force and without any democratic legitimacy.

The struggle for Texan independence was a political struggle, not an ethnic conflict. In fact, many Texas Hispanics considered themselves Tejanos—not Mexicans—and Tejanos from all walks of life served bravely in the Texas War for Independence and sacrificed greatly.

Tejanos were in Texas before Mexico became a nation, and Tejanos cherished the freedom to run their own affairs democratically just as dearly as Anglos. When the Mexican government failed, it failed all Texans and Tejanos equally.

For example, two Tejanos who distinguished themselves in the Texas War for Independence were Captain Juan Seguin and Lorenzo de Zavala, a future Republic of Texas Vice President. The historical records are full of many other patriotic Tejanos as well.

As future President Sam Houston and other delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, Mexican General Santa Ana's army besieged independence forces at the Alamo in San Antonio.

Four days after the signing, the Alamo fell with her commander Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis, Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texan and Tejanos defenders.

All these men were killed in action, a heroic sacrifice for Texan freedom. If this tragedy were not enough, weeks later Santa Anna's army massacred over 300 unarmed Texans at Goliad on March 27.

In a dramatic turnaround, Texans and Tejanos achieved their independence several weeks later on April 21, 1836. Roughly 900 Texans and Tejanos of the Texan army overpowered a much larger Mexican army in a surprise attack at the Battle of San Jacinto.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Baytown, Texas in my district. The monument is larger than the Washington Monument here in D.C.

Today is an important day for Texas identity, and patriotic Texans are observing this occasion with great pride at the monument in Baytown today. If it were not for our voting schedule here in Congress, I would be at home with them for this event.

We give thanks to the many Texans from all backgrounds who sacrificed for the freedom we now enjoy. God bless Texas and God bless America.

CONGRESS MUST REMAIN CONCERNED WITH THE POST-WAR LIVES AND TRAUMAS OF AMERICA'S SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM IRAQ

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues the personal and really tragic story of one soldier's struggle to cope after returning from the war in Iraq. The San Francisco Chronicle recently reported on the life of Blake Miller, whom some Americans came to know through the media as the "Marlboro Man" of Iraq for his efforts in the battle of Fallujah, one of the most intense battles of the Iraq War since the invasion itself.

As the war continues to rage on and the country continues to debate how to bring it to an end, it is important to stop and look at the consequences of the war on our soldiers. America's soldiers have done everything asked of them. They and their families have endured great hardship, and many, too many in my opinion, have paid the ultimate sacrifice in this war.

I believe that we must not neglect the full experience of the soldiers and their families from this war, the trauma and stress that have severe consequences on their post-war lives. Blake Miller, a.k.a. the Marlboro Man, now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder from his experiences in Iraq, and specifically, his involvement in the siege on Fallujah. He is really struggling, according to this news account that I am enclosing for all of my colleagues to read. As the article describes, he and those who fought with him, will forever be tormented by their experiences in Iraq.

Sadly, but not unexpectedly, Blake Miller and his family are not alone. According to an

article in the Washington Post on March 1, 2006, soldiers returning from Iraq consistently reported more psychic distress than those returning from other conflicts. More than one in three soldiers and Marines who served in Iraq have sought help for mental health problems, according to Army experts.

Mr. Speaker, the President and Congress have chosen to send America's soldiers into battle in Iraq. That was not a decision that I supported because I believed then, as I do now, that the evidence of a real threat to America did not exist. But whether one supported this decision or not, every member of Congress and the President have an obligation to be concerned with the well-being of our troops both in battle and afterward. I hope that Blake Miller's story will help convey to this Congress the human suffering that this war is likely to cause for many years to come and help us to think long and hard about the consequences of the decisions we make in Congress—before we make them.

We honor Blake Miller's sacrifice and service to our country by making sure he and his family have every resource available to help them recover from this trauma and to regain a sense of normalcy in their lives and that they are not denied any needed service because of a lack of funding from this Congress or this President for medical care for veterans.

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" QUATTRIN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Richard "Dick" Quattrin, of Whiting, Indiana. On Sunday, February 26, 2006, Dick passed away while in Washington, D.C. As he so often did, Dick made the trip to Washington to take part in a national meeting of the American Legion. Dick will be laid to rest on Saturday, February 4, 2006, at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Hammond, Indiana.

Dick Quattrin was born on August 18, 1932, to Angelo and Laura Quattrin. He was born and raised in the Pullman-Roseland neighborhoods of Chicago before relocating to Whiting, Indiana, which he called home for over fifty years. These fifty years were spent with his beloved wife, Dorothy, who survives him. Dick is also survived by his five daughters, Lydia (Greg) Beer, Karen (Ed) Erminger, Ruth (Wayne) Rodda, Marsha (John) Jerome, and Sharon Quattrin. Dick is also survived by his brothers Norman (Laurie) Quattrin and Ron (Sandy) Quattrin, his sister-in-law Rose (Bill) Tuskan, and his loving grandchildren, whom he truly cherished: Andrew, Jason, Jennifer, Daniel, Jeffrey, Megan, Laura, Allison, Emily, and Claire.

Dick's life of service to his community goes back to his days in the United States Army, where he obtained the rank of Sergeant. Dick felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow Americans, as evidenced by his service during the Korean Conflict. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the

hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Throughout his professional career, Dick continued to serve the community as a member of the fire department for the City of Hammond, Indiana.

Since his discharge from the United States Army, Dick has become most well known in the community for his commitment to veterans and his involvement with the American Legion and other veterans' organizations. Dick's dedication to the American Legion is evident in the many prestigious positions he held. Dick was a past commander of American Legion Post #80 in Whiting, where he remained a constant fixture until his passing. Dick was even named to the revered post of Commander of the Department of Indiana American Legion from 1997–1998. His efforts in this position allowed him to spread his compassion and his unwavering concern for veterans far beyond the borders of Northwest Indiana. Along the way, I am sure Dick crossed paths with many more veterans whose lives were touched, knowing that such a passionate individual was fighting for them. In addition to his service to the American Legion, Dick was also an active member of the 40/8, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter Kleiber Post 2724, the Knights of Columbus Council 1696, and the B.P.O.E. Whiting Lodge 68.

While Dick has dedicated considerable time and energy to veterans' rights, he has always made an extra effort to give back to the community. Dick, well known in Northwest Indiana for his talents as a singer, was a member of his church choir and the "Knight Sounds" of the Whiting Knights of Columbus. In addition, Dick was highly respected in the community in the area of athletics, having coached the Whiting Post #80 baseball team for the past 40 years. An accomplished athlete in his own right, Dick played professional baseball as a member of the Saint Louis Browns affiliated minor league ball club.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Richard "Dick" Quattrin for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to veterans and the Northwest Indiana community is worthy of the highest commendation. Dick's selflessness was an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to have represented him in Congress.

RECOGNIZING 87TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF KOREAN PENINSULA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 87th anniversary of the March 1st Movement for the liberation of the Korean peninsula from Japanese oppression. This was the day that Korea regained its independence and since then it has continued to become a major economic and cultural force on the world stage.

There is a flourishing and growing relationship between the United States and Korea. Korea is a major economic partner and our 7th largest trading partner. Whether in education, science, business, or the arts, Korea