

FREEDOM FOR ALBERT SANTIAGO
DU BOUCHET HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Albert Santiago Du Bouchet Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández is the director of the independent Havana Press Agency. His peaceful, pro-democracy activities and truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports that Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández was harassed and threatened because he insisted on reporting and covering the historic congress of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society (APSC). The CPJ also reports that Castro's thugs ordered him to appear at a police station on the opening day of the APSC meeting. Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández bravely disobeyed their command, and reported on the momentous events that occurred at the historic congress.

In retaliation for telling the world the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime, Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández was arrested on August 6th and, in a sham trial 3 days later, sentenced to 1 year in the totalitarian gulag. As the 2005 edition of the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices states, "Prison conditions continue to be harsh and life threatening." According to CPJ, Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández has suffered severe headaches and progressive loss of his vision since his arrest in August 2004.

Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the belief that freedom of the press and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is morally repugnant that, in the 21st Century, men and women are still locked in the dungeons of dictators because of their beliefs in freedom and human rights. It is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Albert Santiago DuBouchet Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

CONGRATULATING LONG'S DRUG
STORE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-standing institution in my dis-

trict that has been serving the people of Knoxville, Tennessee for 50 years. On March 27, 2006, Long's Drug Store will mark its Silver Anniversary.

Determined to provide friendly, prompt service to the Knoxville community, Dr. Clarence Long opened Long's Drug Store on March 21, 1956. It was the first drug store to serve West Knoxville and was included in the first shopping center in Knoxville. Long's is a landmark that has remained at its Kingston Pike location since its opening.

Along with Dr. Long, several members of the Peck family joined the staff in the late 1950s and early 1960s. After the passing of Dr. Long in 1966, the Peck family took over the business and continues to maintain it today.

Today, Long's Drug Store offers the community the same welcoming service it did when it opened its doors 50 years ago, despite advances in technology. Long's continues to fill prescriptions and provide free home delivery service to its customers.

While commonly paired many decades ago, soda fountains in drug stores are a rare find these days. Long's Drug Store has the distinction of having the only old-time soda fountain in the City of Knoxville. This soda fountain provides relief during hot East Tennessee summers with its delicious Coke floats and chocolate malts. It is one of the most popular and memorable sections of the store.

Always at near capacity with loyal customers, both young and old, Long's provides a welcoming meeting place to enjoy a fountain drink or congregate with neighbors over breakfast or lunch.

Long's Drug Store provides its customers and the citizens of Knoxville with caring, personal service. Generations of customers continue to come to Long's for their pharmacy needs as well as a place to meet friends. I'm sure that Dr. Long would be delighted by the staying power of his business and its commitment to tradition.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend Long's Drug Store for its service to the people of Knoxville, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this anniversary and wishing them the best for the next 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO DELTA COMPANY, 113
AVIATION, OREGON NATIONAL
GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the citizen soldiers of Delta Company, 113 Aviation, Oregon National Guard on the occasion of their return home tomorrow from a 14-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Commanded by Captain David Doran, the 92 Soldiers of this heavy lift helicopter company operating CH47D Chinooks proved to be one of the most effective and versatile aviation companies in the Army's Total Force Structure.

The "Mustangs" of Delta 113 were alerted in June 2004 and assembled from cities and towns throughout Oregon, including: Athena,

Baker City, Beaverton, Bend, Boardman, Clackamas, Corvallis, Echo, Eugene, Fairview, Haines, Helix, Hermiston, La Grande, LaPine, Lyons, McMinnville, Merrill, Milton-Freewater, Ontario, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Portland, Prineville, Redmond, Roseburg, The Dalles, Umatilla, Union, and Vale.

By late February 2005, the aircrews were fully trained, loaded up, and ready for deployment into the theater of operations. In March 2005, Delta 113 arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Within the first 20 days, the maintainers had the aircraft ready to fly, aircrews were oriented on the mission and environment, refuelers had moved out beyond Kandahar to Forward Operating Bases, and Delta 113 had assumed the mission.

They immediately integrated with Task Force Griffin (12 Aviation Brigade) and in 3 weeks, the Mustangs had conducted a thorough relief-in-place of the outgoing Heavy Lift Helicopter Company and were conducting all heavy lift operations in southern and western Afghanistan. Their missions included: Combat Service support and Air Assault support for units of the 25th Infantry Division and 173rd Airborne as well as the 7th Special Forces; downed aircraft recovery; and transporting VIPs, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. These missions were all accomplished while flying their standard re-supply missions, moving more than 95 percent of personnel and equipment throughout southern Afghanistan. The Mustangs were responsible for airlifting 11 million pounds of supplies and equipment and 45,000 troops. In addition they carried troops directly into contact with the enemy, executing over 100 deliberate operations with the 173rd Airborne and 3rd and 7th Special Forces Groups.

Delta 113 was critical to the success of Operation Catania in June of 2005. This 4-day operation resulted in the death or capture of over 150 Anti-Coalition Militants, marking it as one of the largest single engagements of Operation Enduring Freedom to date. During this fighting, four CH47Ds were damaged by enemy fire and two were forced to make emergency landings. All four were recovered and repaired by "Mustang" Downed Aircraft Recovery Teams (DART) on the same day and returned to service within 24 hours.

In September 2005, the Mustangs lost a crew of 5 and an aircraft to an enemy RPG during Operation Hazurbus. The fallen soldiers included Sgt. Tane Baum and Warrent Officer Adrian Stump, both of Pendleton. The Company quickly rallied and continued to execute assigned missions. This ability to remain focused during a time of extreme tragedy is the hallmark of this unit's greatness and an example of their commitment to duty and dedication to mission accomplishment.

In addition to their taxing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom missions, the Mustangs deployed 2 aircraft, aircrews, and support personnel to Islamabad, Pakistan, to conduct humanitarian aid missions in October 2005. They were on site for 1 month and during that time moved over 750,000 pounds of supplies, evacuated 750 casualties, and transported 650 aid workers.

Executing deliberate combat operations to sustain all ongoing combat and combat support missions throughout the country, the Mustangs of Delta 113 gained the reputation throughout CJTF-76 as a highly dependable, professional organization able to execute a wide range of aviation missions.

Mr. Speaker, due to the versatility of the CH47D Chinook Helicopter and the expertise and skill of "Mustang" aircrews, the combat units they transported were able to pursue and eliminate hundreds of Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters in the region. By penetrating deep into the heart of the Taliban's stronghold, the Mustangs of Delta 113 were instrumental to the success of the ground forces in denying Anti-Coalition Militants respite and sanctuary in Afghanistan.

I take great pride in the sacrifice and outstanding performance of all of Oregon's patriots who serve our nation at home and abroad, and am particularly looking forward to joining the friends and families of Delta 113 in Pendleton on this weekend to officially welcome them back to our great state.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE B. HAGADONE

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an entrepreneur and philanthropist from my district whose initiative and vision are an inspiration to all Idahoans.

Duane B. Hagadone began his modest career selling newspaper subscriptions. With hard work and passion Duane worked his way up to editor, then owner of that newspaper. Much later he founded one of the most successful diversified publishing and hospitality businesses in Idaho history, the Hagadone Corporation.

On December 9, 2004, this lifelong resident of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association, an organization that honors those who have overcome adversity and modest beginnings to achieve success. He now serves on that association's board of directors, and through determination and leadership has provided countless scholarships for underprivileged high school seniors.

Duane B. Hagadone was inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame, and was named Most Influential North Idaho Citizen for the past 5 years for his many contributions to the welfare of Idaho and its citizens.

Duane B. Hagadone shines as a leader in the field of business and public works. He has given back endlessly to the State of Idaho and embodies a sense of civic virtue that makes him one of our state's greatest advocates and most valuable assets. I hope the House will join me in acknowledging Duane B. Hagadone's many contributions to Idaho, and his continuing example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO ST. CASIMIR'S CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS POST #652

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Casimir's Catholic War Veterans Post #652 on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

The Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc., (CWV), was founded in 1935 with the National headquarters located in Alexandria, Virginia. CWV joined other organized groups that were formed to guard the rights and privileges of veterans and included the protection of all our freedoms. Service programs help those who are sick and disabled and care for our hospitalized veterans.

St. Casimir's Post #652 Inc., Chapter of Philadelphia, Department of Pennsylvania, of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, was established on the 2nd of April, 1946. The home post is located at 1524 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1984, the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc., was Congressionally Chartered and its Service Officers were accredited to the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are authorized to represent veterans and advance their claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To quote the Post's constitution, it was established "to promote faith, hope, and charity with prudence, justice, fortitude, and to enjoy the blessings of liberty, to sustain domestic tranquility, and to develop peace and good will."

St. Casimir's extends help to veterans in hospitals and assists their families with any hardships; has honor guards at funerals of deceased veterans; and helps family members with red tape regarding burial arrangements. The Post also holds benefits to help veterans and their families who are in need.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring St. Casimir's Catholic War Veterans Post #652 for their 60 years of service and dedicated commitment towards our war veterans.

TRIBUTE TO KADE HINKHOUSE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a true American hero, Lance Corporal Kade Hinkhouse. Lance Corporal Hinkhouse is a United States Marine from the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment based out of Twenty-Nine Palms, California. Kade is from Burlington, Colorado.

At a young age, Kade was impacted by the devastating terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. Because of his pride in our country and determination to protect America's values, Kade signed up for the Marine Corp just prior to graduating from high school.

Last year, LCpl. Hinkhouse was sent to the Middle East to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On October 9, 2005, LCpl. Hinkhouse was severely injured while on his mission at Ar Ramadi, Iraq. After being stationed there for only one month, he and 12 others traveling in a small convoy were hit on the right side with an improvised explosive device. Kade's vehicle was in the middle. The explosion killed the Marine sitting next to him, and 4 other soldiers were injured.

LCpl. Hinkhouse sustained the worst of the injuries including a traumatic brain injury,

shrapnel in his shoulder, an open leg wound, and two collapsed lungs. He and the other 4 injured Marines were taken to the Baghdad hospital, where the medical staff stabilized Kade and amputated his right leg at the knee. The next day, Kade was flown to a military hospital in Germany.

His head trauma was very severe because of severe bruising and swelling. The doctors had to remove a portion of the right side of his skull to alleviate the swelling around Kade's brain. He stayed in Germany until Thursday, October 13, 2005, and then he was flown to Bethesda, Maryland. LCpl. Hinkhouse is now at Walter Reed Hospital receiving therapy and recovering.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in a country served by Marines like LCpl. Hinkhouse; I am grateful for the courage of our servicemen and women. We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Kade who are willing to defend them.

I am proud to honor Kade for his courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans. I applaud Kade for his courage and selfless dedication to duty. Lance Corporal Kade Hinkhouse is the embodiment of the values that makes America the great Nation it is today.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF IRA ALBERT "SONNY" BEACH

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of the late Ira Albert Beach of Arkansas City Kansas, who passed away on February 3rd 2006.

Ira, known as "Sonny" to his friends, was a model American. Sonny was born without legs and with a deformed right arm. He spent the first years of his life in the Children's Hospital in Wichita, KS. After graduating from Winfield High School, he went on to junior college. At age 10, Sonny learned to drive a tractor with mechanical aides on his father's farm. Despite his disability, Sonny insisted on contributing to society with his work and his charitable ways.

Sonny paid his way through junior college by hauling five gallon milk cans around his neighborhood. After college he married and had four children. His motto was, "If man made it, man could fix it." Sonny made a living insulating homes, doing construction work, operating heavy equipment and backhoes, and picking up dead animals from farmers all over Oklahoma and Kansas and delivering them to rendering companies. Eventually Sonny sought out a position at General Electric. After a 36 year career, he retired from GE as a jet engine inspector. Sonny also served as an accountant for an oilman in eastern Kansas. At one time Sonny owned and operated a garbage collection business. Sonny was well known as a generous man who had a positive attitude towards life.

Although Sonny was born disabled, he insisted that he was not handicapped. He refused to park in handicap parking, and insisted on never accepting any form of government benefit available to the handicapped or unemployed. Despite hardships Sonny Beach was