

when he assisted a fellow officer in preventing a suicide. While on duty at the entrance to the Nevada Spillway Lot, Sergeant Stone observed a man standing on the wall overlooking the face of Hoover Dam. Suspecting the man was a possible suicide he radioed Corporal Russell Balbirona for help. While waiting for Corporal Balbirona to come, Sergeant Stone approached the man and demanded he get down from the wall. The man told him he was going to end his life.

Sergeant Stone offered him words of encouragement, but the man still refused to get down. Working in unison with Corporal Balbirona who had then arrived, Sergeant Stone continued talking to the man to distract him while Corporal Balbirona approached the man from behind. When the man reached for a cigarette that Sergeant Stone had offered him, Corporal Balbirona grabbed the man around the waist and safely removed him from the wall. As the two men were falling to the ground, Sergeant Stone immediately assisted Corporal Balbirona. After the man was subdued and taken into police custody, he was transported to Boulder City Hospital for a psychological evaluation. Prior to being transported to the hospital the man thanked the officers for saving his life and apologized for creating a disturbance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sergeant Jeffrey A. Stone for his exceptional display of courage, quick reaction, and heroic actions carried out in this life-saving incident. I further congratulate Sergeant Stone for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. I thank him for his distinguished service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BENNYE CAROL FRAZIER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor a lovely woman from San Antonio, who passed away recently. I rise to honor Bennye Carol Frazier, a person dedicated to serving others and causes bigger than anyone person. Sadly, she left us recently, but she never stopped fighting. In fact, despite her kind and gracious manner, she fought hard her entire life for the causes she believed in.

Bennye believed in the power of education to transform lives. She taught in San Antonio schools for many years, and she chose to teach high school students who had the highest risk of dropping out. These are the students most in need of encouragement and reinforcement that obtaining an education is something everyone can do and that the goal is within their grasp. There are, I'm sure, many people in San Antonio who would have quit had it not been for Bennye's encouragement. She fought to keep students in school and on track for graduation.

Bennye also fought to improve schools and treatment of teachers. She served as President of the San Antonio Teachers Council for two terms as well as for the local affiliates of the National Education Association and the Texas State Teachers Association, and the Texas Industrial Vocational Association.

As was her nature, Bennye was also a leader in the community. She served as President for both the San Antonio Calligraphers Guild and the Harp and Shamrock Society and as a member of the S.A. Conservation Society and paper chair of Night In Old San Antonio (NIOSA.)

Bennye worked at the local level of politics, an area often overlooked despite its importance. As Speaker Tip O'Neill used to say "All politics is local," and Bennye knew this. It's at this level that small gestures and kindnesses matter more than policy differences. Bennye was unfailingly kind and helpful in many ways, and many in the Democratic Party recall her tireless assistance.

Bennye would support local candidates in whatever fashion she could. She served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Bexar County Democratic Party. She was named interim Chair of the Bexar County Democrats, often a thankless task, but she dispatched those duties with the same kindness, enthusiasm and efficiency she performed all other tasks. Even while suffering the illness that would lead to her death, Bennye continued to work for the Democratic Party.

Democrats in San Antonio could count on Bennye to keep us focused on the goal of helping people. She was dedicated to the mission of our party at its finest, the mission of Democrats like President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Speaker Sam Rayburn or President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Of course, Bennye was a wife, mother and grandmother. She and her husband, Tom, were married for 50 years. I am amazed how Bennye found time for her career, her family and her activities.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her husband, her family, and those whose lives she touched. She will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th anniversary of Israel Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut.

On this day in 1948, the U.N. mandate regarding Great Britain's control over the land of Israel ended and the people of Israel declared the existence of the independent democratic state of Israel.

In a democratic nation, Independence Day is created to celebrate the values and freedoms democratic nations hold dear. However, it should also be a day for reflection on the sacrifice required to ensure the continuation and protection of those freedoms. In fact, in Israel, on the day preceding Independence Day, Israelis honor Yom Hazikaron or Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers. The link between the two is clear: Israelis owe a debt, and the existence of the state, to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it. On this day Israel Independence Day, I also ask for a moment of introspection to honor those who, whether Israeli or American, have fallen to defend their nation and to defend democracy.

The United States has long been a supporter of Israel and her policies as a defender

of democratic freedoms in the Middle East. Israel is our nation's strongest ally and only truly democratic partner in the Middle East.

With the continuing War on Terror, our alliance with Israel is more important than ever. In more than 100 instances in the past 58 years, our countries have stood together in the face of great turmoil. Today, I reinforce the unshakeable commitment of the United States to the safety and security of Israel and her reciprocal commitment to our security. While the times and the circumstances continue to change, the commitment we have made in the past 58 years to building peace and stability has fostered a bond between our nations that shall never be broken.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand here today to recognize Israeli Independence Day and to recognize Israel's commitment to democracy in the Middle East. The common values we share: a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, are the core values on which democracy is based.

HONORING THE LATE HOWARD ZERANGUE, SR.

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, it is always difficult to inform my colleagues when a constituent of mine passes away. It is especially hard when we have to say goodbye to a distinguished public servant such as Sheriff Howard Zerangue of Opelousas, LA, who died Thursday, April 27, 2006 following a long battle with a blood disorder.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Zerangue was Opelousas. His life and career will forever be defined by his devoted service to his city, as well as his neighbors in St. Landry Parish, where he served more than 25 years as Sheriff. Prior to his seven consecutive terms in the Sheriffs office, Howard Zerangue also served on the Opelousas Board of Aldermen from 1966 to 1974, and as Opelousas Police Chief from 1974 to 1980. Throughout his service in law enforcement, Howard Zerangue was known for making significant technological improvements for his staff despite having to deal with tight budgets. He is also credited with starting programs to fight drugs, and to provide transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

Despite the lofty titles he held, Howard Zerangue never forgot where he came from. His jobs outside of law enforcement, including as a Volkswagen salesman in the 1970's and as a bouncer at the Southern Club, allowed him to relate to the people he served everyday. His friends always appreciated his loyalty and his duty. As the Opelousas Daily World noted in their commentary: "He had a strong sense of duty. He could be counted upon to be there when the chips were down. He stood up for those things—and people—that he believed in. He was dedicated to his job and to his vision of it as a way to help others." One could only hope to be remembered in such a way. Despite our loss, Howard Zerangue's memory lives on in the streets of Opelousas and St. Landry, which he worked to keep safe for most of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Howard Zerangue and in offering our deepest condolences to his wife, Ruth Manuel Zerangue; his mother, Winnie Meche Zerangue; his daughters, Mona Manteris and Debbie Sealy; his sons, Howard Jr., Keith, Neal, Harold and Darryl Zerangue; 21 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

HONORING STEPHAN L. WALTERS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give well-deserved recognition to Stephan Walters, an extraordinary soldier, teacher and citizen from my Congressional District.

Stephan is currently serving on active duty with the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As Captain, he is responsible for training and mentoring a full brigade. He also serves as an officer for community outreach, equal opportunity, safety and soldier retention. Prior to his current assignment, Captain Walters served for three years as a member of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, also known as the Presidential Honor Guard, performing a range of ceremonial duties at the White House, Pentagon, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Captain Walters has also distinguished himself in civilian life, earning a bachelor degree in social studies and a masters degree in secondary education from the University of Kentucky, graduating from both programs with honors. Walters was a five-year member of the University of Kentucky's football team, earning numerous awards and honors for his academic and athletic achievements.

Upon graduation, he accepted a position at Jeffersontown High School in Louisville, KY teaching history and coaching football and track. In 2004, he was nominated by his colleagues for the History Teacher of the Year Award, a special honor he later received from the Kentucky Historical Society.

It is my great privilege to honor Stephan Walters today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his distinguished service to his country and his community. His unyielding sense of duty and sacrifice represent the very best of what it means to be an American soldier. His achievements as a civilian, especially his dedication to developing young minds in the classroom and on the athletic field, are further marks of personal greatness. He is a man of exemplary leadership and dedication worthy of our collective respect and appreciation.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in bringing attention to our Nation's uninsured.

As we commemorate Cover the Uninsured Week, I would like to say that it is criminal that

there are over 45 million uninsured people in this country, 8 million of them children.

For a Nation that boasts about being the wealthiest in the world and claims liberty and justice for all, the fact that we have even one person without health insurance is a contradiction and a shame.

Every single year an estimated 18,000 people die because they are uninsured and cannot get the medical care they need. 18,000 lives lost solely because we as a Nation fail to provide a basic human right to those living in this country.

And instead of addressing this crisis head on, this Administration and Republican leadership have contributed to increasing numbers of uninsured people.

Mr. Speaker, during the Bush Administration the number of uninsured has risen by 6 million people. More people are now without health insurance than at any point since the Census began collecting comparable data in 1987.

The Republicans prefer politics and profit over vulnerable people. It is obvious that consumer driven health plans and cuts to Medicaid are not the answer to this problem. Health Savings Accounts and Association Health Plans provide benefits only to those who are rich and healthy. They will do nothing to decrease the number of uninsured who are typically lower-income and have more health problems.

The increase in the number of uninsured in this country also continues to disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.

Of the over 45 million uninsured, 32.7 percent are Hispanic; 19.7 percent are Black; and 16.8 percent are Asian. Furthermore, over 25 percent of the Native American population is uninsured.

Despite this devastating crisis in our Nation, we do have a solution. It is universal access to quality health care and we must demand it for our people and make it a priority of this Congress.

The United States is the only industrialized Nation that does not provide some form of universal access.

As a co-chair of the National Health Insurance Caucus, I have fought in Congress for universal access. That is why I have sponsored H.R. 3000, the Josephine Butler United States Health Insurance Act and support my colleague JOHN CONYERS' universal health care bill, H.R. 676.

The goal of our legislation is so simple—to ensure that all individuals have access, guaranteed by law, to the highest quality and most cost effective healthcare services regardless of their employment, income, or healthcare status.

While I promote universal coverage, I also support the Family Care Act, the Medicare Early Access Act, and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act, 3 bills that, if enacted, would provide health insurance to half of the uninsured.

If this nation fails to take action right now, the number of uninsured will only continue to increase. Currently, national health care spending is rising by more than 7 percent per year. We all know that as health costs rise, more and more people lose their health insurance either because their employer can't afford it or they can't pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, two out of every five or 41 percent of working-age Americans with incomes between \$20,000 and \$40,000 were uninsured

for at least part of the past year. This is a dramatic and rapid increase from 2001 when just over one-quarter or 28 percent were uninsured.

In fact, only 19 percent of the uninsured are from families with no connection to the work force. That means 80 percent of the uninsured are working people. People who go to work, but cannot afford to obtain health care. We can not continue to spread the belief that employment guarantees access to health insurance.

If we don't acknowledge health care as a basic human right soon, it will be too late for some, and our societies most vulnerable will continue to suffer.

These are the Americans who are too often ignored. The uninsured have lived a campaign of survival, and deserve a voice today and every day on this floor.

These 45 million people are calling out for their government to put people before profit. They realize that access to quality health insurance or universal health care is essential in impacting health outcomes.

Over 40 percent of the uninsured have no regular source of health care and utilize emergency care due to avoiding high cost regular visits.

This situation creates an ongoing cycle of adults and children skipping the key preventive medicine steps, like routine check-ups, recommended tests, and low-cost treatments.

By ignoring preventive treatments and not addressing the sky-high health costs; we are creating sicker people.

It is a fact that the uninsured are more likely than those with insurance to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been avoided.

We are putting our uninsured in the position of choosing between dealing with an illness at its early and most treatable stage or feeding their family.

Mr. Speaker, the message we must send is that universal access to quality health care should be provided without discrimination to all.

We must make health care accessible! Make health care affordable! Make health care a guarantee!

I encourage all of my colleagues to support legislation that will put people before profit in our health care system.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATTY, DANNIE AND GREG "GREASER" BASHAW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty, Danny and Greg "Greaser" Bashaw for their continued support of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program of Basic High School in Henderson, Nevada.

The Bashaw family has long been supporters of Basic High School's Marine Corp Junior ROTC program. Several years ago, Patty and Greg became involved in the Junior ROTC program through their son, Danny, who was then enrolled. To assist in the fund raising efforts of the program, Patty and Greg had the ingenious idea of starting a car show, an idea that proved to be very successful. Their personal belief in the goals and objectives of the