

Meets Media," concerning how UNT master's of public administration students training at Denton City Hall. Now, Lauren works as a weekend overnight anchor for local powerhouse WBAP and will soon be a part time producer for the local FOX 4 News.

Today, I congratulate Ms. Lauren Williamson on her broadcasting awards and her dedication to the profession of journalism. May her intellect, reporting and producing skills continue to serve her community with accurate and informative news. I am honored to represent Ms. Williamson in Congress, and I look forward to hearing more of her accomplishments in the years to come.

CONDEMNING MURDER OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST PAUL KLEBNIKOV ON JULY 9, 2004, IN MOSCOW AND MURDERS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 499, condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation.

Less than two weeks ago, on World Press Freedom Day, my colleague MIKE PENCE and I launched the new Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press. Representatives from a variety of non-governmental organizations came to extend their endorsement of this undertaking and several other Members of Congress spoke about the importance of press freedom for promoting democracy and human rights around the world.

The guests of honor, however—and the reason we were all there—were the journalists who came to share their stories of persecution and harassment. He Qinglian spent a year under 24-hour surveillance when the Chinese Propaganda Department accused her of 'inciting antagonism between the different strata of Chinese society' with her exposes of government corruption. After trying to investigate the presence of Taliban and Al-Qaeda elements in tribal areas in the autonomous zone between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Khawar Mehdi Rizvi was detained and tortured by Pakistani security forces for almost three months, before human rights groups and media organizations helped secure his escape to the United States.

We were also joined by Musa Klebnikov, the widow of American journalist, Paul Klebnikov, whose unresolved murder this resolution condemns. Mrs. Klebnikov told us that Paul believed that without freedom of the press there is no civil society, and can be no true democracy. He died for this ideal, becoming one of the fallen heroes of this ongoing worldwide struggle.

Paul committed himself to revealing the corrupt underside of Russia as well as celebrating its successes. His murder reveals both the importance of this type of work as well as the dangers facing journalists in the Russian Federation. Paul was the twelfth reporter to be killed in Russia since President Putin came to

power in 2000. Russia's press laws remain very far below European standards and in the nearly two years since Paul's murder, working conditions for journalists continued to worsen alarmingly.

Paul's murder stimulated the Russian government to dedicate real effort to prosecuting the hit men who shot him, and this resolution commends that effort. Unfortunately, two days after expressing her hope that this trial would set a standard for future cases of media persecution, the Russian court acquitted his killers. This resolution calls upon the Government of Russia to continue its inquiries into Paul's murder and to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of journalists in the country.

Paul Klebnikov's murder exposed the problem of violence against journalists in Russia and increased the awareness of widespread threats to press freedom. The Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press was created to highlight and condemn media censorship and the persecution of journalists around the world. This Resolution is an important affirmation of these objectives, and I commend my colleague, Mr. MCCOTTER, for bringing it to the floor, and encourage broad support for its passage.

RECOGNIZING CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 751, recognizing American Ballet Theatre as a cultural and educational resource for our Nation.

Over the last 65 years, American Ballet Theatre has elevated the artistry and talent of classical dance in the United States, and has brought a greater appreciation and understanding of the arts to countless people in all 50 States and around the world.

American Ballet Theatre has developed a special relationship with Connecticut through the award-winning Make a Ballet Program.

Since 2002, ABT has been offering this program at The Waterside School, an independent, private day school in Stamford, which introduces low-income children to ballet. ABT Teaching Artists come to the school twice a week and provide a thorough introduction to the arts and high-quality dance instruction. This long-term, in-depth exposure to the arts leaves indelible impacts on the students, instilling a sense of confidence and accomplishment, and planting seeds that will reap appreciation for the arts for years to come.

American Ballet Theatre also holds a Ballet for the Young Dancer program at the YWCA in Greenwich each year, providing children between the ages of 5 and 12 with weekly ballet classes with some of the finest dancers in the world.

While the grand performances that American Ballet Theatre presents have established it as one of the world's great ballet companies, it is the interactions with local communities across America that truly distinguish ABT as a national treasure.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF ARNOLD R. PINKNEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Arnold R. Pinkney, dedicated family man, successful businessman, community activist, dedicated volunteer and friend and mentor to many, as he is being honored by the Community of Living Hope United Methodist Church of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Mr. Pinkney was born and raised in Youngstown and graduated from the Youngstown Public Schools. His quest for higher education led him to Michigan, where he graduated from Albion College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History. His personal integrity, strong self-motivation and unwavering dedication has guided him his whole life. During college, he was elected to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities," was President of the Independent Men's Union, and was a member of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association Team for Baseball and Basketball.

The focus on hard work and giving back to others continues to frame Mr. Pinkney's life. He is the Chairman of Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency, a 41-year-old business located in Cleveland. He is also Senior Consultant and CEO of Betpin & Associates, a consulting firm established by his wife of 45 years, Betty Thompson Pinkney. His dedication to his wife and daughter, Traci Lynne Pinkney, extends outward into the community, where his spirit of volunteerism, leadership and energy continues to empower and support numerous local civic, educational, political and business agencies, including the Urban League, 100 Black Men, Inc., Cleveland Musical Arts Association, University Circle Incorporated, and the Race for Success, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in honor of Arnold R. Pinkney, as we join with the Community of Living Hope United Methodist Church in recognition of his dedicated service and contribution focused on family, faith and community. Mr. Pinkney's numerous contributions within the private and public sector continues to strengthen the well being of our entire Cleveland community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed rollcall vote 146 on Thursday, May 11, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." This was a vote on H. Res. 802, a resolution to encourage all eligible Medicare beneficiaries who have not yet elected to enroll in the new Medicare Part D benefit to review the available options and to determine whether enrollment in a Medicare prescription drug plan best meets their current

and future needs for prescription drug coverage.

I wholeheartedly agree with the message in H. Res. 802. To that end, I have worked diligently to notify my constituents of this new program wherever I go. I am pleased so many seniors have chosen to participate in this program and that so many are saving money.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL GONZALEZ

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Correctional Officer Manuel Gonzalez.

Officer Gonzalez served for sixteen years as a correctional officer, dedicating his life to protecting the rights of the public and safeguarding our communities from criminal activity.

Manuel was born in East Los Angeles, California in 1961. He attended Rio Hondo College and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army in 1982. In the Army, he started his law enforcement career, serving in the United States and overseas in Germany.

In 1987, he married Silvia Ortiz. Together, they settled down to raise a family.

He joined the California Department of Corrections in 1988, and was assigned to the California Institution for Men in Chino in 1996.

On January 10, 2005, Manuel was killed in the line of duty while working his shift in the reception center of the institution. He was stabbed to death by an inmate known to be gang affiliated, who was already serving 75 years-to-life for the attempted murder of a peace officer.

Correctional officers who risk their lives to protect our safety should be commemorated today.

This week, Officer Gonzalez's name is being added to the Correction Officer's Memorial Wall. The wall is dedicated to the Correctional Officers, Employees, Jailors, and Deputies who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, communities, and to their families.

Officer Gonzalez may be lost, but he is not forgotten. His unmatched love for his family, sense of humor, and dedication to his professional career are qualities we will never forget.

Today, my thoughts are not only with his family, but the families of all correctional officers who have died in line of duty.

Please join me in honoring Officer Gonzalez, his family, and all those who have given their lives in noble service to their community.

HONORING ROBERT SCHWANINGER, 2006 MASON DISTRICT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Schwaninger, the 2006 Mason District Citizen of the Year.

Robert Schwaninger became involved in Mason District community activities in 2001 by

joining with his neighbors to participate informally in local land use issues. Through his involvement, he found that shaping the future of Mason District was an ongoing process that required engaging citizens at various levels.

He continues to work with members of his community to spur greater community involvement and voter participation. He authored and sent thousands of letters to residents of Mason District in order to encourage their participation in community development, local services and public cooperation. During the past two elections, Mr. Schwaninger worked the polls in his precinct, providing support and information to voters.

In 2005, Robert Schwaninger accepted the position of Chairman of the Area Plan Review Task Force. In doing so, he took on the responsibility of providing a forum for citizens to offer input regarding future land development throughout the District. Mr. Schwaninger guided the APR Task Force in an efficient and open manner, allowing for the timely and fair completion of the task.

Also during that time, Robert Schwaninger offered his expertise in the area of telecommunications law to Mason District and Supervisor Gross on issues related to emergency communications interoperability in support of first responders, land use issues related to the construction of radio towers and broadband infrastructure as well as other matters that fall within his practice specialties. As a widely published, and often-quoted authority in the telecommunications field, Robert Schwaninger's consulting services have been a valuable contribution to Mason District.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Robert Schwaninger for all of his efforts on behalf of Mason District. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his selection as the 2006 Mason District Citizen of the Year.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CORPORAL HENRY D. CONNELL: AN HONOR LONG OVERDUE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday it was my privilege to attend the funeral of Cpl. Henry D. Connell. It was a heart-warming, emotional and unique experience. This funeral was particularly moving since Corporal Connell was only 17 years old when he died on the battlefield in the small village of Unsan in the Democratic Republic of Korea. It was here that his regiment fought with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army for four long grueling days, and where he, and more than 1,000 members of the 8th Regiment, lost their lives.

It was November 2, 1950 when the United States Army declared Corporal Henry Connell to officially be missing in action. And 43 years later, on July 12, 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned over the remains of 17 soldiers believed to be unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. Corporal Henry D. Connell's remains were one of the 17 soldiers recovered.

All told, this Springfield soldier was missing in action for 55 years. He enlisted in the Army

at age 17, eager to serve in the Korean War, and served for only 8 months before he died, not living to see his 18th birthday. During his brief tenure in the army, he earned a Bronze Star and was promoted to corporal. Henry Connell was born in Springfield, MA and was the son of the late Robert F. Connell and Beatrice (Creamer) Connell Lanzillo. And this past Saturday, his remains were buried alongside his late mother in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Tinkham Road in Springfield.

Mr. Speaker, this was a unique and moving ceremony, and I feel fortunate to have been able to attend. I thank everyone involved who made this appropriate remembrance possible, and extend my sympathies to Thomas W. Connell, Henry's brother, and his wife Patricia and their family at this difficult, yet special time.

I would also like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the official obituary that recently ran in the Springfield, Massachusetts newspaper honoring the life of Corporal Henry D. Connell. May Henry Connell now rest in peace.

[From the Republican, May 7, 2006]

CPL. HENRY D. CONNELL

1933-1950 SPRINGFIELD.—Henry D. Connell, 17, a Corporal serving with the United States Army L Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division under the command of Major General Herbart Gay, was declared missing in action on November 2, 1950. He was born in Springfield, MA the son of the late Robert F. Connell and Beatrice (Creamer) Connell Lanzillo. Henry was educated from the Springfield School System, attended Cathedral High School, and joined the U.S. Army shortly after his 17 birthday. He was injured during combat on September 8, 1950, near the town of Taegu, R.O.K., and was evacuated to the 35th Station Hospital at Kyoto, Honshu, Japan. Shortly after he rejoined his unit, the 8th Cavalry Regiment fought a pitched battle for four days with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army near the village of Unsan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was during this battle that over 1,000 soldiers serving with the 8th Cavalry lost their lives, Cpl. Henry D. Connell being one of them. The United States Army declared him missing in action on November 2, 1950. On July 12, 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned over 17 soldier's sets of remains believed to be unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War near Unsan. Cpl. Henry D. Connell remains were one of the 17 soldiers recovered, and missing in action, for over 43 years. Henry leaves his brother, Thomas W. Connell and his wife, Patricia (LeDoux) Connell of Stuart, FL; as well as several nieces and nephews living in Stuart, FL; and the Greater Springfield area. He was the brother of the late Audrey (Connell) Spencer of West Springfield, who died in 2004. His funeral with full military honors will be held Saturday, May 13, 2006, at Sampson's Chapel of the Acre, 21 Tinkham Rd., Springfield. During this service Henry's brother Thomas W. Connell, will be presented with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for Henry's valor and dedicated service to a grateful nation by the United States Army. Rites of Committal will follow in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Tinkham Rd., Springfield, where Henry will be buried next to his late mother and sister in the Connell family lot. Contributions in his memory may be directed to your nearest chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.