

TRIBUTE TO ANNE BREHM OF
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as Memorial Day approaches, I want to take a moment to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives the noteworthy contribution of Anne Brehm of Kansas City, Kansas, to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Originally attributed to an "unknown Army nurse," a quotation inscribed on the memorial site recently was attributed to World War II Air Force nurse Anne Sosh Brehm, who wrote it in a 1990 letter to retired Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, USAF, the foundation president for the memorial. The circumstances of her correspondence, and the recent attribution of the quote to Anne Brehm are recounted in a recent article from *The Leaven*, which I am including with this statement. Mrs. Brehm's quote, which will be properly attributed to her at a Memorial Day ceremony at the memorial later this month, is as follows:

"Let the generations know that the women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom; that our resolve was as great as the brave men who stood among us; and with victory our hearts were just as full and beat just as fast as theirs, that the tears fell just as hard for those we left behind us."

[From *The Leaven*, Nov. 11, 2005]

LET THE GENERATIONS KNOW—SACRED HEART
PARISHIONER EARNED PLACE IN WORLD WAR
II HISTORY

(By Bob Hart)

KANSAS CITY, KS—For years it was an anonymous quote, attributed to an "unknown Army nurse" at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C.:

"Let the generations know that the women in uniform also guaranteed their Freedom; that our resolve was as great as the brave men who stood among us; and with victory our hearts were just as full and beat as fast as theirs, that tears fell just as hard for those we left behind us."

Every so often, Anne Brehm, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Kansas City, Kan., would hear of the quote, and think to herself, "I said that." Typically modest the former World War II Army nurse did nothing about it.

"For 15 years, I just let it go," Brehm said. Things changed this past August when Brehm received a phone call from retired Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, USAF, foundation president for the memorial. Years earlier, Brehm had written the brigadier general to register for the memorial and had included the quote in the comments.

Vaught had been using it in speeches for years and had passed it on for inscription in a panel at the memorial itself, overlooking the pool. Unfortunately, she had long since misplaced Brehm's letter and could not remember whose words she was quoting.

As fate would have it, Vaught found Brehm's letter shortly before she was scheduled to speak at an American veterans of World War II convention in Kansas City, Mo., late this past summer. The rest, as they say, is history.

WHERE THE ACTION WAS

Gary, Ind., native Anne Sosh was just 22 and fresh out of nursing school in 1943 when

she enlisted in the Second Air Force—incurring the playful wrath of her four brothers, who were all in the Navy.

"I betrayed my family," Brehm said, laughing in the kitchen of the Kansas City home in which she's lived for 50 years. "But the Navy didn't send their nurses overseas, and I wanted to be where the action was."

She got her wish.

She spent time in Bombay, India, where she was "in awe" at seeing Mahatma Gandhi; in Burma, where she saw Gen. Joseph Stilwell on the Ledo Road; and finally in China, where she got to know Gen. Claire Chennault and members of his famed Flying Tigers—many of whom were patients in the 172nd General Hospital where Brehm served.

She was still in China when the A-bomb was dropped. Chinese nationalists and Communists took up their fight, and the nurses were told to quickly leave the country.

They grabbed what pictures and other belongings they could, leaving behind 20 of their own—nurses and good friends who had been killed in a plane crash in Burma.

Brehm was first sent back to India. With the promise of her choice of hospitals, she re-enlisted and requested Topeka General, stateside, with a secret ulterior motive: She was dating a young man she'd met overseas, Dick Brehm from Mission.

She would marry Dick Brehm and raise two children—son Alan and daughter Susie. She would also continue her nursing career until 1990, right about the time she heard about the memorial being built in Washington, D.C., to honor female veterans.

Ann Brehm picked up her pen and wrote, in her letter to Vaught, what would become a very famous quote.

"FOR ALL OF US"

"I was very moved by your words," Vaught told Brehm on the phone last August. "I've used them in hundreds and hundreds of speeches over the years."

The general invited Brehm to join her at the American veterans of World War II convention at Crown Center, where she would finally be identified as the writer of the quote that had been on display in the nation's capital for 15 years.

"I was introduced and spoke," Brehm said. "I have no idea what I said."

Brehm was greeted warmly by her fellow veterans, many of whom thanked her for the words that had moved them when they visited the memorial. Although the revelation that she is the woman who wrote "let the generations know" has brought her a certain level of celebrity, she treasures one clipping above all: a short article in her church bulletin written by her pastor, Father Michael Hermes, whom she calls "my archangel."

The memorial will soon change the inscription from "Author, unknown Army nurse" to properly credit 1st Lt. Ann Sosh Brehm. She thinks that's nice, but not such a big deal.

"We had a camaraderie you just don't find in civilian life," she said, recalling her fellow nurses, many long since gone. "What I said was for all of us, I don't need any credit."

TRIBUTE TO MR. DEAN J. UTEGG

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dean J. Utegg, a lifelong resident of Chautauqua County and a truly remarkable man.

DEAN J. UTEGG

[May 9, 2006]

Dean J. Utegg, 35, of 24 Maple Ave., Ripley died on Monday, May 8, 2006 at Select Spe-

cialty Hospital after a lengthy illness due to diabetes.

He was born on April 18, 1971, in Erie, to Fred L. Utegg of Ripley, and the late Joan L. Rizzo Utegg (1990).

He was a lifetime resident of Ripley, where he graduated from Ripley Central High School, and attended the State University at Fredonia.

He presently served as Ripley town supervisor and as district treasurer of Chautauqua Lake Central School, until recent retirement due to illness. He was also formerly employed at Mellon Bank in Erie for several years, and served as chairman of the Ripley and Chautauqua Democratic Committees, and was a former member of the Chautauqua Young Democrats. He also served as secretary for the Saturday Night Bowling League.

He was a member of St. Thomas More Church in Ripley and the Brotherhood of St. Joseph in North East. He loved bowling, golfing and was an avid true Cleveland Browns fan.

Besides his father, he is survived by his partner, Jai Trippy of Ripley; brothers: Stephen C. Utegg and his wife, Linda, and Mark A. Utegg and his wife, Lisa, both of North East, Pa.; sister, Belinda Mulholland and her husband, Timothy of Dewittville; several nieces and nephews, whom he was very close to; several aunts and uncles; and his friend, Miniature Dachshund, Brownie.

Friends may call at the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake St., North East on Wednesday 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursday 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., and are invited to attend prayer services on Friday at 9:45 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at St. Gregory. Interment St. Gregory Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Pittsburgh Office, 300 Penn Center Blvd., Suite 602, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15235 or Ripley Hose Co., Ripley, NY., 14775.

Dean was a man who fully understood how to live life to its fullest and that, Mr. Speaker, is why I rise to honor him today.

HONORING ED WARNER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor a good friend and constituent, Mr. Ed Warner of Hampton Bays, New York, who recently passed away at the age of 80.

As a native of Hampton Bays and a fifth generation bayman, Mr. Warner knew more than just about anyone concerning the town's history and its people. He was highly admired for his kindness, generosity and steadfast advocacy for Southampton, its residents and its unique environment.

Born in 1925, Ed grew up in Hampton Bays developing a keen sense of loyalty and pride for his hometown. After serving in the Navy during the Second World War, he returned home and worked as a bayman, catching fish that he sold to the local market. Ed knew the best places to catch fish, how to catch the most fish and where to dig for the largest clams.

Ed put his knowledge of the sea to work as a member of the Southampton Board of Trustees. He excelled on this governing body that monitored the town's waterways, serving 27 years through 13 re-elections.

In addition to his public service, Ed's sense of humor and his generosity will not soon be forgotten. An example of his kindness and compassion for others was made evident when, without hesitation, Ed gave fifty dollars to a friend in need who couldn't afford to fix his chainsaw, which he used for his livelihood—sawing holes for ice fishing.

Indeed, Ed's sympathy and goodwill earned him an impeccable reputation. He will always be remembered as an excellent fisherman, public servant, and loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Teresa, their daughter Merry, sons James and Edward Warner Jr., who is following in his father's footsteps as a newly appointed Southampton Trustee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's first congressional district, the residents of Hampton Bays and the entire town of Southampton, I thank the House for this opportunity to express our sadness in the wake of Ed Warner's passing. He was a good man whose many enduring contributions to his community will always be remembered with fondness and gratitude.

HONORING PENN HIGH SCHOOL ON
WINNING THE INDIANA ACADEMIC
SUPER BOWL

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am excited to honor Penn High School for winning the Indiana Academic Super Bowl. Their first place showing at the Indiana Academic Super Bowl State Finals at Purdue University is their second in a row.

Vince Lombardi once said that "Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit." If this is true, then the Penn High School Academic Bowl Team is a great example of having a habit of winning.

The team members are: Jenny DeVito, Dmitri Gekhtman, Maggie Gerdes, Andrew Gresik, Josh Klopfenstein, Matt Klopfenstein, Kelsey McClure, Angela Shan, Josh Walker, and Michele Weldy.

I congratulate their Coach Peter Dekeever and all the members of the Penn High School Academic Super Bowl team on their great accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO BOB LARSON OF
WMBD-TV IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Larson of WMBD-TV in Peoria, Illinois.

Next Tuesday, May 23, Bob will celebrate 35 years at this television station. Over that time, Bob has become an icon in Central Illinois. Every evening many citizens of my district tune in to the newscasts of Channel 31 to

get the day's news from the familiar, friendly face of Bob Larson.

Bob started his broadcasting career at the age of 16 in his hometown of Morris, Illinois, and has served over the years on both radio and television as a reporter, weatherman, and anchor. He delivers the news in a straightforward, Midwestern style, sprinkled with humor and modesty. Through years of advancing technology and ever-changing news partners, Bob has remained a part of everyday life for Peorians and a bedrock part of WMBD. The Associated Press has honored Bob for Best Downstate Illinois Radio Newscast and Best Downstate Illinois TV Newscast. "I take the responsibility of giving Central Illinois the most comprehensive newscast we can very seriously," Bob has said.

Not only is a Bob an accomplished newsman, he has spent his career interacting with the public and being a tireless volunteer for many community activities. Bob is often seen riding in his convertible at the many parades throughout our area. He has hosted the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon for more than 25 years. He has also served as host for the Easter Seals Telethon and Peoria's annual Santa Claus parade. Bob takes community service seriously, and he set a wonderful example for our community.

Today I congratulate Bob for his 35 years of service to WMBD. I count him as a friend and I look forward to watching his newscasts and working with him in the community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 131, 132, and 133, had I been present, I would have voted 131—"yes"; 132—"no" and 133—"yes."

HONORING NATIONAL SENIOR
CENTER WEEK

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to senior centers across New Hampshire during National Senior Center Week, which is May 15th through May 19th.

This year's theme is "Senior Centers—Our Community Investment." And an investment it is—senior centers provide a focal point for older Americans to access services, meet new People, and find ways to serve their communities. These centers offer invaluable services including employment assistance, health and wellness programs, transportation services, networking opportunities, and meal and nutrition programs, among others. They also introduce seniors to new technology through computer classes and Internet training.

In New Hampshire, there are approximately 45 senior centers across the State, including some in rural areas. I am fortunate to have

had the opportunity to visit several of them, as well as a number of senior housing complexes and nursing homes. The seniors who visit these centers have a lifetime of experiences to share with others, and I enjoy hearing their stories. Many have answered the call to service: they serve as Foster Grandparents in schools, mentoring at-risk youth; others deliver meals to home-bound senior citizens; and many others serve their local communities by holding public office.

Each year in May, during Older Americans Month, we honor senior citizens for their contributions to our communities, which make them better places to live, work and raise a family. By continuing to provide programs that assist and educate older Americans, we can help them live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. I thank all of the volunteers and staff members at the senior centers around New Hampshire for their dedication to our Nation's older Americans.

HONORING LEROY HOMER, CO-
PILOT OF UNITED AIRLINES
FLIGHT 93

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of an African-American pilot and hero, LeRoy W. Homer, Jr., the First Officer of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed into a reclaimed coal-mining area near Stonycreek and Shanksville on September 11, 2001.

At an early age, LeRoy W. Homer, Jr. knew that he wanted to be a pilot. As a child, LeRoy assembled model airplanes, collected aviation memorabilia and read books on aviation. LeRoy was 15 years old when he started flight instruction in Cessna 152. Working part-time jobs after school to pay for flying lessons, he completed his first solo at 16 years old, and obtained his private pilot's certificate in 1983.

In the fall of 1983, LeRoy entered the Air Force Academy, and graduated with the Class of 1987, 31st Squadron. After completing pilot training in 1988, he was assigned to McGuire AFB in New Jersey, flying the C-141B Starlifter. While on active duty, LeRoy served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and later supported operations in Somalia. He received many commendations, awards and medals during his military career. In 1993, he was named the 21st Air Force Aircrew Instructor of the Year. LeRoy achieved the rank of Captain before his honorable discharge from active duty in 1995.

LeRoy continued his military career as a reservist, initially as an instructor pilot with the 356th Airlift Squadron at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, then subsequently as an Academy Liaison Officer, recruiting potential candidates for both the Air Force Academy and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. During his time with the Reserves, he achieved rank of Major.

LeRoy continued his flying career by joining United Airlines in May 1995. His first assignment was Second Officer on the B727. He then upgraded to First Officer on the B757/767 in 1996, where he remained until September 11, 2001.