

Under Larry's leadership, KBI flourished as one of the premiere law enforcement agencies in the State. During his tenure, KBI increased the number of forensic laboratories throughout the State. KBI's forensic laboratory achieved national accreditation, on its first try, from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors—the first State crime laboratory to do so. Larry's KBI also assisted the Wichita Police Department in solving the Bind, Torture, Kill, BTK, murders in 2004. He has expanded KBI's investigative focus on computer crimes, such as identity theft and child pornography, as well as the rapid growth of the methamphetamine epidemic across Kansas.

I have had the privilege of calling Larry Welch my good friend for so many years. As a former Judge in Texas for 22 years, I have always been impressed by Larry's dedication to the people of our Nation and upholding the tradition of public service. His integrity is above reproach and his competence is extraordinary.

For Larry Welch, being a lawman was his life's calling, and after 46 years, this dedicated and well-respected law enforcement official is hanging up the badge that he has so proudly worn. The citizens and the State of Kansas are fortunate to have his service. In life, there are not many individuals who have the drive or dedication to a career that Larry has had. He is truly one of a kind, and I am honored to pay him this tribute today.

And That's Just The Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CASSIE STATUTO BEVAN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Cassie Statuto Bevan, a woman who has served this House and the welfare of America's children for more than 20 years.

To Dr. Bevan, there was no such thing as liberal or conservative when it came to protecting the rights and safety of children. In her more than 20 years on the Hill, she worked with members on both sides of the aisle to write and pass meaningful, effective legislation that would keep kids off the streets and in safe, permanent homes. Widely considered the "in-House" expert on child welfare issues, there was rarely, if ever a piece of legislation dealing with the care of children that passed without the benefit of Cassie's expertise and passion.

And Dr. Bevan's service began before many of us were elected to serve in this chamber. She started her work in the House of Representatives in 1984 as a staff member for the newly established Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, and after several years, she became the Republican Staff Director. In 1993, Dr. Bevan joined the National Council for Adoption to become the Principal Investigator of the Child Protection Project and to head the Council's Office of Public Policy. In 1994, the Speaker of the House appointed Dr. Bevan to serve as a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare. The following year, Dr. Bevan returned to the House of Representatives as a Profes-

sional Staff Member to the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means and was promoted to Staff Director at the beginning of the 107th Congress.

In 2001, Dr. Bevan joined then House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay, to serve as his Senior Policy Advisor handling child welfare, welfare reform, and other domestic issues. She continued to serve as the principal staff member to House Majority Leader DeLay on a wide range of issues, including his successful efforts to develop the D.C. Family Court in the wake of the Brianna Blackmond tragedy. Dr. Bevan was the principal staff member on many key pieces of child welfare legislation, including the Inter-Ethnic Placement Act of 1996; the Adoption Tax Credit of 1996; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999; the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 and the House passed welfare reform reauthorization—the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002.

Dr. Bevan's work has also been noted outside Capitol Hill and by many national organizations. The National Council for Adoption, the National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse have all rightly honored Dr. Bevan for her leadership in child advocacy.

The House of Representatives may be losing one of our brightest, but her fight is not over. In her much-deserved retirement, Dr. Bevan will continue her commitment to helping abused and neglected children, and will raise awareness as a university professor, teaching future generations the battles she has fought, and won, on behalf of the kids who need it most.

We are very sorry to lose such a valuable member of our team, but I know our work together is not done. On behalf of all the members who have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Dr. Bevan, we wish her the best as she continues her fight outside these halls.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF NORMANDY LANDINGS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to sixteen heroic veterans of the D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. On Saturday, May 19, 2007, the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de La Fayette, M. François Gauthier, Consul General of France in Boston, presented the cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor to sixteen citizens of Massachusetts: George Belesoz, Peter B. Bennan, Espen H. Christensen, John B. Crawford, James H. Curran, Mario J. De Cristofario, Michael Delisle, George DePaulo, James A. Foster, Milton Issenberg, George A. Jonic, Robert H. Lubker, John E. McBurney, Thomas I. Powers, Seymour L. Schnuer, and Riley P. Shirley. These remarkable men were already a highly decorated band of brothers: twelve had earned the Purple Heart; nine, the Bronze Star; two, the Silver Star; and three had previously been

awarded the Croix de Guerre. Representatives of the Mohawk Nation also received honor and thanks for their contribution to the Allied victory.

M. Gauthier read a letter from His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, French Ambassador to the United States, who had returned to Paris to serve as national security adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy. M. Levitte praised the heroes who, as young men, risked their lives for freedom: They came to Europe because they believed in the power of liberty and democracy; they believed in the power of human rights. They came to liberate populations from oppression and tyranny. And for this we are and we will always be grateful.

I thank the government and the people of France for the honor bestowed on the soldiers and sailors of Massachusetts, and, like them, we must never forget the sacrifices of the greatest generation. I look forward to close friendship and continuing cooperation between our sister Republics as we carry on the struggle for human rights and human dignity.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act.

Although the United States possesses the most capable research enterprise, the largest economy, and the most sophisticated social infrastructure in the world, it remains extremely vulnerable to damage and loss of life from natural disasters. Among weather hazards, hurricanes account for over half of the total economic damage inflicted in the United States.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our nation an average of \$35.8 billion in economic losses per year. Even more, the past two years, hurricanes have caused over 1,450 innocent lives to be lost.

With less than a month before this year's hurricane season is set to begin, now is the time to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

The National Science Board task force, a 24-member independent advisory body to the President and Congress on national science and engineering issues, recently released a report on January 12, 2007 entitled, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative. Their report warns that relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient. More than ever before, our nation needs a National Hurricane Research Initiative (NHRI) to provide vital hurricane research to adequately respond to these threats.

I come to the floor today to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act, a comprehensive hurricane research bill which will improve hurricane research dramatically in

the United States. The bill authorizes \$4.35 billion in critical hurricane research funding to help scientists study and better understand how hurricanes form and intensify. This bill also provides enhanced information on early warning systems, infrastructure durability standards, and hurricane tracking and prediction capabilities.

The National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2007 takes the general recommendations of the National Science Board and assembles the expertise of the nation's science and engineering experts to gain a better understanding of hurricane prediction and intensity. Under the bill, research is directed to further develop communications emergency networks for government agencies and non-government entities to improve disaster response and recovery. This bill also establishes a National Infrastructure Data Base to develop standards and establish public policy to better understand hurricanes and tropical storms.

Madam Speaker, our nation, and my State of Florida in particular, are all too familiar with the immense damage hurricanes can inflict. When faced with strong hurricane predictions for this year, it could not be more a more appropriate time for Congress to act. We need a forward thinking approach that collects and utilizes comprehensive and improved hurricane research. My legislation would do just that. By investing in scientific research now, before the hurricanes strike, we will be able to better plan and mitigate these disasters, saving infrastructure and lives.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration.

CHRISTOPHER RYAN COOMES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 11-year-old Christopher Ryan Coomes, or Ryan, as he is more familiarly called, is an outstanding young man. A native of Texas, born in Houston and raised in the suburb of Spring, Texas, Ryan lives a normal, average American life with his father, Tim, mother, Brenda, big sister, Candance, and little brother, Chase.

Ryan is finishing the 5th Grade at Salyers Elementary in Spring, Texas; however, he is no ordinary 5th grader because Ryan has a gift for excelling in school. In December 2005, when Ryan was a 4th grader, he competed in the Salyers Elementary Spelling Bee. Spelling the word, "walrus," Ryan was named the champion of the spelling competition. When he competed the following year, in 2006, Ryan beat out 30 other participants and would-be spelling bee champion hopefuls to win by spelling the word "staccato"—which is a musical term, meaning to cut short or crisply. Ryan also competed in the Spring ISD District Spelling Bee competition in February of 2007.

Spelling is not the only thing Ryan excels in. Ryan is also an outstanding student, who has been and is on the honor roll at Salyers Elementary. His favorite subjects are history (which also happens to be mine), science, and math. While most kids scheme to get out of going to school in the morning, Ryan eagerly gets up and goes. Currently, he is trying to

maintain a perfect attendance record for the 2006–2007 school year. Ryan has a love of reading and is very skilled at writing, having his work continually used by his teacher as an example. He participates in several extra-curricular activities, such as the Chess Club and the Safety Patrol.

Already at 11, Ryan has set goals for himself: He wants to make Eagle Scout—an honor only 5 percent of Boy Scouts ever achieve; he wants to attend college at either Texas A&M, Rice, or an Ivy League college (Yale); he wants to visit England and see Stonehenge.

Ryan has been a long time member of the Cub Scouts, which is a division of the Boy Scouts. The Cub Scouts were formed for boys in the first through fifth grades and was established to promote character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Boys involved with Cub Scouts are required to go through 5 different award levels of the Cub Scouts before they are promoted to the highest award level, Arrow of Light.

To be awarded the Arrow of Light, the Cub Scout must demonstrate the specific skills and activities of each of the previous Cub Scout levels. The Cub Scout is also required to learn the Scout Promise and Scout Law. Finally, the Cub Scout is required to attend one Boy Scout Troop meeting and one Boy Scout Troop Activity. Ryan Coomes has met all of these requirements and on March 3, 2007, he was awarded the Arrow of Light for the Cub Scouts of America, Pack 355.

Madam Speaker, Ryan Coomes is a remarkable young man. An honor student, spelling bee champion, and Cub Scout recipient of the Arrow of Light award, Ryan is an example to his fellow students, his fellow citizens of Spring, and his fellow Texans. We need more young people like Ryan. I congratulate Ryan on being awarded the Arrow of Light for the Cub Scouts and I am proud to pay him this tribute today.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST ROBERT J. DIXON OF MINNEAPOLIS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist Robert J. Dixon of Minneapolis who died on May 6th in Baghdad. His funeral service occurred on Thursday May 18th in Minneapolis and I would like to read the following May 11th, 2007 Associated Press Article about Army Specialist Dixon into the record:

A Minneapolis soldier who graduated from high school in Gladwin and was just three months into his tour in Iraq was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, the military said.

Army Spc. Robert J. Dixon, 27, died May 6 in Baghdad, the Defense Department said Wednesday. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan.

Dixon was born in Portland, Ore., but moved to Gladwin in 1992, said Irene Dixon, who said she and her husband Daniel were

Robert Dixon's legal guardians. In high school, Robert was a running back for the football team, set the school record in the 100-meter dash and also wrestled, his mother said.

"He especially enjoyed family activities," Irene Dixon told The Associated Press on Thursday. "We did a lot of family activities. He hunted, he paint-balled, he snowboarded. We went camping, snowmobiling.

"If you ever knew Bobby, you'd love him. Every time we got a report from a teacher it couldn't have been any better. We got a call from a commander who said everybody there (in Iraq) loved him."

After graduating from high school, Dixon attended Olivet College for a year and later was briefly enrolled at Northwood University in Midland.

Dixon joined the Army in the summer of 2005, shortly after he moved to Minneapolis in search of work, his mother said.

"He wanted to further his education, and he always had a desire to be in the Army," she said. "He had planned to make it his career."

Dixon said she last heard from her son last Friday, when he called during a funeral for her uncle to express his condolences.

Robert Dixon is survived by his wife of 1½ years, Rusty Rose-Dixon, and two children. Funeral arrangements were incomplete but were likely to take place at the Gladwin High School gymnasium.

"I can't even convey to you how we're going to miss not having him here," his mother said. "But I also know that he is a Christian and he is with the Lord now."

Madam Speaker, Specialist Dixon served our country, Minnesota and the 5th District with incredible distinction and made the ultimate sacrifice. I know I speak for you, the entire House of Representatives, and our country in sending my deepest condolences to Specialist Dixon's family and loved ones in their time of grief.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bill.

I applaud Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in guiding this bill to the floor today. He and Ranking Member HUNTER have done a tremendous job, and they have been ably supported by the expert staff of our committee.

I'm grateful to Chairman SKELTON for working with me to include things important for Colorado, including limits on how the Army can pursue possible expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Colorado. I agree with Senator SALAZAR and others in the Colorado delegation that any expansion, if it takes place at all, must be conducted in a way that it is a win-win situation for the Army and for Colorado and that any expansion plan should not