

the construction of the mill will require the services of over 30,000 workers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both Neal Wade and all of those at the Alabama Development Office for being named the best in the Nation for 2006 by Site Selection magazine. For these and all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and to the international business community.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE GREECE IN THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to include Greece as a program country in the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program permits nationals from certain countries who are traveling to the United States for tourism or business to stay for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Currently, 27 countries are included in the Visa Waiver Program. To participate, countries must meet several criteria including reciprocal visa-free travel for U.S. citizens, secure machine-readable biometric passports, and a maximum allowable 3 percent refusal rate of U.S. non-immigrant visitor visa applications.

Of the original 15 European Union nations, Greece is the only member not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program. However, Greece has met the current criteria mandated for entry into the Visa Waiver Program, including the 3 percent refusal rate. As of January 1, 2007, Greek passports issued prior to January 1, 2006, are no longer considered valid for travel. Greek nationals are traveling with new, machine-readable passports that are produced using state-of-the-art biometric technology to meet the highest possible security standards and specifications.

Greece is a critical ally of the United States. While I hope that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security will move forward to include Greece in the Visa Waiver Program, I believe that the legislation that I am introducing today is an important step in making that happen.

Joining me in introducing this legislation are Representatives GUS M. BILIRAKIS, ZACK SPACE, JOHN SARBANES, ROBERT WEXLER, SHELLEY BERKLEY, JAMES MCGOVERN, DIANE WATSON, HENRY BROWN, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, DONALD PAYNE, FRANK PALLONE, THADDEUS MCCOTTER, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JESSE JACKSON, MICHAEL McNULTY, EARL BLUMENAUER, BARBARA LEE, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, PATRICK KENNEDY, SCOTT GARRETT, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, LINDA SANCHEZ, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, ROBERT ANDREWS, JAMES LANGEVIN, JOSEPH CROWLEY, and ANNA ESHOO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 364 on Andrews of New Jersey amendment on H.R. 1585, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RYAN J. BAUM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen Marine from my district, Sergeant Ryan J. Baum of Aurora. Sergeant Baum was killed May 18th during a firefight in Karmah, Iraq.

Sergeant Baum was killed in the line of duty a day before he was scheduled to return to Colorado—where he planned to rejoin his wife Amber for the birth of his first child who they planned to name Leia. He was just 27 years old.

Sergeant Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division. He attended basic training in Oklahoma before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, where he met his wife. He then went on to Fort Benning, Georgia where he graduated from Ranger school.

Ryan grew up in Aurora, where he attended Smoky Hill High School and played on the lacrosse team.

Amber—who was trained as an Army medic herself—told the Rocky Mountain News that Ryan was quite passionate about his role as an emergency care Sergeant; and I would ask that the text of that news article be included in the RECORD.

Amber told the News, "He loved the challenge. In combat medicine you have to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out."

Madam Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to Ryan's wife Amber, his parents Richard and Dana, his brother Jason, and his sister, Mande. He will no doubt be missed and loved by all who knew and loved him.

Sergeant Baum served his country bravely, fighting for freedom and democracy against the forces of tyranny and oppression. Americans should never forget his service or sacrifice, and the nation will forever owe a great debt of gratitude to Ryan and his family.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 23, 2007]

SOLDIER "WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST FATHER"
MEDIC DIES IN IRAQ, WAS SET TO FLY HOME FOR
BIRTH OF 1ST CHILD

(By Hector Gutierrez)

When Amber Baum gives birth to her daughter, she'll also be delivering the dream her husband didn't see come true.

Sgt. Ryan J. Baum, 27, was scheduled to fly home from Iraq on Saturday to be with his

wife for the birth of their first child, whom they decided to name Leia.

"He just flipped when he found out he was going to be a father," Amber said Tuesday. "From day one this man wanted me to have his baby."

The paratrooper who was raised in Aurora never made it home. He was killed Friday, one day before his scheduled return. He died from wounds he suffered during a battle near Kalsu, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

"He would have been the best father that God could have placed on this earth," said his wife, who is staying with her parents in Gettysburg, Pa. "His spirit is going to live through his daughter."

Amber also finds comfort in knowing her husband saved lives as an emergency care sergeant, or medic.

"You need to save a life in less than a second, and he loved the challenge. In combat medicine you had to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out," said Amber, who also was trained as an Army medic.

Baum grew up in Aurora and attended Smoky Hill High School, where he played on the lacrosse team. His wife described her husband as the typical "Colorado man."

"I'd never met anybody from Colorado, and he was the definition of a Colorado man," she said. "He loved camping, he loved climbing, he loved kayaking, boating and fishing."

Baum also had loved the military since he was a child.

He was attending college when he was informed in 2003 that he had been accepted into the Army.

"He thought it was the great thing to do, he just thought it was the right thing to do to serve his country," Amber, 21, said.

Baum went to basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, Texas, where he met Amber. The couple carried on a long-distance relationship when Baum went to Fort Benning, Ga., where he graduated from Ranger school with high marks.

"He was always an honor graduate, which was someone who exceeds above everybody else," Amber said.

"He was extremely strong, very physically fit."

After graduating from Ranger school, Baum was accepted into the Special Operations Combat Medic School at Fort Bragg, N.C., considered the Army's elite medical training facility.

"You could compare it to Top Gun in flight school," his wife said.

He graduated from Special Operations Combat Medic School in 2005, the year he and Amber got married. The two were then reassigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in June 2005.

Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

In 2006 he underwent extensive medical training and preparation for his deployment to Iraq. Baum was selected to be senior instructor of the Alaska branch of pre-Ranger school.

On Oct. 7, 2006, he left for Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Baum is survived by his parents, Richard and Dana; brother, Jason; and sister, Mande.

The family has established the "SGT Ryan John Baum Memorial Fund" through US Bank. All proceeds will go to help Baum's wife and their daughter's college education.

ON THE PASSING OF BOWIE CITY
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM AUGUS-
TUS ALESHIRE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a man that meant a great deal to the people of Maryland's Fifth Congressional District—16-year Bowie City Council veteran, William Augustus Aleshire.

Bill's life was one of service. He served his country in the Air Force through two tours in Vietnam. He served his neighbors as a Washington, DC, police officer for more than 20 years. And he served his community as a member of the Bowie City Council—and more significantly, as an impassioned leader who always thought of others before thinking of himself.

Bill was a man that truly understood what public service is all about. Those who knew him best know that he had a fondness for costumes. At Christmas, he made appearances throughout the city of Bowie as Santa Claus. At Easter, he visited local parks and hospitals as the Easter Bunny. And he even made public appearances as "McGruff the Crime Dog" to help keep Bowie's children on the right track.

I always thought of Bill as a partner in our shared pursuit to enhance the quality of life in the city of Bowie—and I know that his boisterous personality and impeccable character will be profoundly missed throughout all of Prince George's County, Maryland.

My condolences—and those of a grateful community—go out to Bill's wife, Clara, to his daughter, Emily, and to everyone whose life was touched by William Augustus Aleshire during this most difficult of times.

HONORING MRS. JUDY HANLEY OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT 105 ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Mrs. Judy Hanley. In June, Mrs. Hanley will retire from School District 105 after 48 years of distinguished service and leadership. Her remarkable contributions to students, colleagues, and the entire District 105 community will always be remembered and her presence will be sorely missed. As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Hanley for her dedication and commitment to providing quality education.

Mrs. Hanley will retire from Hodgkins Elementary School as Assistant Principal. Throughout her impressive career, she has taken an active role in the leadership of the school. Specifically, Mrs. Hanley has served on the curriculum committee, the professional development committee, and the staff development committee. In addition to Mrs. Hanley's committee positions, she has also served

as President of the School District 105 Teacher's Association. Together, these combined efforts have helped to make School District 105 a better place for staff to work and children to learn.

Mrs. Hanley's tireless work has also benefited the local Hodgkins community. She has played a leading role in organizing the local book fair and has acted as a sponsor of the annual pumpkin decorating contest—a Hodgkins tradition. In 1999, the Whispering Oak Girls Scout Council recognized Mrs. Hanley with the Woman of Distinction Award in Education and, in 2000, the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce honored Mrs. Hanley with the Millennium Award. In addition to these special awards, she was also a 1999 and 2000 Legacy Award Finalist.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Judy Hanley for her half-century of service as a dedicated educator. Throughout her career, she has shown a strong commitment to teaching and to her community. As a result of her passion, her work has significantly impacted the lives of countless students, parents, and fellow teachers alike. I thank Judy for her lifelong service to her community and wish her a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day, Congress has a duty to honor our veterans not just with our words but with our deeds. I was proud to join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle yesterday to pass legislation that will help provide our courageous veterans with the resources they have earned and deserve.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation that address some of the new challenges facing veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

H.R. 2199, The Traumatic Brain Injury/Rural Veterans Outreach, ensures that our veterans are properly screened for Traumatic Brain Injury and receive the appropriate treatment. More than half of combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have associated brain injuries, often due to improvised explosive devices. The legislation also expands VA resources to provide rural communities with "mobile vet centers" for mental health services and benefits outreach.

H.R. 612, The Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act helps ensure soldiers with mental health conditions that are often not immediately diagnosed, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, are treated by making them eligible for health care due to combat service for five years after leaving active duty.

H.R. 67, The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act (H.R. 67) allows the VA to partner with state and local governments to reach out to veterans and their families in ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned.

H.R. 2239, The Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act extends eligibility for rehabilitation benefits from the Veterans' Affairs Department.

Finally, H.R. 1470, The Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act requires that chiropractic care and services be provided to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

Since January, the new Democratic-led Congress has worked to honor veterans by improving veterans' health care, strengthening benefits for our men and women in uniform today, and providing long-overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. I was proud to support the measures we passed yesterday as well as any legislation that will improve benefits and services for our brave men and women in uniform and our veterans.

IN HONOR OF TOM FAT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Fat, a dedicated civic leader in San Diego. Tom passed away on May 17, 2007 and is survived by his wife Jenny, daughter Monica, sisters Jean Ann Lai and Mable Moffatt of Sacramento, brothers Dr. Kenneth Fat and Jerry Fat of Sacramento, and two grandchildren.

Tom was born in 1940 and grew up working in the family restaurant in Sacramento, California. The Fat City chain is anchored by Frank Fat's, which became a hangout for politicians and lobbyists in our State's capital. At an early age his father, Frank Fat, instilled in him and his siblings a strong work ethic and commitment to civic involvement.

Tom graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in business, attained a law degree from Hastings School of Law and received his master's of law in taxation at New York University. He also served for 3 years as a captain in the U.S. Army.

After practicing law in Los Angeles for a few years, Tom joined his family in Sacramento to help operate their successful restaurant business. In 1976 Tom visited San Diego to research business opportunities and moved there the following year to operate China Camp, which fused Chinese cuisine with Western style cooking, and Frank Fat's, which was renamed Fat City Steakhouse—still a popular place for local government leaders to come together.

The success of Tom's restaurants assisted in the growth and development of downtown San Diego and the revival of the Little Italy community, which helped to link the area between San Diego International Airport and the city center.

Not only was Tom's entrepreneurship inspiring to all those around him, but his civic leadership was truly commendable. As an avid community leader, Tom served as the Chairman of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, President of the San Diego Restaurant Association, Director of the San Diego Film Commission and as a member of the Little Italy Association.

He worked in the Asian Pacific Islander community to mentor youth to encourage their participation in civic affairs and the political process. Tom developed strong relationships with political leaders of both parties and built