

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST VAL
JOHN BORM

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sense of sadness and regret to honor the short life of Specialist Val John Borm, of Sidney, Nebraska. Val, an infantryman in B Company, 2nd Battalion with the 35th Infantry, was killed late last week when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee.

A 2005 graduate of Sidney High School, Val has been described as an enthusiastic soldier who enjoyed his service for our country. My heart goes out to his parents, Larry and Lolita, and the rest of the Sidney community as they come to terms with this loss.

As we head into the July 4th holiday season, let us remember Val and his comrades who have paid such a high price defending freedom. We owe them our very best.

HONORING MRS. SANDRA L. MERIN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Mrs. Sandra L. Merin, president of the Board of Directors of the District of Columbia Children's Advocacy Center, also known as Safe Shores. This week Mrs. Merin is being honored by the National Children's Alliance as its 2007 Volunteer of the Year for her extraordinary service and leadership on behalf of abused children in the Nation's Capital.

Established pursuant to the Children's Advocacy Center model created over two decades ago by our distinguished colleague Representative ROBERT "BUD" CRAMER of Alabama, Safe Shores is a nonprofit organization that each year helps over 800 children whose lives have been marred by physical abuse, sexual abuse or other violence. Safe Shores' mission is to ensure the safety, health and well-being of abused children in the District of Columbia by uniting the strengths of public, private and community partners.

Mrs. Merin has been a volunteer with Safe Shores for 6 years, during which time she has shown tremendous energy, persistence, and determination in being a voice for children who face abuse, neglect, and painful realities that no individual should ever know.

Mrs. Merin leads the volunteer board of directors, helping to guide the governance of the organization and the board's development and expansion; she has helped forge a relationship between a respected local university and Safe Shores; she has served on the organization's 10th Anniversary Event Committee.

In the true spirit of community service and philanthropy, Mrs. Merin does all her fine work for Safe Shores humbly and without seeking praise or reward. A devoted wife and mother, Sandra Merin exemplifies the spirit that made this country great and continues to sustain us.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Sandra Merin for her dedicated and invaluable support of Safe Shores

and its crucial efforts to reduce trauma and promote healing for the youngest and most vulnerable of Washington, DC's residents.

RETIREMENT OF MIAMI EAST
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER FRED
WORTH

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Fred Worth, a History and Government teacher at Miami East High School in Miami County, Ohio, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the youth of our Nation.

For the last 30 years, Fred has contributed his time and his talents to the betterment of so many young adults and for this I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks. Whether it is coaching baseball, volunteering at St. Patrick's Church or teaching in the classroom, his students and players exhibit the best of our younger generations. I know many of Fred's former students and players have blossomed into wonderful adults and he's played a big part in shaping their character.

I'm proud to call Fred my friend and for that I express my most sincere gratitude. His leadership will be missed, but the footprint he leaves will inspire many to dream big, reach high and achieve great things.

I consider it an honor to represent Fred in Congress and I wish him and his wife Janet a long, happy and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT
JOHN HUNSBERGER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, SGT John Hunsberger.

Sergeant Hunsberger recently returned from Haditha, Iraq, where he served a 7-month deployment. He was assigned to Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps.

The city of Haditha saw unprecedented improvements when Sergeant Hunsberger's Company E served. Upon arrival, Haditha was considered one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq. By the end of Sergeant Hunsberger's deployment, the police force was rapidly growing, attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols were steadily decreasing, and relations with the Iraqi people were improving.

Sergeant Hunsberger earned the purple heart while in service in Haditha.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Hunsberger, whose selfless actions benefit all Americans. Our Nation owes Sergeant Hunsberger and his fellow soldiers a great debt of gratitude for their service.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Unfortunately, my colleague from Texas has failed to closely examine the benefits the Appalachian Regional Commission has provided numerous economically distressed counties in the region since its establishment over 40 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, the ARC has enhanced the region's economic progress by improving living conditions, enhancing the employability of the workforce, and strengthening the region's basic infrastructure.

Simply put, the numbers speak for themselves. Since its creation, the ARC has reduced the number of severely distressed counties in the region by more than 65 percent, cut the poverty rate from 31 percent to 15 percent, and created 1.6 million jobs.

Mr. Chairman, my Upstate New York district has been plagued with struggling local economies for quite some time. Population exodus, significant job losses in the manufacturing sector and slow economic development have all contributed to the downturn in economic prosperity in the region.

These communities are in dire need of exposure to new innovative technologies—such as alternative energy projects—and attracting private investment to spur economic activity and improve their quality of life. The ARC helps our communities do just that. The ARC provides the framework and the guidance for these communities to begin to move towards sustainable economic growth.

Mr. Chairman, six counties in my Upstate New York district have experienced success as members of the ARC. The Village of Sherburne, NY in Chenango County is a great example of how small ARC grants are extremely helpful in leveraging additional funds from State, local, and private sources for economic development initiatives that create jobs. A \$200,000 grant from the ARC for the enhancement of aging water infrastructure in Sherburne—a problem that is plaguing many States in the Northeast—was able to leverage close to \$4 million in State and local community investment.

Mr. Chairman, for each one dollar of ARC funding invested, it leverages \$3.14 in other public funding and \$11.55 in private investment. Now that sounds like a responsible and wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

It would be unwise and irresponsible to deny the people in 13 States in the region the funds to help them achieve socioeconomic parity with the Nation. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose the amendment to zero-out funding for the ARC. Mr. Chairman, I also strongly urge my colleagues to support my freshman colleague from Ohio's

amendment to fully restore the President's FY08 budget request of \$65 million for the ARC in this bill.

THE TOWN OF JANE LEW'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the residents of Lewis County, West Virginia, in recognizing the town of Jane Lew on its 100th birthday.

Situated in north central West Virginia, Jane Lew traces its origins back to 1773. The small community grew slowly over the years before being issued a charter of incorporation by the State Legislature in 1907.

Today, at 100 years young, Jane Lew continues as a thriving small town. Known for being a friendly tight-knit community, the town is home to 40 businesses, a thriving senior center and one of the region's largest Labor Day craft shows.

I congratulate the residents of Jane Lew and look forward to many more birthday celebrations in the future.

RECOGNIZING DALLAS PEACE CENTER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone that was achieved by the oldest and largest peace and justice organization in north Texas. This year the Dallas Peace Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The Dallas Peace Center is based on a vision of reconciliation to promote education, dialogue, and action for peace and justice. Along with other contributions, the Dallas Peace Center hosts forums and conferences advocating for peace in America and the world. Moreover, the center hosts community service initiatives that help promote justice in the north Texas area. The heart of the Dallas Peace Center reaches well beyond its members through its dedication and commitment to the community.

The Dallas Peace Center also meets with other organizations that promote peace including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Amnesty International. The center hosts free workshops and book club meetings so that members and non-members can learn about pertinent subject areas.

This year, the Dallas Peace Center is supporting the upcoming 3rd Women's International Peace Conference, which will bring women leaders from across the world to Dallas to engage in dialogue leading to peace.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am elated to congratulate such an invaluable asset to the Dallas community on its 25th anniversary. I thank the members of this center on their dedicated service to Dallas and the great State of Texas and I wish them many more years of prosperity.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF YEOMAN MICHAEL "JOHN" FOY DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a native Houstonian, who has spent the last 25 years of his life serving our country in the United States Navy.

After graduating from Lubbock Christian University where he was actively involved in the Army ROTC Program, Chief Day entered the Navy on October 16, 1983, and for the next 5 years was involved in 3 different SEAL teams.

While accomplishing numerous tasks with the SEALs, Chief Day committed much of his time to his community. He served as President of the Gateway Housing Council, Director of the Neighborhood Watch Program, and was a member of the San Diego School Board.

After being transferred to Europe in 1989, Chief Day continued achieving duties with the Personnel Support Detachment and many community organizations. Some of those organizations include: Leader of the Scottish Boy Scouts, member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was recipient of the 1995 Outstanding United Services Organization (USO) Award of Europe.

In June 1996, Chief Day was reassigned to Ingleside, Texas, and continued participating in community involvement. During the completion of his assignment with the Afloat Training Group (ATG) and Mine Warfare Training Center, Chief Day became Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter in Ingleside. During his time as commander he received the highest award in the Department of Texas. The J.T. Rutherford honor is awarded to the number one ranked volunteer member in Texas.

In June 1998, Chief Day was relocated to the Middle East and honorably carried out various missions with the Navy and Marine Corps TAFT unit, under the Joint Military Order of the Royal Saudi Navy and Marine Corps forces. After being selected as the number one sailor in Europe and promoted to his current rank of Chief Petty Officer, Chief Day volunteered and deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Throughout his military career Chief Day earned 42 awards, was selected 5 times as sailor of the quarter, and 3 times as Sailor of the Year.

Chief Day is a loving father, husband, and a prime example of a leader who promotes citizenship by participation. As Chief Day's military career comes to a close, I am proud to stand before you and honor a man who has represented his community, state, and country with dignity.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL A. BECHERT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I wish to

commend Army SSG Michael A. Bechert for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Staff Sergeant Bechert was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany. Tragically, Staff Sergeant Bechert passed away on June 14, 2007, due to injuries sustained on May 30, 2007, when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. His sacrifice for his country will forever be remembered by a community that has been devastated by the loss of one of its own.

Staff Sergeant Bechert felt tremendous pride for his country, and it will never be forgotten that he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Staff Sergeant Bechert enlisted in the United States Army, fully aware that danger could arise in any situation. He accepted this so that the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by men, women, and children around the world.

For his efforts, Staff Sergeant Bechert was awarded several military medals and honors, including: the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal for heroism, as well as a Purple Heart for previous injuries sustained in battle. In addition, he will be posthumously awarded an additional Purple Heart and a Bronze Star medal.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Michael treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his wife, Daniela, and his son, Branden Andrew, as well as many other friends and family members whose lives he has touched. My condolences go out to all who knew and loved Michael. His eagerness to serve and his willingness to sacrifice himself is worthy of the highest admiration.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army SSG Michael Bechert. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Chairman, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill charts an important new direction for improved public health and a cleaner environment throughout America. The bill also makes important new investments in renewable energy as we must reduce our dependence on foreign oil and cut