

SSgt Patnaude is the recipient of two Purple Hearts, but praise from his command goes far beyond his service in Iraq. In addition to his impressive record while on-duty, SSgt Patnaude is also deeply involved in community service. SSgt Patnaude volunteers for both Air Force and local community projects, including his role as an Air Force ambassador to the Boy Scouts of America.

I wish to express my admiration and respect for such a fine example of the excellence and heroism that abounds in our Armed Forces. I am proud to have such an exemplary soldier and citizen come from my Congressional District. On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I extend my sincere congratulations to SSgt Patnaude on his selection as the 2007 Airman of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JACK SPARROW

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jack Sparrow, a resident of Englewood, NJ, for his work and devotion to the Hope and Heroes Children's Cancer Fund for the Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian.

Jack Sparrow was born in Brooklyn, NY, on February 12th, 1948. He continued on to St. John's University on a full tennis scholarship. Following graduation, Mr. Sparrow worked in recreational athletics until founding his own home design and construction venture, Quintessence, about 26 years ago. Mr. Sparrow and his company's specialty is designing and building new homes, however his passion remains in historic preservation and restoration. Mr. Sparrow is responsible for numerous historical restoration projects in Bergen County, NJ. Most famously, Mr. Sparrow restored the Brayton Estate in Englewood, originally built in 1857, and his own former house on Franklin Street, built in 1860.

Mr. Sparrow is the proud father of three wonderful children, who have blessed him with four grandchildren. Mr. Sparrow has been very active in his community of Englewood for many years, as a parent, a resident, and a small business owner. He has also been involved in numerous philanthropic organizations as a premier philanthropist, including the American Cancer Society and, most notably, the Hope and Heroes Children's Cancer Fund for Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian.

Today, I would like to recognize Jack Sparrow's dedication to the Hope and Heroes Children's Cancer Fund for Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian and I congratulate him on his admirable philanthropic achievements. I send him my very best wishes and thank him for his dedication.

HONORING LARRY A. SHEHADEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey of Fresno, CA,

the patriarch of Producers Dairy Foods and a generous supporter of California State University, Fresno, and its endeavors, on the occasion of his 100th birthday on July 2, 2007.

Larry was born July 2, 1907, in Pleasant Valley, near Yosemite National Park in California. In 1932, he married Nelly Elayne Maascan in San Francisco. He worked for Parr Soap Company and Ready Whip before buying interest in a company called Producers Dairy in Fresno, California. He moved to Fresno in 1950 to protect his interest in the company, and then purchased the company. His wife Elayne worked by his side, making collections and helping to get the company on its feet.

Since Larry took ownership of Producers, the company has been very successful, outlasting some 50 competitors. It has grown to include northern, central, and southern California. Its products include milk, flavored milk, cheese, butter, cottage cheese, buttermilk, orange juice, juice drinks, eggnog, ice cream, and many other products.

Lastly, Larry has donated to numerous local charities in the Central Valley, including Valley Children's Hospital, Saint Agnes Hospital, and California State University, Fresno. Larry made a major \$3 million donation to the Save Mart Center in Fresno, and the Tower at the Center has been named Larry A. Shehadey Tower. Over the years, Larry also has supported numerous youth programs, including the Boy Scouts and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. His support of Fresno City College has helped hundreds of students through various scholarships.

Larry and Elayne have two children: John and Richard.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Shehadey for his support of the Fresno community and wishing him many more years of happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I missed rollcall vote No. 534 to H.R. 2764 taken on June 21, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

I am opposed to overturning the long-standing Mexico City policy which prohibits funding for foreign non-governmental organizations that perform or promote abortions as a method of family planning. I stand in strong support of H. Amdt. 368, which would remove the language overturning the Mexico City policy.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, recent elections have been marred

by allegations of deceptive practices that are frequently centered in neighborhoods that have a large minority or low-income population. These communities are littered with inaccurate election information in a deliberate effort to prevent voters from casting their ballots on Election Day.

When most people think of violations of the Voting Rights Act they envision Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Riders. However, many don't realize that voter suppression still occurs today.

One example of recent voter suppression hits close to home. During the 2006 election, constituents of my sister, LORETTA, were targeted. Letters were sent to individuals with Spanish surnames, written in Spanish, informing them that immigrants voting in a federal election were committing a crime "that could result in incarceration and possible deportation..." These letters were false. Immigrants who have become naturalized citizens have as much a right to vote as citizens who are born here. In fact, many immigrants have told me that one of the great privileges that accompanies their naturalization is the right to vote in free elections. This letter disseminated false information and ignited fear in the Hispanic community. The clear intention was to suppress the Hispanic vote.

This is just one example—and sadly it is not an isolated incident. These types of practices still occur today, all over the country. That is why I rise in full support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007 and applaud my colleagues for tackling this critical issue.

H.R. 1281 strengthens the prohibitions on and punishments for deceptive practices that aim to keep voters away from the polls. It also requires that the Justice Department prevent and end misinformation campaigns that mislead voters and prevent them from voting.

The right to vote is one of the most cherished rights granted to U.S. citizens. I am proud to support this bill that ensures that those who attempt to infringe on that right are stopped and punished.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW PVT. HENRY OSTENDORF POST 1300

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Pvt. Henry Ostendorf Post 1300 in Granite City, IL.

In 1932, our Nation's veterans faced the same problems as the rest of their fellow citizens as the Nation was in the grips of the Great Depression. Many veterans, due to injuries received while on active duty, were at a greater disadvantage as medical bills continued and their ability to find work was compromised.

On May 24, 1932, VFW Post 1300 was instituted by Post 805 in East St. Louis to serve the veterans of Granite City. There were 58 charter members of the initial organization and 21 charter members of the Auxiliary that was formed on August 12 of the same year. Post

1300 was named in honor of Pvt. Henry Ostendorf, the first service member from Madison County, IL, to be killed in action during World War I.

The first Commander of Post 1300 was Pat Doyle. The first post colors were handmade and are still on display in the post's flag case today. The first Auxiliary President was Shirley Stanfill.

From its inception, Post 1300 was active in the community as well as in advocating for the benefit of veterans. Some early civic activities included an Independence Day fireworks extravaganza, begun in 1938, that thrilled the citizens of Granite City and the surrounding communities. During World War II, Post 1300 began sending cards and gift boxes to area service members who were on active duty.

As with many new organizations, Post 1300's first meeting was held in a private residence, the home of Larkin Conaway. The meetings rotated among the homes of members before moving to the Odd Fellows Hall in Granite City. After considerable fund-raising by the post and the auxiliary, the Wendel Bakery building was purchased and renovated for a post home and the first meeting was held there in April 1946. This served until the new post home was first occupied on May 1, 2006.

Although much has changed since 1932, Post 1300 has continued in its service to veterans and to its community. From raising money for veterans, visiting those sick and injured in the hospital and donating flags to area schools to promote patriotism, Post 1300 has been true to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of VFW Pvt. Henry Ostendorf Post 1300 both past and present on 75 years of serving veterans and the people of the Granite City, IL, area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall No. 564, an amendment to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, H.R. 2643. I intended to vote "no" on the amendment, which would have imposed an unacceptable cut to the National Endowment for the Arts. I am pleased that my colleagues did not support this amendment, and I congratulate the gentleman from Washington, Interior Subcommittee Chairman NORM Dicks, who provided such important support for the arts and humanities in his subcommittee's legislation.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, a funny thing happened during a routine security check on classified information in the Executive Branch. It was blocked by the Vice President of the United States. The fact that the Vice President refused to comply with a security requirement imposed by the President is deeply disturbing. However, what is more chilling is the fact is that he defended his action by maintaining that he is not really within the Executive branch and hence, not within the reach of the Executive Order. In classrooms throughout our country students are rightly taught that the American Constitution establishes three branches of government—the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial. Despite his best efforts, there is no "Dick Cheney" branch of government.

So, I rise today in support of Mr. Emanuel's amendment to strip the funding for the Vice President's office within the executive branch based upon his assertion that it does not in fact exist. The Vice President's position that he is outside of the reach of the Executive Order adds another act in the Cheney Theater of the Absurd. The Vice President seems to believe that for every rule there is a "Cheney exception". He doesn't want to be bound by the same rules that apply to everyone else.

As highlighted by the ongoing Washington Post series on the Vice President, his worldview has infected the policies and practices of the entire Bush Administration. As a Federal Appeals Court noted, the Administration's attempt orchestrated by Mr. CHENEY to rewrite the Clean Air Act could be valid "only in a Humpty-Dumpty world" where everything is upside down. Nowhere has the Cheney approach had more impact and created more damage than in the area of national security policy. His blatant misrepresentation about the situation in Iraq before and during the war have weakened our national security and diminished our credibility around the world. After all it was DICK CHENEY who said: "Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction. There is no doubt that he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies, and against us." This statement we now know to be wrong.

Regarding Saddam Hussein's connections with Al Qaeda, despite repeated findings to the contrary by Executive branch agencies, bipartisan Congressional Committee and the Baker Hamilton Commission that there is no evidence of collaboration between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, the Vice President continues to repeat the erroneous claim.

Once the war started he was equally wrong in his assessment of the war claiming two years ago that the Iraqi insurgency was in its "last throws".

Following a report in January of this year where the President finally acknowledged deep troubles in Iraq, the Vice President indicated that the Administration has achieved "enormous successes" in Iraq and declared that critics and the media "are eager to write off this effort or declare it a failure."

Regarding the conditions for detaining the Bush Administration's "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo Bay the Vice President said: "They got a brand new facility down at Guan-

namo. We spent a lot of money to build it. They're very well treated down there. They're living in the tropics. They're well fed. They've got everything they could possibly want."

It has been difficult to determine which of the Vice President's unique traits epitomizes his arrogance of power more, his belief that he is above the law or his complete and utter disregard for the facts. This week however, a more disturbing tendency has emerged, his complete abandonment of reality.

Still if the Vice President insists that he is not a part of the Executive Branch then his office in the Executive Branch must be unnecessary and is no longer in need of funding.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I missed roll call vote 532 to H.R. 2764 taken on June 21, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted aye.

As an ardent supporter of the rights of the unborn, I stand in strong support of H. AMDT. 364, which would restore the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief authorization provision requiring 33 percent of HIV/AIDS prevention funding to be spent on abstinence and fidelity promotion programs.

IN HONOR OF JIM BOWMAN, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a great American, Mr. Jim Bowman, of the United States Air Force Academy.

After 49 years of service to the Academy, Mr. Bowman has announced his retirement from his position of Assistant Athletic Director in charge of recruiting support for 27 varsity sports teams. Throughout his tenure, Bowman has led numerous sports teams, and has held various positions within the athletic department.

Jim Bowman first came to the Air Force Academy in 1958 and was head junior varsity football coach for 4 years before becoming head freshman coach. He served as frosh coach until the 1975 season when he again assumed the J.V. program. In his five seasons as J.V. Head Coach, his teams compiled a 24-4-1 record and his 1963 and 1975 teams were undefeated. After the 1975 season, he retired as a coach to devote his full duties to the candidate counseling and admissions support program.

His successes as a coach stem from his own on-field prowess, as Jim Bowman was a successful high school and collegiate athlete. Bowman, an all-conference player for Charlevoix High School, went undefeated all 4 years he played. He later attended the University of Michigan, and received his varsity letter as a center in his senior year.

Over his tenure at the Air Force Academy, he was a member of the staff that participated