

treasure and to preserve and protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens.

I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company for all the work they do in their community. We wish them another 60 years of heroic lifesaving and honorable stewardship as they continue to keep West Caln and West Brandywine Townships safe.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DREW
JENSEN

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, let us mourn the loss of an American Hero.

Just a short time ago, Captain Drew Jensen succumbed to wounds he received in Iraq.

Drew was critically wounded in combat on May 7, 2007 in the Diyala Province while serving with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment north of Baghdad.

Captain Jensen was an officer in the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry—it is more commonly known as the “Stryker Brigade.”

Forty-eight young soldiers left Fort Lewis and never returned to duty. The Strykers were sent into the toughest neighborhood in Iraq. Their mission was to meet Al Qaeda on its ground and take it back.

It is with a heavy heart the Pacific Northwest welcomes home the Brigade: they served honorably; they left Iraq better than they found it, but the cost was high—the losses irreplaceable.

Captain Jensen knew from an early age he wanted to serve his country: he was a soldier that lived and died with courage, integrity, and selflessness.

As a young man he worked hard and secured for himself the opportunity to attend West Point.

After graduation in 2002, Drew approached the Army with absolute commitment.

Captain Jensen served two combat tours in Iraq—knowing that his men depended upon his willingness to lead from the front and fulfill the call of our Nation.

At home, Stacia did her best to soldier on. An Army family knows the risks of combat. She supported Drew on and off the battlefield through some of the toughest circumstances, the harshest moments any family can encounter.

I ask that we take pause: cease the frenzied activities of modernity for just a moment and reflect upon the sacrifices we are asking of young soldiers like Drew Jensen.

Drew was a casualty of war: he served with distinction, gave his last full measure of devotion, and ultimately sacrificed his life—and his family’s future—to answer the call of his men in mortal combat.

Leaders are not born, they are not made—leaders such as Drew Jensen choose.

Drew saw a problem and fixed it. He saw that his men needed help, and he helped. He was a good officer that recognized the burdens of command—an American that made a choice to be a part of something larger—to live a life that mattered.

My colleagues: the legacy of Captain Drew Jensen is a lesson for us all.

Drew made a choice to serve his country; Drew made a choice to serve in Iraq; Drew made a choice to make his community a better place.

There are no words that can heal the wounds of our hearts today; Oregon is far dimmer than it was with Drew a part of our community.

Forever changed are the lives of Stacia, the Jensen Family, and the community of Damascus.

We cannot undo any of the choices that brought us to this moment here, today.

But we can recognize the courage and bravery of one of our own.

We can celebrate the life and legacy of Drew Jensen.

And we can keep his spirit alive through remembering all that he was—all that he meant—all that he believed in.

Let us renew our commitment to making this America, this Oregon, this community a place worthy of such sacrifice.

Let us begin today.

AIRSPACE REDESIGN UNFAIRLY
IMPACTS MINORITY COMMUNITIES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my disappointment that I was not permitted to offer an amendment to this bill after testifying before the Rules Committee yesterday. My amendment would have addressed concerns about the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Airspace Redesign. While all of us recognize the pressing need to improve the current system in order to promote efficiency and reduce flight delays, the implementation of this particular plan will have a disproportionate negative impact on some minority communities, including the city of Elizabeth, New Jersey, which is partially located in my Congressional District. Unfortunately, our government has a history of causing minority communities to bear a disproportionate share of undesirable environmental effects, whether it is air noise, air pollution, or toxic waste dumps—these objectionable projects too often end up in poor and minority communities. In response to this injustice, Executive Order 12898, which was signed by President Clinton on February 11, 1994 and reaffirmed by President Bush, aims to ensure that environmental justice is considered when federal agency decisions are made. The population of the city of Elizabeth is about 65 percent non-white, with most minorities being Hispanic or African American.

The Elizabeth community is especially alarmed about the proposed plan because under a previous procedure in the 1950s where planes “fanned out” over Elizabeth, there were three tragic airplane crashes in a very short time period—from December 1951 to February 1952.

Under the Airspace Redesign proposal, high aircraft noise exposure in the immediate vicinity of the airport increases from 53,276 residents to 100,893 residents in Union County, where the city of Elizabeth is located. It also increases from 94,407 residents to 131,916 residents in Essex County. In some neighborhoods, the decibel levels could rise to a de-

gree that the noise will be 5 times greater than it is now. These actions have caused many of us to question whether or not the FAA properly and adequately met their responsibilities under the environmental justice Executive Order. Therefore, my amendment would have stipulated that before implementing the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Redesign project, the FAA Administrator must submit a report to Congress explaining how the agency has met the requirements relating to environmental concerns in minority communities.

Needless to say, I am disappointed that the Rules Committee did not accept my amendment, but I have received assurances that Congress will keep up the pressure to ensure that the FAA meets its responsibilities to all of those who are impacted by the airspace redesign plan.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BECKMANN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Frank Beckmann upon the 35th anniversary of his distinguished broadcasting career at WJR, the “Great Voice of the Great Lakes.”

Since his broadcasting career commenced on September 11, 1972 as a WJR news reporter at the age of 22, Frank Beckmann steadily rose through the ranks and served as the station’s sports director and only play-by-play announcer to cover all four Detroit sports teams at least once. Today, he stands as a beloved—in most quarters—Detroit radio personality.

Frank’s status was cemented in February of 2003, when the Frank Beckmann Show debuted. Over the ensuing years, Frank’s commitment to providing fair and candid news coverage has earned him a legion of fans and countless awards, which he is trying to count regardless. Faithfully carrying on the WJR tradition, the Frank Beckmann Show features on-air interviews, in-depth issue analyses, reliable business reports, and continuous sports coverage. Frank’s enduring style and popularity with listeners has earned the attention of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters who awarded the Frank Beckmann Show two “Best in Class Awards,” Broadcast Personality/Team of the Year 2006 and Best News Special: 9/11 Anniversary Broadcast From New York City. The Detroit Press Club Foundation also named him the 2007 Michigan Excellence in Journalism winner and he was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. With a radio personality fans have come to know and love, Frank Beckmann’s extraordinary accomplishments are well deserved.

Madam Speaker, over the years, Frank has related audiences with his laid-back humor, probing interviews, and male pattern baldness. After 35 years of award-winning broadcasts on WJR, Frank truly is the best in his class. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank Beckmann’s loyalty to his listeners, dedication to truth, and legendary contributions to talk radio, our community and our country.

VINCENT SUPPAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the leaders of the arts in my district, and someone who has dedicated his life to bringing the gift of music to countless others. Vincent Suppan was born in 1920 and grew up in West Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. He is a part of a proud family who has tirelessly led the Catasauqua Band for 100 years. Vincent's cousins conducted the band from 1907 to 1947, when he took over as conductor. This "passing of the baton" has ensured that a dedicated conductor has led

the Catasauqua Band for 100 years, a feat that reflects on the Suppan family's passion for music and love of their community.

Today, Vince is a retired associate professor of speech pathology at West Chester University. He still resides near the University, faithfully commuting over 100 miles on Wednesdays to lead rehearsals in Catasauqua. He has never lost his love of leading the Band in "run-throughs" of music from the Band's extensive library. He often regales the Band with fascinating stories from his long career. The combination of challenging sight-reading and great tales makes rehearsals a delight for all the Band members. Among the many local musicians who played with the Catasauqua Band is Ronald Demkee, now conductor of the Allentown Band. Mr. Demkee still recalls the first time he was paid

to play tuba under Vince, receiving the going rate of \$2, which was good money for a high school student at the time. Vince provided Mr. Demkee with his first opportunity to play a solo with a professional band, which is just one example of the numerous lives Mr. Suppan has touched.

The Catasauqua Band continues to this day due to the passion of one man: Vincent Suppan. Leading this band for 60 years is a testament to the dedication and hard work of Vincent, and a reflection of the passion he brings to every performance. I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating Vincent Suppan for his tireless leadership of the treasured Catasauqua Band, and for all the great work he has and continues to do for all those who love music.