

Navy by enlisting when he finished high school. After basic training in Orlando, Florida, Commander DeWitt completed tours in Diego Garcia and Pensacola, Florida before being accepted at Auburn University as part of the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program.

Commander DeWitt received a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and was commissioned as an Ensign in August of 1994. He has served aboard many of the Navy's finest ships, including the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis*, the USS *Stout*, and the USS *Thomas Gates*. In August of 2004, Commander DeWitt was ordered to U.S. Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee, where he served as the Head of Sea Special Assignments and the Head of Enlisted Separations.

Along with completing both his Master's degree in Management from Troy State University and his doctoral work in Management from Northcentral University, Commander DeWitt has received numerous citations to include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Good Conduct Medal.

Madam Speaker, please join me in again congratulating Lieutenant Commander DeWitt on his record of service and wishing him, his wife Gillis, and their three sons Tyler, Justin and Andrew a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement. May God bless him and his family.

NEW MISSION AT CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, earlier today, the 27th Special Operations Wing (SOW) assumed control of Cannon Air Force Base, becoming the Western base for the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). This is a great day in the history of the Air Force, and I am proud to represent the brave men and women in uniform who will be serving as the "tip of the spear" at Cannon in defense of our nation.

First, I must note the closing of an honorable chapter in the history of Cannon, the departure of the 27th Fighter Wing. In October 1951, the 140th Fighter-Bomber Wing was established as the first Air Force mission at Cannon. Over the next eight years, various missions and units were housed at the Eastern New Mexico base until 1959 when the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing was activated. Since that time we have seen thousands of soldiers serve at Cannon, providing the air support and fighter capability with great distinction. I would like to personally acknowledge Colonel Scott West for his steadfast command of the 27th over the past year and a half.

The changing of command that occurred this morning swept in a new era for the base. Colonel Timothy Leahy, who is not new to New Mexico having served three separate missions at Kirtland Air Force base, has assumed command of the 27th SOW. There is no doubt that this elite group of soldiers will bring substantial pride to our state and I hope that in the coming months they feel as comfortable calling New Mexico home as the previous occupants at Cannon.

Finally, for two long years the communities of Clovis and Portales worked strenuously with unwavering determination to ensure that its Air Force base would not be closed. I want to recognize the tireless, selfless leadership of General Hanson Scott, Randy Harris, Mayors David Lansford and Orlando Ortega, and the entire Committee of 50 in working to bring AFSOC to Cannon. I am certain that the men and women of the 27th SOW will find assistance, comfort and camaraderie in the neighbors of Clovis and Portales.

I look forward to seeing the years ahead as the 27th SOW grows and matures. In times of war and in times of peace, these dedicated soldiers will serve with staunch perseverance and patriotism. I am honored to represent them and I pledge to work with them as they continue the rich, storied history of Cannon Air Force Base.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM

HON. JOHN R. "RANDY" KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. KUHL. Madam Speaker, the poem below was written by Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Corporal Jason L. Dunham of the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Dunham gave his life for his country while serving in Iraq, absorbing the brunt of a grenade explosion in a selfless act of bravery on April 14, 2004, thereby saving the lives of two of his fellow Marines. Corporal Dunham's undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of certain death earned him the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest award for valor, on January 11, 2007. Corporal Dunham is survived by his family in Scio, New York.

One,

One Fine Thing . . .

As to this our world, your heart so surely brings!

All in your choices,

All through your most sacred inner voices . . .

As to our Nation, the blessings you've bestowed upon her . . . which so ring!

All in The Face of Death,

When, your oh so magnificent courage so seems to crest!

For in these, are the things which so makes an angel's heart sing . . . no less!

All in that moment!

There between life and death, A Freedom Fighter . . . at his best!

All in these moments, of which we are now so left . . . to carry with us, until our deaths!

Children of God!

Who cry, when their brothers and sisters in arms . . . so fall and die!

Yet, marching on . . . ever onward until the evil is gone, as where courage is born!

To Give All!

To Hear That Most Noble Of All Calls!

To go forth, in that of death's course . . . for

One Fine Thing, While Standing Tall!

To give up your young promising life!

To go so boldly forth, all in your course . . . and so gallantly to sacrifice!

But All, to stand In The Shadow of Death . . . and not look away, nor think twice!

Rise . . . to Heaven, my Fine Son!

Jason, for you in your angelic glow . . . have Heaven so won!

As you died, so others may live . . . your life, the most precious of all gifts one could give!

While, in That Moment,

When, who lives and who dies . . . where the most splendid of all courage so lies!

As it was you, Jason the one so who my fine son . . . The Congressional One, who so gave his life!

As now I cry!

Knowing full well, how so beautifully you died . . .

Maybe a child, who'll save the world . . . a boy or girl, from that One Fine Thing unfurled which lies!

To bring, in your being . . . and in your life . . .

Could you, would we, would you . . . the courage find, in this your life's meaning so divine!

To somehow find, to give to this our world all in our time . . . but, One Fine Thing!

PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS RESEARCH, CURE, AND CARE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act, H.R. 1188 and to encourage my colleagues to lend their support.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there is limited treatment and no cure. Ten to thirty percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. On average, there are 17,000 people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in each congressional district.

Cristy Boisvert is one constituent in my district living with psoriasis. Cristy was diagnosed with psoriasis when she was six months old. Growing up with psoriasis was difficult. Her mother spent countless nights applying medication to her scalp, followed by countless mornings washing the greasy mess out of her hair before school.

In junior high, Cristy played on the basketball team. One day she wore shorts to practice, which revealed the flaky psoriasis plaques on her legs. Her friends stood around making fun of her. They called her "Fungi" because they said it looked like mushrooms were growing on her legs. You can only imagine how much those words hurt her.

When Cristy was 20, she began to think about whether she wanted to have children. She reflected back on all of the grief that living with psoriasis caused her and questioned whether she wanted to take the risk of passing that down to another human being.

Cristy is now in her 30s, and she is ecstatic about the fact that she can do something positive about psoriasis. As an active member of the National Psoriasis Foundation, she is working to ensure that young people in the future will not have to endure the same ridicule that she did.

The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act will expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research and ensure access to care and treatment for these diseases. Despite the serious adverse effects that psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have on individuals and families, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are under-recognized and under-funded by our nation's research institutions and public health agencies. On average, the NIH has spent less than one dollar for each person with psoriasis in the last ten years. H.R. 1188 calls on the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to expand and intensify research on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and to coordinate those efforts with the NIH. The bill directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a patient registry to collect much-needed longitudinal data on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis so we can begin to understand the long-term impact of these conditions and evaluate the effects of various therapies.

Of serious concern is that people with psoriasis are at elevated risk for a myriad of comorbidities, including, but not limited to, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and mental health conditions. To help address this, H.R. 1188 authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convene a summit of researchers, public health professionals, representatives of patient advocacy organizations and policymakers to review current efforts in research, treatment, and quality-of-life maintenance being conducted by federal agencies whose work involves psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and their related comorbidities. Lastly, the legislation also directs the Secretary of HHS to commission a study from the Institutes of Medicine to evaluate and make recommendations to address health insurance and prescription drug coverage as they relate to medications and treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last four decades, and am grateful to the Foundation and its members and staff for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for those with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in my district. I also would like to personally thank my constituent, Cristy Boisvert, for all her work.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAVAL AVIATION TORPEDO SQUADRON THREE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, the men and women who served their country during World War II deserve our deep respect and reverence. The Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three (VT-3) embodies the spirit and achievement of this era, through their bravery and sacrifice. Today we honor their sacrifice.

VT-3 served valiantly in the Pacific while assigned to both the carriers *Yorktown* and *Saratoga*. While on the *Yorktown*, the squad-

ron was pivotal in the victory at the battle of Midway. The squadron lost many pilots and planes, but the VT-3 squad regrouped and still participated in the Pacific theatre.

In the Philippines, South China Sea, and Japan, the VT-3 squad flew with valor. They provided air support in the invasions of Leyte, Luzon, and Iwo Jima. They flew missions over Hong Kong and Okinawa, as well as taking part in the first strikes on Tokyo.

They are an example of exemplary service and heroism. The squadron earned four Presidential Unit Citations, six Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medals and the prestigious silver star was awarded to Lt. Frank F. Frazier for his actions in the battle of Formosa.

The Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three fought valiantly to defend our Nation, flying some of the most difficult and dangerous missions in the Pacific Theater. Through their sacrifice, our Nation endured, earning our lasting honor and respect.

As a Member of the 110th House of Representatives, I hereby commend the members of the Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three for their gallantry and service during World War II and we extend to them our sincere best wishes in the future.

AMERICAN FAMILY FARM AND RANCH PROTECTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join with my colleague, Representative PHIL ENGLISH, to introduce the American Family Farm and Ranch Protection Act," which will help conserve and protect our nation's vital lands, farms, and ranches.

The voluntary placement of a conservation easement on private land is a very effective and successful tool for protecting and conserving our Nation's open spaces and sensitive lands.

In 1997, in order to encourage the conservation of sensitive lands and farms, Congress enacted an estate tax exclusion for land placed under a conservation easement. Unfortunately, the original bill capped the exclusion at \$500,000. Our bill would update and increase this estate tax exclusion to \$5 million.

Given the significant rise in land values over the past decade, the increased exclusion provides a meaningful and in many cases necessary increase in the estate tax incentive as a way to encourage and allow individuals to place conservation easements on their land.

Our Nation's family farmers, whose most significant asset is often their land, provide a glaring example of why this legislation is needed. When the owner of the farm dies, surviving family members are often forced to sell all or a significant portion of the farm just to pay the estate tax bill. This legislation would help ensure that families are not forced to sell the farm and that their land resources are available for agricultural use by future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Thursday afternoon, September 29 on very urgent business.

Had I been present for the two votes which occurred I would have voted "no" on H.R. 3567, rollcall vote No. 922; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3567, rollcall vote No. 923.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orange County Chamber of Commerce in Montgomery, New York as it celebrates two significant events in the history of its organization. The Chamber is marking the 10th Anniversary of the merger of Orange County's two major chamber organizations, which united to form the current Chamber of Commerce on this day in 1997. Additionally, the Chamber is commemorating the 125th anniversary of the formation of one of the predecessor chambers in 1882.

In recent years, Orange County has consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing counties in New York State. As this growth has occurred, the Orange County Chamber of Commerce has provided critical leadership in creating and supporting an environment in which business will succeed while also working to enhance the quality of life throughout Orange County's communities. The Chamber continues to serve as a consistent and effective advocate for businesses throughout Orange County and the Hudson Valley region.

Through their committed efforts and diligence, the Board of Directors and staff at the Chamber have expanded its membership to nearly 2,400 businesses and individuals, making it one of the ten largest in the State of New York and the largest between Long Island and Albany. This strong network of community and business leaders coupled with the technical support, expertise and promotional services provided by the Chamber has contributed to the ongoing expansion of business opportunities in Orange County.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to salute the Orange County Chamber of Commerce on the anniversary of these important milestones. I'd like to congratulate Chamber President John A. D'Ambrosio, outgoing Board President Kunwar Nagpal, and incoming Board President Jim Smith for their leadership and hard work. I'd also like to recognize the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Chamber for their dedicated efforts to make Orange County, New York a better place to live, work and visit.