

I learned that he was a caring and selfless individual by his actions. His life impacted those he came in contact with, extending beyond his friends and family. His service to others made a lasting impression not only on Suffield, Connecticut residents, but it extended to the citizens of Iraq and fellow service members within the armed forces. Stephen's loss has deeply impacted those that knew him and his family."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"We knew him as a wonderful friend, student, track teammate, and overall outstanding citizen. Please help facilitate this honor to his memory."—Friends of the Bixler Family.

"A unique way of remembering our own and the tremendous price families pay for something others may take so lightly."

"Steve was an exceptional young man that my wife and I knew well. He attended our church and was an altar boy. His dream was always to be a Marine and he gave his life in the service of his country doing what he wanted to do. We have shared many moments with his mom and dad, Linda and Richard, grieving over the loss of someone so young."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"In my opinion, there would be no better way to honor both Stephen and his family than by renaming the Post Office. Stephen is a hero, and I believe this is the very least he deserves for the sacrifice that he has made for his country. It is now our turn to repay our respect and honor by renaming the Suffield Post Office in Cpl. Bixler's name."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"My senior year I attained a car for the first time and I would drive Steve to practice and home at the end of the day. We got along great, we could always make each other laugh at the littlest things and others on the team would laugh with us. We used to hang out so much the athletic director didn't realize I was two years older than Steve. I had a great time with him and I will truly miss him. Steve was a great student and enjoyed by everyone, he was a talented young man."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"Stephen Bixler was one of my older brother's closest friends. They ran cross-country and track together in high school and I remember always going to the meets and watching them compete. Steve was quite possibly one of the nicest guys on the team, if not the entire high school. Stephen entering the Marines and defending his country was something he felt passionately about. I support your idea to rename the Post Office in memory and honor of Stephen Bixler. What he did for our country may not be known to many people throughout the country, but it is widely known throughout our town and I believe that this renaming would be an honor in his family's eyes."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"Stephen graduated from Suffield High School in 2003, 2 years after our son and one year before our daughter. He and our son Jon were good friends, having competed together in Cross Country and Track & Field at Suffield High. During the years that Jon had his license, and Steve was still too young, Steve was the one exclusive passenger who was picked up each morning on the way to school and returned home each evening after a meet or practice. The two of them, and the old truck they rode in back and forth to school, were men on a mission who could only be deterred by the chance to do 'donuts' in an empty high school parking lot with a fresh covering of snow!

"During the summer, they were part of a small group on the Cross Country team who attended running camp in Vermont. They always enjoyed entertaining us with the stories they brought home about the camp antics and the occasional practical jokes."

"Steve was a model student, with a warm personality and a great sense of humor. He was also quiet and serious with a great respect for his family and country. All during high school, Steve's friends knew his first dream was to be a U.S. Marine. When many of his friends left for the 'footloose' life of being new college students, Steve left for the most difficult job—Marine training. As a marine, Steve's assignments throughout the world had one cause and that was to assist people in need. Steve was a young man that any parent would be honored to have as a son."—Parents of one of Bixler's close friends.

"The Iraq war is not a subject that comes and goes—it is always on the air. Its everlasting presence reminds me of Stephen Bixler—in my studies, watching the news, even conducting research at work.

"Naming the post office after Steve would not just be an honor to Steve but also a gift to the people of Suffield. Though we can never bring Steve back, and no building can compensate for his death, feeling like we have paid tribute to Steve is a necessary part of the community's healing."

"I graduated High School with Stephen Bixler and considered him a friend. I remember going to Stephen's house to play when I was very young and I remember riding the bus with him for as long as I can remember. For all of my years as a student in Suffield, I can remember Stephen's house was always extensively decorated by his mother. When these decorations went from hoping for his return, to mourning his loss, the effect was well felt throughout the community in the deepest, most heartfelt way. Stephen was well liked and greatly respected, and will forever be appreciated. As long as Stephen's family supports the honor then I believe nothing should stand in the way of this."—Classmate and friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"Stephen was my cousin. He lost his life fighting for us in Iraq. Stephen loved what he did, being a Marine. He lost his life doing what he loved. Growing up, Stephen emulated the "All American Kid". An athlete, a scholar and Eagle Scout. He defined what all Marines should strive to be. Aside from all these things, Stephen was a son, a brother, and a friend to many. He has made our family proud, and anyone who knew him. Anyone who didn't know him missed out on a wonderful person."—Cousin of Cpl. Bixler.

"As a former classmate and teammate of Corporal Stephen R. Bixler, I can attest to his deserving the honor of the Suffield Post Office name. Steve was a valued member of every team, class, and organization that he participated in. He was always there to encourage creativity, determination, and strength in the people around him. Steve lived his dream by joining the Marines. He seemed to have found a home in his service. As a Marine, he was able to stand out from the crowd, just as he did as an athlete and intellectual. Steve deserves this honor because he gave his life for his country. Steve deserves this honor because he was one of America's finest soldiers. However, Steve mostly deserves this honor because of who he was as a person. He was kind and sought out the best in those around him. He was an inspiration to everyone and that is why the Suffield Post Office should be named the Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office."—Classmate of Cpl. Bixler.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JANE EVENS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mrs. Jane Bridges Ferrenbach Evens. Jane has been selected as the 2007–2008 Freedoms Foundation—Missouri (St. Louis) Chapter "Spirit of '76—Patriot." The Freedoms Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close link between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

Jane has been an active member of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge since 1972, organizing and promoting the chapter with enthusiasm. She served as the National Chair of Development for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for the last 6 years and is currently acting Senior Advisor to the Development Department. Jane has also volunteered her time and energy to numerous other organizations, including the St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Youth Emergency Service, Hosea House, Girls Club of St. Louis, Kirkwood Rotary Club, to name just a few.

A native of Webster Groves, Missouri, Jane is married to Robert D. Evens. She has two successful daughters, both working in the medical field, and two grandchildren.

As one who has a deep and abiding love for American history and the Patriots, who have gone before us, I want to thank Jane for her commitment to preserving our history and congratulate her for being selected 2007–2008 "Spirit of '76—Patriot."

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN HENKES

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Racine, Wisconsin, native and author Kevin Henkes is to be commended for his numerous literary achievements. Recognized as an outstanding children's author, Henkes has contributed to the national landscape of children's literature and delighted children with his thoughtful mixture of words and art. Born in Racine, Henkes attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently lives in Madison with his wife, Laura, and their children. Several of Henkes' books have garnered awards, including the prestigious Caldecott for *Kitten's First Full Moon* in 2005. He also received the Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Award for a Wisconsin author/illustrator for *Kitten's First Full Moon* (2005), *Sun and Spoon* (1997), *Protecting Marie* (1995), and *Words of Stone* (1993). On October 14, 2007, the Racine Public Library will honor Henkes when one of his works, *Julius, the Baby of the World*, is performed as a musical for over 4,600 first- and second-grade students and the general public. The Downtown Rotary Club, Friends of the Library, Hughes House, Johnson Foundation,

Junior League of Racine, Kiwanis Club of West Racine, Over Our Head Players, the Racine Community Foundation, and the Racine Public Library Endowment Fund have all contributed to this celebration.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS JAMES DOSTER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SFC James Doster of White Hall, AR, who died on September 29, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 38 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations in Iraq.

Sergeant First Class Doster graduated from White Hall High School before attending Hendrix College. While in college, his deep sense of unity and teamwork led him to join the United States Army and honorably serve his country. Although he was a quiet man, everyone who had the privilege to meet and know him was immediately made aware that he had a big heart and could see how much he cared for all those around him. He was a dedicated family man who was always there for his family—especially his two daughters, whom he adored.

Sergeant First Class Doster joined the Army in 1990, and his proud service will continue to live on and serve as an inspiration to the many soldiers who knew him and fought alongside him in combat. He served in the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley, Kansas. His bravery, courage and dedication to the Army are exemplified by his 17 years of service. He believed so deeply in the Army that he also served as a recruiter helping others gain the passion and sense of camaraderie, service and love of his country that he possessed.

SFC James Doster will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, a father and a husband. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, Amanda Doster; his two daughters, Kathryn and Grace; his mother, Billie Doster; and his brother, Rob Doster. He will be missed by his family, his community, his country and all those who knew him. I honor Sergeant First Class Doster for his bravery, his patriotism and his service and I will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES JERRY BOYINGTON, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Baldwin County and indeed the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of James Jerry Boyington, Sr.

Jerry Boyington, former State senator and Baldwin County commissioner, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A native of Bay Minette and a longtime resident of Fairhope, Jerry was a decorated major in the U.S. Army and veteran of the Vietnam War, and he served his country with honor and distinction.

Jerry's legacy in Baldwin County and the State of Alabama will certainly be his hard work and dedication to the people of southwest Alabama. In addition to serving in the Alabama Senate and as chairman of the Baldwin County Commission, he also served as Baldwin County administrator and chief corrections officer for the Baldwin County sheriff's office.

Jerry's political savvy, combined with his many friendships in the legislature, helped county officials pass zoning legislation, which has proven critical to the county's growth.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. James Jerry Boyington Sr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Linda Boyington; their daughter, Shanna Boyington; their sons, Chris Boyington and Clay Boyington; his brother, Curtis Boyington, his sisters, Lucille Adams, Foy Kusion, and Jewell Boyington, and two grandchildren, James J. Boyington, III, and Anna Boyington—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very serious issue facing the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

On July 15, 2007 aboard the United States Coast Guard barque *Eagle* training vessel, a Third Class male minority cadet returned from watch to his stateroom to find a small noose in his bag. The next morning at an all-hands muster, the cadet stepped forward to show the entire crew the noose and make clear that he was offended by it. Although the person responsible could not be identified, the commander of the *Eagle* held an "all hands" meeting to outline the clear standards of conduct and expectations for Coast Guard cadets. The Academy followed up by conducting race-relations training for all cadets. Alarming, the officer conducting the training later found a noose in her office as well.

I recently had the opportunity to speak to the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Thad Allen, to express my concern over these incidents. Racism and hate have no place at our military academies, on our academic campuses or in our society. Our discussion made it clear to me that the Coast Guard takes this matter seriously, and is working to get to the root of the problem and identify the perpetrators. The Coast Guard

Investigative Service is currently reviewing this matter and I am confident that they will do all they can to ensure that those responsible for these hateful acts are held accountable for their actions.

We must make clear that actions like this have no place at the Coast Guard Academy—a facility that is shaping future officers responsible for the protection of our nation. The image of the noose is an enduring symbol of the brutal lynching that occurred in the south during the civil rights era and its powerful effect should not be taken lightly nor its evocation tolerated. It is important that the Coast Guard, and our society, sends a strong message to these misinformed individuals that there is zero tolerance for racism and hate.

The Coast Guard Academy has always held the highest standard of academic excellence and world-class training for those who protect our shores. The Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty are more than simple words—they are a way of life that the Academy strives to engrain in every cadet.

A vast majority of the cadets represent the best the Coast Guard and our nation have to offer: bright, dedicated young men and women who demonstrate tolerance and respect for each other, regardless of race or background. Those who do not meet the Coast Guard's core values simply have no place at its Academy.

CONGRATULATING MR. DENNIS
HAHN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF ST. LOUIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mr. Dennis Hahn. Dennis has been selected to receive the 2007 Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge's George Washington Honor Medal. The Freedoms Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close link between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

Dennis is a charter member of the St. Charles, Missouri chapter of the Fernando de Leyba, the Sons of the American Revolution, founded in 1997. He is a charter member and Vice President of the Missouri Postal History Society since 2001. Dennis is an active member and Treasurer at the First Baptist Church of St. Charles, Missouri, as well as Sunday school teacher, Chairman and member of numerous committees, current President of the school board, and member of the St. Charles City Economic Development Commission.

Dennis is married to Shirley Hahn, a public school teacher for the St. Charles school district. He is also the father of the three children and grandfather of five.

As one who has a deep and abiding love for American history and the patriots who have gone before us, I want to thank Dennis Hahn for his commitment to preserving our history and congratulate him for being selected for the 2007 George Washington Honor Medal.