

she provided administrative support for the Sea Power subcommittee chaired by Charles E. Bennett and was promoted to her current position as Professional Staff Member on the full committee in 1988.

During the past 30 years, Ms. Wright has served seven committee chairmen, including myself, and has witnessed many pivotal moments in U.S. Congressional and military history. The House Armed Services Committee has been fortunate to benefit from the contributions of those who, like Brenda, not only have a great deal of experience, but who also appreciate and understand the history and the workings of this committee. Brenda joined the Congressional community at a time when our military faced the challenges of the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and since then, her efforts on behalf of our men and women in uniform have been consistent and unwavering. Recently, she recalled that one of the highlights of her tenure was the opportunity to personally witness the commissioning of the USS Cincinnati Los Angeles-class submarine and to stand among the service members who serve our nation so capably.

Madam Speaker, public perception of Congress frequently seems to be based on the personalities and characters of a few powerful figures. However, as one who shares Brenda's long tenure on the Hill, I know that Congress relies on the dedicated staff who steadfastly complete their work in the shadow of the dome and in the shadow of the limelight. Brenda Wright has gained a well-earned reputation as a dependable, loyal, and capable staff member whose absence will be felt by all who have had the privilege of working with her.

On behalf of all of the members of the House Armed Services Committee and her colleagues on the HASC staff, I congratulate Brenda on her upcoming retirement and thank her for her exemplary public service. With deep appreciation, we extend sincere best wishes to Brenda, her sons Robert and Lavan and their families for continued health and happiness.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST
BRANDON L. STOUT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist Brandon L. Stout, who died on January 22, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Stout, who was 23 years old, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He was assigned to the 46th Military Police Company, 210th Military Police Battalion, Army National Guard, Kingsford, Michigan.

Brandon was raised in Kent City, Michigan. He met his future wife Audrey while attending Great Lakes Christian College from August, 2002 to May, 2003. They married in May of 2005.

Brandon's faith was an important part of his life, and he hoped to pursue a vocation in ministry. He felt called to serve his country and joined the Army National Guard in June 2003.

In 2005 he was deployed to Louisiana for nearly two months as part of the Hurricane Katrina response. Brandon trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey beginning in July 2006 and was deployed to Baghdad on October 1, 2006. He earned his promotion to Specialist in December of 2006. Brandon was looking forward to a scheduled two-week leave with his wife, family and friends.

Brandon is survived by his wife; his mother and step-father, Tracy and Jeff Anderson; his father and step-mother, Bill and Tammy Stout; and his brother, Adam. His extended family includes Andrew, Elizabeth, Stephanie and Christine Anderson; Stephanie Stout and Callie McGee; Gary and Laurie Hinken; Dusty and Lisa VanderMeer; and Marianne and Lindsey Hinken.

Specialist Stout's family and friends consider him a role model and a hero. He was dedicated to serving his country, was steadfast in his faith and deeply loved his wife and family. I extend my prayers and condolences to his family and friends and hope that they find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
JONATHAN KINGMAN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave young soldier, and one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Jonathan Kingman of Ohio.

Sergeant Kingman was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, and graduated from Mapleton High School, where he sang in the school choir, played basketball, and was a member of the track team.

Jonathan Kingman died on January 20, 2007, in Iraq, while serving his second tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Age 21, he is survived by loving family, including his wife, children and parents.

In reading of Jonathan's life and speaking with his family members, Madam Speaker, I was touched by the dramatic impact this young man had on the lives of so many.

Like others before him, from farms, fields, and small towns across our land, Jonathan Kingman stood up and volunteered to serve his country.

He fought to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, his community, his state, and his nation.

For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Jonathan will be missed. But the strength of his character, and the courage he demonstrated through his service, will live on.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMFORT
WOMEN RESOLUTION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the over 200,000 "comfort

women" in Asia who suffered unimaginable dehumanization by the Japanese Imperial Army during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

These women, whose experiences were unprecedented in cruelty and were officially commissioned by the Government of Japan, endured gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide—and to this date, they have still not received justice from this tragedy.

Their hope is a modest one: That the government of Japan acknowledges, apologizes and accepts full historical responsibility for this crime.

Today, I am introducing a resolution which calls on Japan to formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy which the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II. Not only should Japan's Prime Minister issue a public apology, Japan must take responsibility unequivocally.

Some question whether this resolution is necessary and warn that it could affect our nation's strong friendship and alliance with Japan. Some even argue that Japan has already apologized, and this resolution fails to recognize that. It is true that Japan's previous Prime Ministers have issued statements related to comfort women. However, it is clear that these statements are not viewed by the government of Japan with unequivocal respect, and the comfort women themselves do not consider them formal apologies. Japan has equivocated in its stance on this issue, which is made clear in their recent attempts to alter previous public statements and their school textbooks.

For example, in 1993, Japan's then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued an encouraging statement regarding Japan's comfort women, which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal. Today, some members of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party strive to review and even possibly rescind Secretary Kono's statement.

Further, the Japanese government continues to seek to downplay the comfort women system in its textbooks. We must ask ourselves, if Japan has truly come to terms with its past in acknowledging what its Imperial Army forced upon these women, why are they suppressing the knowledge of this through education? Education on this tragedy is important to ensure that future violence against women, especially in conflicts, should not be tolerated or repeated. Textbook suppression, coupled with efforts to revise Secretary Kono's 1993 statement, is disheartening and indicates that Japan wavers in its apology to these women.

I want to make it clear that I recognize and value the importance of our strong friendship with Japan. I appreciate Japan's efforts to provide monetary compensation to surviving comfort women through the Asia Women's Fund, a government-initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the comfort women. The Asia Women's Fund is to be disbanded on March 31, 2007, and while I agree that the Asia Women's Fund was important, the reality is that the majority of surviving

comfort women refused to accept these funds, and that without an unambiguous and unequivocal apology from the government of Japan, the money was not significant to them.

The purpose of this resolution is not to bash or humiliate Japan. This is about achieving justice for the few remaining women who survived this atrocity. We must recognize this grave human rights violation, which has remained unknown for so many years.

Further, this resolution is intended to encourage and provide for reconciliation, as the U.S. Congress did when it passed H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which was a formal apology made to U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly put into internment camps during World War II. As someone who was put into an internment camp at a young age, I know firsthand that we must not be ignorant of the past, and that reconciliation through government actions is long lasting.

I would be remiss if I failed to recognize the efforts that my good friend and former colleague Lane Evans made to push this issue forward in Congress. I am proud to be carrying the torch that Lane passed on, and commend him for the hope he has instilled in the comfort women and the communities that have worked so hard on their behalf by bringing this issue to Congress.

Madam Speaker, to put it frankly, the few surviving comfort women in the world who live with this burden are dying. We must help them achieve some peace of mind by moving this resolution forward. For the women who survived this brutality, this resolution demonstrates that our nation supports them and hears their voices calling for justice.

RECOGNIZING GINNY GANO FOR
HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO
OHIO'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a valued member of my staff, who is retiring after 37 years of working on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's 7th Congressional District. Virginia Gano, known by most everyone as "Ginny," is retiring this week from her post as the scheduler and executive assistant to me and the two previous members who held this seat.

A native of Springfield, Ginny started working for former Congressman Clarence "Bud" Brown, Jr. after graduating from Dennison University and the Katharine Gibbs School. When Bud decided to run for governor in Ohio, former Senator Mike DeWine won the seat, and Ginny stayed on to work for him.

When I came here in 1991, Ginny said that she would give me her resume, and I told her, "Ginny, I know that when you win the 7th congressional district, you win Ginny, too. You come with the office. You don't need a resume." That began not only a wonderful working relationship, but a warm friendship, too.

Ginny is one of the kindest and most outgoing people that you'll ever come across. She knows the people who keep the Capitol complex running—from the personnel who run

the supply offices and maintenance shops to the staff members who work on the House floor and in the Speaker's Office. And she treats each and every one of them in a kind and courteous manner.

As everyone who works on Capitol Hill knows, an efficient scheduler is someone who can make or break an office. And Ginny, in her own way, has made this office work.

When a constituent would call the office to schedule a meeting or a tour, she always made the extra effort to be sure that their visit to Washington, D.C. was special. She's so popular giving tours, that she's now taking the grandchildren of some of the first people she gave tours to years ago through the Capitol.

And, if you ever had a question about how to cut through the "bureaucratic red tape," Ginny could find the answer or a way to get something done. It is those qualities that have made her invaluable to our office over the years.

Beyond her official responsibilities, Ginny has been the "den mother" for scores of staffers over the years. If you were moving to Washington, D.C. for your first job and were looking for a place to live, you called Ginny. If you were not feeling well or if you needed a ride to the hospital, you would go see Ginny. This includes the little, but meaningful things, too. For example, if someone was having a birthday in the office and you were looking for a card to have everyone sign, you would go ask Ginny. Those are just a few of the examples of what she has done for the young people who have worked in the office.

Ginny Gano has been the heart of this office and in my district for years, and she will be missed. So today, on behalf of my wife, Carolyn, and my current and former staff, I want to thank her for her service, but most of all for her friendship over the years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Ginny Gano on her retirement from federal service as the "first sergeant" of Ohio's 7th Congressional District.

CELEBRATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE 105TH AIRLIFT
SQUADRON OF THE 118TH AIR-
LIFT WING

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 85th anniversary of the 105th squadron of the 118th Airlift Wing in our Tennessee Air National Guard. The roots of this storied squadron reach as far back as World War I, and their brave service continues today in military operations around the world.

The unit received federal recognition in 1921 and was assigned to the U.S. Army's 30th "Old Hickory" Division. The unit adopted the name dubbing themselves the "Old Hickory Squadron" and their insignia still bears the image of Old Hickory himself, Andrew Jackson, riding on horseback.

At the onset of World War II, the unit mobilized for this global conflict. Members of the 105th Squadron made history around the world on observation missions, antisubmarine patrols, reconnaissance, and bombardment. The men of the 105th flew over 100 missions

in the Pacific Campaign. They attacked Axis targets around the world in planes like the B-10 Bomber, the Vega Ventura B-34, and the B-25 Mitchel Bomber.

In 1961, the wing converted to the airlift mission that it accomplishes with distinction to this day. Beginning with the C-97G Stratofreighter, moving to the C-124C Globemaster II and finally to the C-130 Hercules, the 118th Military Airlift Wing carried out their critical mission from Panama to Iraq. They provided support for the Berlin Airlift and Cuban Missile crises, national and state civil disturbances, the Vietnam Conflict, Red Flag, Brave Shield, Volant Oak and Coronet Oak, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm. In 1990, the Wing mobilized 462 personnel during 21 deployments in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, logging a record 7,239 flying hours.

After September 11, 2001, over one third of the 118th air wing was activated for a year or more helping patrol our skies in Operation Noble Eagle before deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2003, the 118th deployed ten C-130's and over 320 personnel to the Middle East in direct support of combat operations in Iraq. The members of the 118th refused to let living in tents in the desert prevent them from establishing a bare base in support of the largest contingent of C-130's ever based in a combat environment, with over 46 C-130's located at a single base.

Madam Speaker, the world is safer because of the men and women of the 118th. The nation owes them our thanks on their 85th anniversary. These brave Americans are members of our community both in and out of uniform. Nashville is a better place for having the 118th Air Wing, and I am proud to represent them.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN T.
CAULFIELD, ESQ. UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. John Thomas Caulfield for over 25 years of outstanding service to the Congress and over 30 years of public service.

Mr. Caulfield has been known as a "lawyer's lawyer" on Capitol Hill and has provided all manner of counseling to the Congress including as a legal strategist and accomplished expert on the legislative process as the General Counsel to the Capitol Police Board, the Chief of Police and the U.S. Capitol Police for the past 20 years.

His contributions on behalf of the men and women of the Capitol Police and the entire Congress are truly immeasurable. His unique insights on Congressional operations and the institutional functions render him one of the few who, by direct experience, understand the complex and sometimes arcane interplay between and among the Houses of Congress and congressional entities.

His dedication to the protection of the legal institutional interests of the federal legislative branch has led to him being recognized nationally and even internationally as a First Amendment expert. He has been called upon