

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
RYAN DEGRAFFENRIED, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Tuscaloosa and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Former State Senator Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his entire life.

A graduate of the University of Alabama and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, Ryan represented the Tuscaloosa area in the Alabama Senate for 16 years, 7 of which he served in the Senate's highest position, president pro tempore.

The last year and a half of his term, he became the Senate's presiding officer when Lt. Governor Jim Folsom, Jr., ascended to the governor's office.

Ryan's legacy in Alabama will certainly be his hard work and dedication, as well as the fact that his word was his bond.

Make no mistake, the University of Alabama couldn't have had a better friend in the legislature than Ryan deGraffenried and the entire State watched with awe as he played a lead role in establishing the first auto assembly plant in Alabama, the Mercedes-Benz plant in nearby Vance.

Ryan's political savvy, combined with his many friendships in the legislature, enabled him to ensure the economic incentives necessary to make the Mercedes deal a reality passed the legislature, and in so doing, he deserves the lion's share of credit for helping to create what is today Alabama's booming auto industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and his children, William Ryan deGraffenried III and Frances Margaret deGraffenried—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL REYNOLDS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Reynolds, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Michael's dedication to his school work and church are outstanding. Michael works hard in school, while he remains involved with his church where he is the second assistant to the President of the Priest's quorum. Michael has also contributed significantly to the community, through his planning and organization of a food drive that collected more than 600 non-perishable food items for donation to the local food pantry.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Reynolds for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER SHANE DAUGHETEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Volunteer Firefighter, Shane Daughetee. We thank him for his work and that of the 750,000 Volunteer firefighters nationwide.

Recently, this valiant, young man died while rescuing a family from a fire in Hamilton County, TN. The 24-year-old volunteer fell through the roof of the burning home, but the family members' lives were spared because of his bravery.

Mr. Daughetee was part of the Highway 58 Fire department. He was a 7-year veteran of the department and had been named firefighter of the year. He was laid to rest at New McDonald East View Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nicole, who he had met while working at Winn-Dixie together years ago, lost touch with, and subsequently started dating in 2002. Since then, fellow volunteers said Shane and Nicole were joined at the hip.

Nicole wore her husband's firefighter jacket to his funeral. She said her husband loved being a firefighter so much that when they bought a house last summer, he insisted that it be in his station's district so he could continue to volunteer there. Mr. Daughetee is also survived by his parents, James and Linda. We mourn with the entire Daughetee family at this difficult time. Shane Daughetee will be greatly missed and was an extraordinary citizen of East Tennessee.

We are so grateful for the dedication and compassion of all Volunteer Firefighters and other rescue personnel as they put themselves at risk to save perfect strangers in our communities. These men and women put their lives on the line to help others every day and we often do not take the time to think of emergency personnel and the dangers they are willing to face. Their courage is unquestioned, their cause is noble, and we thank them for ensuring our safety.

JOE T. GETHERALL MEDAL OF
HONOR LEGISLATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Joseph T. Getherall, of Hacienda Heights, California, for acts of valor while serving his country in the Republic of Vietnam on December 22, 1966.

Joe Getherall was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps who served two tours of duty in Vietnam and was seriously wounded three times during his second tour. He served as a squad leader with Company M, Third Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, Third Marine Division during "Operation Chinook." In the early morning hours of December 22, 1966, Company M was occupying a night defensive position in the area of the Co Bi-Thun Tan Corridor, Thua Thien Province. Suddenly, the Marines came under intense small arms and mortar fire from the 802nd Viet Cong Battalion. Sergeant Getherall unhesitatingly exposed himself to intense small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire in order to repeatedly move across open terrain to effectively control his unit. While moving from one position to another he was seriously wounded in both legs and arms by an exploding mortar round. However, despite his painful injuries, he steadfastly refused medical evacuation and continued to direct his unit.

As the battle raged throughout the night, with most of the enemy ground assaults concentrated in front of his squad's position through 50 meters of open terrain, he continually exposed himself to enemy small arms fire. With enemy mortars and grenades exploding around him he disregarded his own safety in order to pinpoint enemy targets, direct fire, resupply his men with ammunition and ensure the integrity of the perimeter defense. He personally killed many of the enemy attackers with his own rifle fire. During one of the enemy assaults, a Marine went down in the open. Sergeant Getherall realized the gravity of the situation and fearlessly moved across the hazardous open terrain under intense enemy fire and dragged the Marine to cover.

During another assault, Sergeant Getherall observed a Viet Cong about to throw a grenade and Sergeant Getherall killed him with rifle fire. The enemy was still able to throw his grenade, which landed among the Marines. Sergeant Getherall shouted a warning to his men and with complete disregard for his own life, under heavy enemy fire he was able to get to the grenade and jump on it. He then picked it up and threw it back at the enemy where it exploded a few meters away, wounding Sergeant Getherall for a second time in one of his legs. By his prompt and courageous action in the face of almost certain death, he saved several of his squad members from death or serious injury.

During the remainder of the night, he moved among his men, encouraging them and ensuring that there was maximum security and firepower to repulse subsequent attacks. Inspired by his selfless courage and aggressive fighting spirit, his squad members repulsed a number

of savage attacks while inflicting heavy casualties on a determined and numerically superior enemy force. By his outstanding leadership, resolute determination and unflinching devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, Sergeant Getherall upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

This bill I am introducing today will waive the time limitations that require the award to be made within 5 years of the act. This is needed because the original award recommendation by Gary Loveridge, the platoon commander at the time, was lost by the Marine Corps. Additionally, six of Sergeant Getherall's squad members and his commanding officer have recently submitted sworn affidavits attesting to his heroic actions.

Madam Speaker, Joe Getherall is a great man who performed an amazing feat to defend his country and his squadron. He deserves the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING
OF EAST MILLINOCKET

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who 100 years ago, drawn by the promise of employment at Great Northern Paper Company's new 4-machine mill on the banks of the Penobscot River, founded the town of East Millinocket in northern Maine.

Working together for the benefit of their new community, the people of East Millinocket quickly established a school, water and sewer system, and volunteer fire department. They also established a proud way of life. Today, equipped with the same community spirit and sense of common purpose, the people of East Millinocket continue to embrace the challenges and opportunities of living and working at the gateway to Maine's North Woods.

Like my father and my grandfather before me, I joined these hardworking individuals as we all worked together to provide for ourselves and our families at the Great Northern Paper Company mill in East Millinocket. I am happy to have grown up and worked alongside these proud people, and it is these individuals and families along with the many other hardworking people of Maine that I remember every time I cast a vote here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of East Millinocket and I am happy to have this opportunity to help this community, the "town that paper made," celebrate its 100th anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE
CLARENCE T. SPENCER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the peo-

ple of north Texas in the death of PVT Clarence T. Spencer, 24, who died defending our country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on February 4, 2007.

Mr. Clarence Spencer was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. While serving the U.S. Army, he put forth continuous dedication and bravery in protecting our Nation. His compassion and faithfulness in serving our country will forever be remembered, and his loss is greatly felt by all.

Mr. Spencer is survived by his wife in Killeen, Texas, and his mother and father in Fort Worth, Texas. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and my thoughts and prayers are with them. Mr. Spencer's courage and dedication brought hope of a safer country. He will be remembered as a husband, a son, and a hero.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last month, the world lost a powerful voice for free speech when journalist Hrant Dink was tragically killed for expressing his views on the Armenian Genocide. His death should serve as a watershed moment for Turkish-Armenian relations.

While Turkish officials have rightly condemned the killing, Turkey should honor the memory of Hrant Dink by using this opportunity to begin an open dialogue between Turkish citizens and their neighbors of Armenian descent. Laws that criminalize free speech and serious discussion of difficult issues are counterproductive to true democratic reform, which the Turkish government has called a priority. Taking steps to finally reconcile its past with its future by recognizing the Armenian Genocide are the foundations for real progress for Turkey.

In the wake of this tragedy, we must not allow an assassin's bullet to silence such a dynamic voice for change, but rather, continue to encourage Turkey to make positive changes with the same resolve Hrant Dink showed throughout his life as a champion of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GARY KURPIUS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great Alaskan, Mr. Gary Kurpius, who was recently elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Nation's largest association of combat veterans. Gary Kurpius was elected to his position on August 31, 2006, at the VFW's 10th National Convention, in Reno, Nevada. Gary Kurpius is the first Alaskan to hold this tremendously important position.

During the Vietnam War Gary Kurpius served with the Army's 541st Transportation Company providing vital convoy security

throughout the central highlands, an extremely treacherous area. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, for his endeavors during the conflict. In addition to the medals received during Vietnam, Gary Kurpius was selected Vietnam Veteran of the Year for St. Louis County, Minnesota by President Jimmy Carter.

After the war, Gary Kurpius continued his unremitting passion for public service. This led him to join VFW Post 1539 in Babbitt, Minnesota in 1970, where he became a life member. He earned the title of All American Post Commander in 1977 and in 1983 was named All American District Commander. Gary then transferred to VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, Alaska in 1985. Currently Gary is a Life Member of VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla, Alaska, near to where he currently resides with his wife Nancy, in the beautiful city of Anchorage.

Gary has served diligently in the Department of Alaska service office for the last 19 years and as Department Adjutant for the past 17 years. Then in 2001, Gary was elected Department Commander and earned All-American Department Commander status. Most recently Gary completed a two-year term as Governor Tony Knowles' appointee to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gary Kurpius, is also a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. In 1999, he received the Alaska Community Service Medal. Few men have had such a dedicated and lengthy history of service and I know that Gary Kurpius will continue to serve with the same dedication and fortitude, meeting all the challenges he is presented with.

On behalf of The United States of America, I extend my thanks and appreciation to Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius, for his dedication and service to American Servicemen, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to the people of the Great State of Alaska.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM A.
LUCKING, JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Lucking, who died at home earlier this week at the age of 89, surrounded by generations of family.

There are not enough pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to do justice to the life of William A. Lucking Jr. He was a decorated World War II combat veteran, a horseman, a rancher, a hunter, a world traveler, an attorney, a community volunteer, and an outdoorsman as comfortable on land as he was on or below the water. Bill also was active in Republican politics, including being a delegate to the Republican Convention that nominated Richard Nixon in 1960, much to the chagrin of his Democratic father.

Bill Lucking would say that he worked hard and played hard. Raised in the Ventura County, California, community of Ojai, he bought more than 200 acres of rugged land there in 1956—6 years after he passed the California