

HONORING TOMMIE HAWKINS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Tommie Hawkins, who was awarded the 200 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the Second Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Group.

Mr. Hawkins coordinates scheduling, maintains vehicles and manages volunteer drivers who drive Disabled American Veterans vans, pick up veteran patients and transport them to the Glen Burnie Community Based Outpatient Clinic. He continually solicits new volunteer drivers, maintains driving records and files all reports required by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Hawkins, despite the challenges, effectively manages the maintenance and rotation of an aging transportation fleet for veterans. He ensures that volunteer drivers are available on a moment's notice for veterans' transportation requests. In addition to driving a regular shift himself, he never hesitates to cover unscheduled driving assignments. He has significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the Disabled American Veterans' transportation operations by automating the driver management procedures. Upon receipt of a veteran's request for transportation assistance, he confirms the request with the Department of Veterans Affairs and provides the veteran with a reminder phone call with pick up confirmation.

Mr. Hawkins truly has the ability to communicate with veteran patients in a very caring and compassionate way. It would be hard to find an individual that contributes more than Mr. Hawkins to guarantee the success of the Disabled American Veterans' transportation program.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Tommie Hawkins. He is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through his tireless efforts, he has helped hundreds of veterans receive their medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have dedicated their lives to serve our great country.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN TODD M.
SIEBERT**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Todd M. Siebert, a Marine who was killed while on active duty in Iraq on February 16, 2007. As a member of the 3rd Battalion of the 6th Marines, he was on patrol in Al Anbar Province when his armored military vehicle was hit with an unidentified explosive device. A veteran of Afghanistan, he had served only six weeks in Iraq and was expecting his 35th birthday next month.

Captain Siebert was born and raised in Franklin Park, Pennsylvania and graduated from North Allegheny High School. He joined

the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program while in high school and enlisted in the Army soon after he graduated. He later joined the Marines and received his commission from the Marine Corps in 1999 when he graduated from Penn State University with a degree in criminal justice.

Captain Siebert was awarded the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and numerous other military awards for his service to our country. He will be remembered for his bravery and dedication.

On behalf of my family, the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend our heartfelt sympathy and eternal gratitude to Captain Siebert's family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Darcy, two young children, Alicia and Nicholas, as well as two sisters, a brother, and his parents, Thomas and Dorothy Siebert.

THE SMALL BUSINESS TAX
RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, today the Democratic leadership has brought to the House floor legislation that will effectively create permanent tax increases on many American taxpayers in order to create temporary tax relief for a few.

Though this legislation does not mention a minimum wage increase, we all know this bill is intended to be paired with Senate legislation including a wage hike. While I am pleased that the Majority has finally listened to the Republicans and recognized the detrimental impact a minimum wage increase would have on small businesses, this legislation is nothing but an example of the Majority's plans to deceptively increase taxes on Americans.

In the last Congress I voted for a balanced minimum wage bill that increased the wage rate from \$5.15 to \$7.25/hour over three years and included important tax and regulatory protections for small businesses and their workers, ensuring they are not over-burdened by high labor costs and can stay in business.

However, I believe it is unfair to create permanent tax increases for the sake of temporary tax relief. This is a perfect example, and I predict many more are to come, of the Democrats using covert tax increase maneuvers to adhere to their misguided PAYGO rules.

The Majority has forced this legislation to the House floor under the suspension of the rules, cutting off debate time and forbidding any amendments to the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I can not in good conscience support this bill because of the misleading, permanent tax increases it places on many Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
CHRISTOPHER E. HOLZWORTH IV,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to congratulate COL Christopher E. Holzworth IV on a successful tour as the Commanding Officer of MATSG-21 in Pensacola, Florida. He assumed command in July of 2005, and will be relieved in August of this year.

During his tour I had the pleasure of interacting with the Colonel on numerous occasions. "Caveman," as he prefers to be called, was kind enough to invite me to lunch at his command and educate me on the training of our young Marines. These young men and women are preparing for combat against our Nation's enemies and Caveman does not let them forget it.

I was especially impressed with his initiative to have the MATSG students drive Humvees on Naval Air Station Pensacola so they could better prepare for their follow-on assignments in Iraq. Caveman's performance as the senior Marine onboard the Air Station during President Bush's November 2006 visit was nothing short of remarkable, and his work with the White House staff and my staff resulted in a flawless visit.

Although Caveman is not originally from Pensacola, our residents will gladly claim him as one of their own. He was raised in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and after graduating from the University of Virginia, he attended Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, OCS, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 1983. Upon completing The Basic School, he reported to Naval Air Training Command, Pensacola, FL, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1985.

He had served in numerous operational and staff positions, including: a November 1990 deployment for "Operations Desert Shield/Storm," as well as counterinsurgency operations in Southwest Asia, and an August 1994 deployment for "Operations Uphold Democracy/Support Democracy" in Cape Haitian, Haiti.

Colonel Holzworth received his Master's in National Security and Strategic Studies in November of 2003, and from November of 2003 to June of 2005, he served as Expeditionary Policy Branch Head, Operations Division, for the Plans, Policies and Operations Department of Headquarters Marine Corps.

Colonel Holzworth was selected for command of MATSG-21 in summer 2004 and was promoted to his present rank in January 2005.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 gold stars, Air Medal with numeral "1," Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Caveman has served the United States Marine Corps and his country well since his commissioning in 1983, and he has made the Northwest Florida community proud. Vicki and I wish him the best of luck in his future assignment. On behalf of the United States Congress and the residents of Pensacola, I wish

to thank Colonel Holzworth for his service and lastly, "Semper Fidelis."

IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, there are two fundamental questions we face in voting on this resolution: First, is it appropriate for Congress to express its views on the escalation of U.S. troops in Iraq? And second, is the escalation the best use of military forces in our war on terrorism?

First let me say that it is wrong for anyone in this debate to question the patriotism of someone on the other side of that issue. That tactic was tried by Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s. It was wrong then, it is wrong now.

In our democracy, there is nothing patriotic about questioning the patriotism of someone with an opposing view. We all love our country; we all support our troops; and we all want to defend America from terrorism.

On the appropriateness of this resolution being before the House, I believe this debate is consistent with our Founding Fathers' deep commitment to the constitutional checks and balances of government. They chose to make the President our Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. At the same time, they chose not to give the President the authority to declare war or to fund a war. Those solemn responsibilities were given to the Congress in article I of the Constitution.

It is noteworthy that on the most solemn act of government, to put citizens into harm's way, our Founding Fathers clearly chose to put in place constitutional checks and balances on the executive branch. This resolution is a proper exercise of that constitutional principle, especially given this war has now lasted longer than America's involvement in World War II, with no end in sight. Blind allegiance to the executive branch is not a constitutional principle.

The second question before us is whether the escalation in Iraq is the best use of U.S. military forces in our war on terrorism.

After nearly 4 years of combat, two facts are indisputable: First, our service men and women have served our Nation with courage and professionalism. They and their families have sacrificed above and beyond the call of duty, and I salute them.

Second; there have been major mistakes made by policymakers in Washington that have complicated at every step the challenges our troops have faced in Iraq, dead wrong intelligence on weapons of mass destruction and Iraq's involvement with September 11; rejecting General Shinseki's call to send an adequate amount of troops to Iraq in 2003, the disbanding of the Iraqi Army, the de-Baathification process, inadequate armor for our troops; and the repeated assertion that the insurgency was on its last leg, despite facts to the contrary.

Given mistakes made in the build-up to this war and its management, and the enormity of this issue in terms of lives at risk and our Nation's future, it is time for Congress to give a

voice to the clear majority of the American people who oppose escalation in Iraq.

Since the President has already started the escalation, I personally hope and pray that he is right, and that more U.S. troops in Iraq will lead to long-term stability there. However, in good conscience, I must express my profound concerns for this policy for several reasons.

First; I believe until the Iraqi government creates a government that is respected by Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, no amount of U.S. forces can stop sectarian violence there in the long run.

Second; I want U.S. forces fighting terrorists, not standing on street corners in Baghdad as target practice for Sunnis and Shiites locked into deep-rooted sectarian violence.

Third; I believe it is necessary to send a blunt wake-up call to the Iraqi political leaders that America has sacrificed our sons and daughters and hundreds of billions of dollars for their nation, but we will not do so forever for an incompetent government that is rife with corruption and sectarian bias. This is not a test of America's will, rather, it is a test of the Iraqi government's will to make the tough choices to ensure its nation's own future.

Fourth; with the increasingly serious situation in Afghanistan, where al Qaeda and the Taliban are resurging, we will definitely need additional U.S. troops there to prevent the kind of chaos that is rampant in Iraq.

For these reasons, I believe this resolution is the appropriate and right thing to do. This resolution will send an unequivocal message to the Iraqi political leaders that the time to end their corruption, incompetence and sectarian favoritism is now.

When that message is truly heard, then and only then will there be real hope for stable and lasting peace in Iraq.

I urge support of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER ALICIA FLORENCE ALLICK-GOUDIE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, in memory of so many distinguished Black leaders in our nation's history who migrated to the United States from the islands of the Caribbean, I rise today in recognition of Sister Alicia Florence Allick-Goudie—a selfless individual of unwavering faith in the importance of community, education and family.

Born and raised in St. Thomas of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Sister Goudie came to New York City as a fifteen-year-old in 1965. Attending Louis D. Brandeis High School and later Medgar Evers College, Sister Goudie's early academic pursuits gave rise to a lifelong commitment to fostering intellectual growth in others—evidenced by her work as an educator in the New York City public school system, local Head Start Programs, and her church's Vocational Bible and Sunday Schools.

In addition to Sister Goudie's teaching work, she has also demonstrated an abiding dedication to civic participation. A member of both Community Board 11 and the New York City Police Department's 25th Precinct since 1996, Sister Goudie has received numerous accolades and held several positions of responsi-

bility—currently she is the Sergeant-of-Arms for the 25th Police Precinct through 2008.

One constant theme throughout Sister Goudie's life has been her deep spiritual conviction. After joining the Third Moravian Church, which later became United Moravian Church, Sister Goudie became an active member of the Usher Board, the Intermediate Choir, the Liturgical Dance Group and the Moravian Community Center.

Madam Speaker, for her deeply rooted devotion to improving the lives of those around her, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Sister Alicia Florence Allick-Goudie.

RECOGNIZING ANN RICHARDS' EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEXAS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor a great Texan and a great American.

Ann Richards served not only as the Governor of Texas, but as an exemplary role model for young people across the United States. She lived her life with humor, tenacity, dedication and an indomitable spirit that will be missed.

Time and time again, Ann Richards showed a true commitment to that great American ideal of equal opportunity for all. For example, nearly half of her 3,000 appointees were female, 15 percent of her appointees were African American, and 20 percent of her appointees were Latino. She was by every measure a Governor for all of the people of Texas.

During her time in office Governor Richards also developed a Robin Hood Plan for Texas schools, to ensure equitable financing for all school districts in our state. The Robin Hood Plan has substantially equalized funding for school districts across Texas and has helped those districts without high property values provide good education for their students.

Governor Richards should also be recognized for developing an innovative and remarkably effective drug treatment program for Texas prison inmates. The Texas Initiative was launched in 1991 and quickly grew into the most ambitious and aggressive prison-based drug and alcohol treatment program in the country. Under Governor Richards' watch only 7.2 percent of those who had undergone at least 3 months of treatment were reincarcerated within 1 year of being released, compared to 18.5 percent of those who received no treatment.

Ann Richards' legacy goes well beyond the state of Texas. Her famous statement that "well-behaved women rarely make history" exemplifies how she has helped inspire a generation of young women to aspire to hold the highest public offices in the land or to follow whatever their dreams may be.

Governor Richards also became a leading international spokesperson for women battling osteoporosis, authoring the book *I'm Not Slowing Down: Winning My Battle with Osteoporosis*, which has been described as inspirational and eye-opening.