

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call vote No. 15; On passage (H.R. 1). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM DUNKER  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Dunker, 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, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Dunker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent William in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND  
SACRIFICE OF NATHANIEL  
AGUIRRE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it has been said that a hero is someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with their freedom. Nathaniel Aguirre, 21 years old, certainly understood that degree of responsibility.

At just 17, Nathaniel enlisted in the United States Army Reserve and attended basic combat training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. After graduating from Creekview High School, he completed additional military training and was deployed to Iraq in December 2005.

On the morning of October 22, 2006, Nathaniel was on combat patrol in a village in western Baghdad. After his detachment encountered enemy fire, they confronted the enemy head on in a fight that would tragically cost Nathaniel his life. On that morning, a hero was not born—a hero was revealed.

Nathaniel leaves behind his parents and treasured younger sister Melissa, who had known her brother as a hero long before it was revealed to the rest of us.

Among the many honors bestowed in memory of his heroic acts, Nathaniel was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the

Purple Heart, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. While these honors will never bring him back, they serve as markers in our Nation's history, identifying Nathaniel Aguirre as an American who understood his degree of responsibility to our Nation and his fellow Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 366 TO  
DESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUT-  
PATIENT CLINIC IN TULSA,  
OKLAHOMA, AS THE ERNEST  
CHILDERS DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS OUT-  
PATIENT CLINIC

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, this evening, I introduced H.R. 366, legislation to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma as the Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic to honor one of our Nation's finest military heroes.

Ernest Childers holds the distinction of being the first Native American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action in 1943 at the battle of Oliveto, Italy, when he charged German machine gun nests against machine gun fire. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up a hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests and capturing an enemy mortar observer. His courageous action helped American troops win the battle and save the lives of American soldiers. Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

Born in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the Chilocco Indian School in north-central Oklahoma. While stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, he was deployed to Africa to fight in World War II. Childers retired from the Army in 1965 as a lieutenant colonel but remained very active in the Tulsa community serving Indian youth, which led to the naming of a middle school in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in his honor in 1985.

As a proud Creek Indian, in 1966, Childers was honored by the Tulsa Chapter of the Council of American Indians as "Oklahoma's most outstanding Indian." Of his military service in World War II, Childers once said, "The American Indian has only one country to defend, and when you're picked on, the American Indian never turns his back." A fitting quote from a man who exemplified courage under fire and dedication to defending our Nation.

Until his death on March 17, 2005, Childers was Oklahoma's last Congressional Medal of Honor recipient still living in the State. I am proud to introduce this legislation to honor his life and legacy. We were honored to have him grace us with his model character, defend us with his bravery, and leave us all with a life well-lived.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ROBERT  
W. RAWLS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Robert W. Rawls who is honored by the clergy and congregation of Vernon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 14 in my hometown of Flint, MI.

Reverend Rawls began his life of Christian service at Vernon Chapel. His parents, Johnny and Corrie Rawls were two of Vernon Chapel's founding members. They instilled in their son love for Our Lord and a desire to serve him. Reverend Rawls began his life of service as a Sunday School teacher, a member of the choir and a member of the Steward Board. He also served as the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In 1976 he answered God's call to the ministry. Two years later he organized a Mission located at North and Gillespie Streets. He went street by street for 40 blocks talking to people and inviting them to come and worship. The first service was held on June 19, 1978. One person joined his congregation and his wife, Estelle, provided the music.

Continuing to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, the Mission grew and the congregation was able to purchase the building. The Presiding Elder, Martin L. Sims, authorized Reverend Reuben Russell to organize the Mission into a Church in 1980 and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was admitted into the Annual Conference. Reverend Rawls drew on his faith in God to continue working to bring people to Jesus Christ. Year after year, he held nightly street services from July through September. He worked to improve the Church and in 1996 completed the conversion of the former storefront to a Church edifice. For 22 years he served faithfully as a minister and pastor, retiring in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the life and work of Reverend Robert W. Rawls as his family and friends at Vernon Chapel embrace him. He has devoted his life to doing God's work and the Flint community is a better place because of his compassion, commitment, and actions. I wish him the best as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL DUNN FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Dunn, 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, Troop 45, 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 many 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.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Michael in the United States House of Representatives.

# MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a truly good man. With the passing of President Gerald Ford, the House of Representatives lost its most distinguished alumni, and America lost a great patriot who always placed his country's good ahead of his own political interest. Gerald Ford was a man of absolute integrity and profound personal decency.

Much has been said about President Ford's distinguished career in the House and as President. Many will rightly recall his absolute integrity and his profound personal decency. To build upon those remarks, I would like to share some of my personal interactions with Gerald Ford. I had the honor of meeting and working with former President Ford on many occasions after he left office. I found him to be the same man in private that he was in public—decent, honorable, and self-deprecating in his humor and observations. He was shrewd without being devious and wise without being complicated.

Madam Speaker, President Ford had genuine connections to and affection for Oklahoma and Oklahomans. He told me on several occasions that he became Vice President and ultimately President because of the late Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, who supported his nomination for the Vice Presidency. He always remembered that Oklahoma was one of only two Southern States that he carried in 1976. Indeed, once while making this point to me, he recalled the exact margin of victory—13,266 out of over 1 million cast.

Madam Speaker, during a memorable 1976 campaign stop in Oklahoma, President Ford said, "It's great to be in Oklahoma, the home of Will Rogers, who never met a man he didn't like, and the Oklahoma Sooners, who never played a team they couldn't beat." I later told him that single line won Oklahoma for him. "Well," he responded, "talking college football is pretty good politics in a lot of places. You might try it if you're ever campaigning in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, or just about anywhere in the South." It is still one of the best pieces of advice I ever got from a practicing politician.

President Ford paired his intelligence with empathy and his candor with modesty. He was as politically astute as he was personally decent, something that all too many people forget. He was absolutely loyal to his party while still approaching politics in a pragmatic and bipartisan manner that made genuine political compromise possible. The House was all the better because of his character, and so too was our country. When speaking to the

Congress, the President said with his usual humility that he was a Ford, not a Lincoln. Today, only the best among us might be able to call themselves Fords.

We will all miss him very much, Madam Speaker, and I strongly urge support of H. Res. 15.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 14 on the motion to recommit (H.R. 1). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING TIM LEININGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tim Leininger, 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, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tim Leininger for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Tim in the United States House of Representatives.

## HONORING SOUTHLAKE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 5A DIVISION I FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2006 Southlake Carroll High School football team, which on Saturday, December 23, 2006, earned the title of 5A Division I State Champions and finished its season a perfect 16–0.

The Dragons rallied in the second half to deliver a 43–29 come-from-behind victory over Austin Westlake and on that day it was clear to everyone in the Alamodome that the Southlake Carroll Dragons are a genuine Texas high school football dynasty. In seven seasons under Head Coach Todd Dodge, the Dragons have amassed a 98–11 overall record and have gone 79–1 in the past 5 years. The team has won three consecutive national titles, won the last four of five State championships and has tied the Texas high school record with seven state titles. This

year, Southlake Carroll is also ranked as the consensus No. 1 team in the country by seven national polls. The Dragons have shown they are simply the best high school football program in decades.

Throughout its historic championship runs, Southlake Carroll has represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness and dignity—and its immaculate seasons will be recounted for generations to come throughout the state of Texas.

I could not be more proud than to represent Southlake Carroll High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made the 2006 season such a memorable one.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 12: "no"; rollcall No. 13: "yes"; rollcall No. 14: "no"; rollcall No. 15: "yes."

## RECOGNIZING SEAN MCCALMON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sam McCalmon, 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, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Sean in the United States House of Representatives.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on January 4 and 5, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I had a