

LANCE CORPORAL JONATHAN R.
GOODMAN, USMC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lance Corporal Jonathan R. Goodman, USMC, of Trenton, Missouri. Lance Corporal Goodman has recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom 8.1, deployed to Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq with the 2d Battalion, 24th Marines. As a marine, he has served his Country honorably and well.

I, his friends, and family are extremely proud of his service to our Country and welcome him home at a special meet and greet celebration on September 13, 2008 at the local VFW Hall #919 in Trenton, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Lance Corporal Jonathan R. Goodman, USMC, who is a true inspiration for all that know him. It is truly an honor to serve Lance Corporal Goodman in the United States Congress.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING PAUL AND LINDA MADER ON RE- CEIVING THE HALL OF FARM AWARD.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Paul and Linda Mader are appreciated for their dedication and contributions to the Harrison County Farm Bureau; and

Whereas, the couple has had a positive impact on agriculture in Harrison County; and

Whereas, they have served their community as members and/or officers of the Harrison County Farm Bureau, Grange, Landmark, and their church, the United Methodist Church of the Cross; and

Whereas, Paul and Linda Mader have served the organization and the community selflessly and tirelessly; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Paul and Linda Mader on their contributions to Harrison County's agriculture industry. Congratulations to Paul and Linda Mader on receiving the Hall of Farm Award.

HONORING JAMES DANIEL RICH- ARDSON'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Congressman James D. Richardson, upon the occasion of the raising of a Tennessee Historical Marker on the site of Richardson's family home in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

During the Civil War, Richardson served Tennessee with honor and distinction, volun-

teering at the age of 18 as a private in the Tennessee Infantry and rising to the rank of major by war's end. After the war, Richardson studied the law and was admitted to the bar in 1866. He practiced in Murfreesboro for over 12 years and served as director of both the Stones River National Bank and the Safe Deposit, Trust, and Banking Company of Nashville. Known simply as "Major" to his friends and associates, Richardson also led the Rutherford County Fair Association, served as commissioner of the Evergreen Cemetery, was an active Freemason, and raised five children with his wife, Alabama.

He was elected to the Tennessee State Legislature in 1870, where his colleagues named him speaker of the House at the age of 28. Richardson quickly came to prominence within the Democratic Party, serving as a delegate to the National Convention of 1876 and earning a reputation as a captivating orator.

In 1884, Richardson was elected to the United States Congress. This was only the beginning of a 20-year career in which he led the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, served as interim Democratic Whip in 1894, and was called upon by his colleagues to compile *The Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, a vital history of American governance. He also oversaw the compilation of *The Messages and Papers of the Confederacy*, which documents the public and private communications of Confederate leaders.

James Daniel Richardson was a true son of Tennessee and an exemplary American leader. I congratulate the Tennessee Historical Society for its decision to raise this Historical Marker to the man known as the "Tall Cedar of Rutherford."

HONORING TADEUSZ NITKIEWICZ OF TOLEDO, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. Today, I stand to recognize an outstanding American, soldier and gentleman Tadeusz ("Ted") Nitkiewicz of Toledo, Ohio. In honoring Ted, though, please let us honor so many Polish soldiers and citizens who cherished the idea of freedom and valiantly fought for it during World War II. Polish citizens who eventually settled in America valued democratic principles, as when they assisted our nation in its Revolution and determinedly sought during their years of occupation to cast off the cloak of oppression.

In recognizing Ted Nitkiewicz, we also recall all those young men and women from nations like Poland and Ukraine whose lives were changed forever as they found themselves caught between the grips of the Nazi and Soviet regimes. Poland became one of the fiercest battlegrounds of the deadliest and most gruesome fighting in World War II. In fact, Poland became a pawn in war between two tyrannical regimes, joined in a war friendship by the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and other eastern European countries would be invaded with their destiny switching from the East, then the West, then the East again. Ted, like so many of his Polish compatriots, first served in the Polish Army resist-

ing the Soviet invasion. Eventually, the Soviets joined the Allied powers, at which point Ted then fought valiantly and earnestly, hopeful to secure a homeland for his Polish people that was not to come until a half century later. His life would be transformed forever by political conflicts beyond his control.

Tadeusz Nitkiewicz was born in Wizna Province, Warszawa, Poland on January 6, 1919, to parents Franciszek and Anna. He studied hard to become a pharmacist. He loved this occupation. However, the peaceful and free existence he enjoyed came to abrupt halt when Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the West on September 1, 1939. Two weeks later, Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union invaded Poland from the East. Ted was taken prisoner and sent to a forced labor camp in Russia. He was one of 1.7 million Polish citizens that were forcibly deported by cattle wagon. They worked at back-breaking jobs in quarries, on collective farms, and in tree-felling forests. They toiled during cold winters with little food. Their only shelter was what they built themselves in the forests by cutting down trees. They had minimal medical care and little food. Constantly, the Soviet guards taunted the Polish slave laborers that this was their life forever and reminded them that Poland ceased to exist as a state. Out of the deported 1.7 million, less than one third or 500,000 people were known to survive.

Ted recalls successfully escaping these inhumane conditions as a prisoner from the labor camps. The first time, the Russian civilians he encountered were afraid of retribution for taking in a prisoner of war (POW). At his second attempt, he and a fellow POW were taken in by a Cossack family, until they could no longer provide enough food for the escapees and their own family.

After Germany invaded the Soviet Union, Winston Churchill persuaded Stalin to release the Polish prisoners to organize and fight against the Nazis. In March and August of 1942, 115,000 soldiers and civilians were evacuated from the Soviet Union to the Middle East, crossing the Caspian Sea. Because they were already in poor health because of the inhumane conditions as POWs, many died in Persia. The remaining soldiers established the Polish Army, 2nd Corps with two infantry divisions: "Kresowa" and "Karpacka". One was an armored brigade. The other army artillery group was organized in Iraq and Palestine. Under General W. Anders' command, these 47,000 soldiers became the largest Polish army formation on foreign territory during the Second World War. Warmly received by the British and American armies, they fought for their country under British command.

Ted joined the Polish forces, in the USSR, on May 28, 1942. After crossing the Russo-Persian border with his unit, he came under the British command in the Middle East on August 15, 1942.

The Polish Army was motivated by the promise and hope of fighting with the Allies to take back their country. The 2nd Corps was attached to the British Army and for a short time provided security in Iraq to guard the oil fields from attack by the Germans. They eventually were sent to Italy in 1944 engaged in an Allied Offensive against German forces commanded by Marshall Kesselring. They fought with the famous British 8th Army and the USA 5th. Ted took part in the Italian campaign January 18, 1944 until May 2, 1945. While he was

in Italy, Ted married his wife Mary, who he met in the labor camps in Russia. She also served in the Army, in transportation, as a truck driver.

The mountainous country on the Allied road of advance was extremely difficult, perfect for the German defense. The Polish Army under the command of General W. Anders made the final assault in front of the strong German fortified line, called the Gustav Line with its key point—Monte Cassino. In the battle of Monte Cassino, the Allied forces suffered heavy casualties. They continued fighting in Italy along the Adriatic Coast liberating many cities until the end of the war in 1945. Ted was awarded the Bronze Cross of Merit with Swords, Army Medal, and Cross of Monte Cassino from Poland for his bravery, valor and service. Britain also recognized his courageous acts by awarding him the 1939–45 Star, Italy Star and Defense Medal. Ted served with the Polish Resettlement Corps in England until February 16, 1949.

For Ted Nitkiewicz and the other Polish soldiers, victory was bittersweet. First, during the sixteen month campaign in Italy, the 2nd Polish Corps lost 809 officers. Another 10,570 of other ranks were killed or wounded in action. Second, because the Allies gave control of most of Poland to Stalin's Soviet Union, officially confirmed at Yalta, Poland, the country they remembered, did not exist. In effect, these Polish survivors became homeless. As a result, they scattered across the world, mostly settling in the USA and Britain.

Early in 1950, Ted Nitkiewicz immigrated to the United States and moved in with an uncle in Toledo, Ohio. There was little work available at that time, but he eventually landed a job in Textile Leather factory. He made enough money to pay his rent, buy some food and still had a little left over. For all of these opportunities, he felt grateful. He became a U.S. Citizen in the 1950s.

When asked how he was able to survive the terrible ordeal, Ted responded, "someone was praying for me and God answered their prayer."

Originally, this story was recorded in part for the Library of Congress Veteran's History project. Because Ted was not a U.S. veteran, but a veteran of the Allies, his story cannot be accepted by the Library of Congress, as yet. However, Joseph Walter, the local Toledo archivist for the project and the University of Toledo, has graciously accepted his story as part of our local history. The valiant accomplishment of Ted Nitkiewicz and his compatriots should not be lost but should be recorded as freedom's legacy. Three million Polish Christians died in the death camps alone should never be forgotten. The Poles suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazi and Soviet oppressors. We commemorate their noble struggle. We honor those who made the final sacrifice, in hopes that those who followed could live in a peaceful, democratic world.

On September 1, 2008, we mark the 69th anniversary of the invasion by Nazi Germany of an independent Poland that commences the Second World War. Let us not forget our brave Allied soldiers and citizens who made our Western world safe from the tyranny of Fascism and Communism to inspire our nation to its highest ideals. May their eternal memory shine down onto our world and inspire us to

work toward an everlasting peace and freedom.

PREVENT ALL CIGARETTE TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this Act. The Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act, or PACT Act, introduced by Congressman BOB WEINER of New York, strengthens our law enforcement capabilities against illegal smuggling of tobacco products. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Every year, tens of billions of cigarettes are illegally smuggled across State lines and across borders. This fraudulent activity not only harms the public health, but deprives State and local governments of sorely needed tax revenues.

In fact, tax evasion is a chief motivator for cigarette smuggling—buying the cigarettes in a State where the cigarette tax is low, and selling them in a State with a higher tax. Because of the tax evasion, the trafficker can sell the cigarettes at a discount and still turn an illicit profit.

States lose a billion dollars in uncollected taxes each year as a result of cigarette smuggling. The illicit profit also helps finance other criminal activity—a revenue stream for organized crime.

Because of the scope and interstate nature of this activity, States cannot adequately address it on their own. It has long been recognized as a Federal matter.

But the existing Federal statutes—the Jenkins Act, which requires reporting interstate cigarette sales to tax officials in the buyer's State, and the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act, which prohibits knowingly dealing in contraband cigarettes or smokeless tobacco—are simply not up to the task in the Internet Age.

The Internet, in particular, makes it possible for today's tobacco smugglers to be even more mobile and invisible, and to operate with near impunity.

Even when the smugglers can be identified and pursued, they can simply shut down operations and quickly reappear under a new name and website.

The PACT Act addresses the shortcomings in current law by targeting the delivery systems for illegal Internet tobacco sales—the postal system and commercial delivery services.

With limited exceptions, sending tobacco products through the U.S. mail will be criminally prohibited. And vendors using commercial delivery services for retail sales will be required to notify the tax authorities in the receiving State, conspicuously label all tobacco products, verify that the purchasers are of legal age, and keep careful records of all sales.

The bill raises cigarette trafficking from a misdemeanor to a felony. And it authorizes the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to inspect the premises and files of sellers of significant quantities of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco.

H.R. 4081 enjoys support from a diverse spectrum of entities, including the National Association of Convenience Stores, Altria, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Wholesale Marketers Association, and the National Association of Attorneys General, among others.

I commend my colleague, Mr. WEINER, for his leadership on this important legislation. I also commend Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith for his leadership in making this a bipartisan effort.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM STERLING
JOHNSON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Simi Valley Police Department Lieutenant William Sterling Johnson, who retired in July after 27 years of dedicated and exceptional service to the department and the city it serves.

Simi Valley, California, has been my home for more than 40 years. I served as City Councilman before being the city first elected Mayor. From my days as a city official to today, I have periodically accompanied officers on their rounds to keep myself familiarized with the challenges they face. It is a professional department, and Sterling Johnson epitomizes that professionalism.

As an officer, Sterling Johnson served as a field training officer and a member of the SWAT team, in addition to working three dogs as a K-9 handler. In addition, Sterling is a licensed paramedic and created the department's SWAT paramedic program.

Sterling and his first canine partner, Atlas, twice won the World Police & Fire Games, Police Service Dog Competition, in 1989 and 1991. In recognition of his professionalism and dedication, in 1994 his fellow officers selected him Officer of the Year.

As a sergeant, Sterling served as a patrol supervisor and SWAT team leader. Upon his promotion to lieutenant in 2003, Sterling worked as a patrol watch commander and was assigned to the Auxiliary Services Unit.

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Sterling has worked part time for American Medical Response, the city's 911 responder; taught advanced cardiac support and pediatric advanced life support at the UCLA Medical Center; and has been the CPR/First Aid instructor for the city and police department for more than 12 years. Sterling also served on the State of California Commission for Emergency Services from 1997–2006.

In short, Lieutenant William Sterling Johnson has left a positive mark on the police department he served for nearly three decades.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Sterling Johnson for his dedication and professionalism with the Simi Valley Police Department and in wishing him well in a long and fruitful retirement.