

HONORING BRIAN BLANCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Blanch of Liberty, Missouri. Brian is 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 1134, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian 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 Brian Blanch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 589, 590, and 591, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 589, "yes" on rollcall No. 590, and "yes" on rollcall No. 591.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH E. HEYWARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to this exceptional public servant and advocate, who has proudly served his community and the State of South Carolina. Dr. Joseph E. Heyward was recently acknowledged for his service and awarded with The Alpha Award of Honor and Merit by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on July 20, 2008.

This award was given to Dr. Joseph E. Heyward because of his courage, vision, wisdom and independence of thought and action which characterizes the best leadership in American life. He has distinguished himself through his spirituality, profession and culture. This award recognizes contributions he has made through his ideas, ideals and work.

Dr. Joseph E. Heyward is the fourth of five children and the youngest son of John Wayne and Wilhelmina Wright Heyward. He was born in Florence, South Carolina and educated in the public school system, graduating from Wilson Senior High with recognition for his academic excellence and leadership ability.

After High School, Dr. Heyward attended Hampton Institute in Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics with a minor in Physics in 1963. He continued

his education at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and received a Master of Arts Degree in Mathematics in 1972. He received a Doctor of Education Degree in Student Personnel Administration from the University of South Carolina in 1987. He also studied Physics at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities by Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina.

While at Hampton University, Joseph E. Heyward joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity through the Gamma Iota Chapter. He then joined the Delta Kappa Lambda Chapter in Florence after his return from a two-year military tour of duty in Europe. Joseph E. Heyward has been a active member in his local chapter since 1967 and has served as its president, secretary and is currently its treasurer.

In his community and civic involvement, Joseph E. Heyward serves as president of four housing boards of directors, a Rotarian, Wachovia Bank of South Carolina Advisory Committee, South Carolina Genetics Board of Directors, South Carolina Housing Advisory Board, a former member of the South Carolina State Board of Accountancy and former member of the Florence Symphony Board.

Dr. Heyward is a member of Cumberland United Methodist Church in Florence, SC. He serves as the Conference Lay Leader for the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and chairs the Board of Laity. He has attended the past six General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church and currently is the Vice Chair of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. He also served one quadrennial as a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration for the Methodist Church and currently he is the member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for the United Methodist Church and its Executive Committee.

Professionally, Dr. Heyward has taught mathematics and physics on the high school level and served as Assistant Principal and Principal of a middle school. In 1973 he joined the staff of Francis Marion University and went on to hold the position of Director of the University Center and Area Representative for U.S. Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings from 1978–1980. In 1980 he was recruited and accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent for instruction for Florence District One. He held that position for three years and in 1983 returned to Francis Marion University as Vice President. As a member of the administration at Francis Marion, Dr. Heyward served as Interim Provost of that university on three separate occasions. He retired from the University in June 2006 as Senior Vice President for Student Affairs.

In addition to the many accomplishments and community involvements listed above, Dr. Heyward is a member of the NAACP, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, and Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. He has also held membership in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Southern Association of College Student Affairs, and the South Carolina College Personnel Association.

Dr. Heyward is supported by his wife of 38 years, the former Evelyn Sargent, and their

three children, Joseph II, Ryan Christopher and Regina Maria. He has four grandchildren; Joseph E. III, Ryan C, Jaylen C, and Mackenzie A.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the achievements of Dr. Joseph E. Heyward and congratulate him on his recent honor. His life is a testament to the results of hard work, dedication and commitment.

HONORING STEVEN SCOTT SWANEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Scott Swaney of Kansas City, Missouri. Steven is 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 301, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEMENT C. VAN WAGONER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2339, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Alpena, Michigan, after LTC Clement C. Van Wagoner.

I would like to thank Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their support of this legislation.

Clement C. Van Wagoner, a native of Alpena County, is one of Michigan's most highly decorated veterans of World War II. He distinguished himself as commander of the A Co., First Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, serving 600 days of combat and returning to battle after being wounded five separate times.

Mr. Van Wagoner was one of only 32 survivors of the 1,800 soldiers who landed with the 1st Infantry Division at Omaha Beach on D-day.

He was the recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, four Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars, five Purple Hearts, the Soldier's Medal, and many others.

However, Mr. Van Wagoner's service did not stop after returning home. He continued to serve the State of Michigan and his country

honorably as a member of the Michigan Army National Guard. The governor requested that he re-establish and command an Army National Guard unit in Alpena, which he commanded until he retired in 1967.

Mr. Van Wagoner was an outstanding member of his community, a local hero, and a great American. His son, Clayton, has carried on the family tradition of national service as a member of the Army Reserve.

Clement C. Van Wagoner passed away in 2007. It is fitting to honor him, his years of service, and his family by naming the Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

This legislation has been endorsed by the Michigan American Legion, Michigan VFW, Michigan AMVETS, Michigan DAV, Alpena County Board of Commissioners, City of Alpena, Township of Alpena, and Alpena County Veterans Council.

I would also like to thank the entire Michigan House delegation for their support on this legislation and Senators STABENOW and LEVIN for their work on S. 2339.

TOUCHING THE FACE OF GRACE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House an article written by my constituent, Mitchell L. Hubbard of Winchester, Virginia, about his son's experience while deployed to Iraq. His son's story should make us all think about our armed forces, as well as the police and first responders, who risk so much to serve us every day.

TOUCHING THE "FACE OF GRACE": DO WE HAVE THE ABILITY, OR DESIRE, TO SEE OUR SOLDIERS IN THE SAME WAY?

(By Mitchell L. Hubbard)

Whatever your political take on the war in Iraq, nothing can alter it more than having a loved one in the midst of it. Nor is anyone's current perspective balanced until they hear at least some things from a soldier's point of view.

My wife and I learned these truths when our son—a 2004 Handley graduate—decided to join the Army in 2006. His reasoning was simple: He wasn't comfortable knowing that thousands of others his age were sacrificing their own freedoms to protect his. When he signed up to join those thousands, it changed our perspective as well.

Up to that point, it had always been other peoples' sons and daughters doing the fighting. Now it would be our own child. Naturally, no one wants their child to volunteer to go in harm's way for freedom's sake. It was something of a conviction, though, when my wife and I had to ask ourselves why it shouldn't be our own son in the Middle East, why we should be spared the rituals of anxiety, prayer, hope, and waiting that tens of thousands of other families over here have already endured.

In early June, we flew to Fort Hood, Texas, to see our son deploy for a 15-month tour in Iraq. Again, one's perspective is limited until one attends a deploying ceremony for a unit of soldiers. Spouses, children, parents, siblings, and friends, all crowding a gym, all clinging closely to their treasures-in-uniform, accompanied by flags, prayers, cheers, and tears. Our son had joined a "Band of

Brothers." My wife and I had joined the "Band of Others," who would be waiting at home. Both those going, and those left behind, carry the War on Terror in a personal way.

Still, those of us left behind need to see something of what our soldiers see, and not only what is offered us in the news. To that end, here is one story our son, Luke, shared with us by phone, that must be shared with anyone who claims an interest in what our soldiers are doing in the Middle East.

Stationed outside a city on the Tigris River, Luke had accompanied his colonel into town as part of a security team, while the colonel spoke with a local sheik. While standing guard, Luke noticed a woman approaching from behind, and cautiously turned in her direction, his rifle at the ready.

An interpreter told our son it was OK—the woman just wanted to touch a soldier. Still uneasy, Luke stood still while the woman reached out her hand and touched his face, tears in her eyes.

Looking to the interpreter for meaning, our son was told: The woman had simply "wanted to touch the face of grace." It seems this trembling woman, like most of the people in her town, looked upon our soldiers as angels of grace, sent by God to protect her from the violence and oppression her people had come to know up to then. Learning this, our son squeezed and kissed the woman's hand, and she left, weeping.

The "Face of Grace." How many of us, safe at home debating the politics of the War on Terror, have ever seen our soldiers in such a light? How many of us have ever even read such an uplifting newspaper account of our soldiers?

To be sure, our soldiers are not virtuous simply by being soldiers. At home in their "civvies," they are as unangelic as the rest of us. Yet when they voluntarily get into "full battle rattle" (as they call their battle gear) in a hot and hostile land, their job is both protective and sacrificial—as angelic a purpose as humans can take on. People like this woman, having suffered years of oppression and fear, have eyes and a heart to see this, and to desire to "touch the Face of Grace." Do we have the ability to see our soldiers in the same way?

And not merely our soldiers: Can we see the "Face of Grace" in the police who protect us in every town, day and night? Or in the fire and rescue teams who are soldiers in their own right?

My wife and I obviously pray that our son and his "Band of Brothers" will come safely home to their personal "Band of Others." After listening to our son's experience, though, we have added the prayer that Americans in every community will be given the eyes and heart to see the "Face of Grace" in all who protect our lives and freedoms—especially in soldiers like our son.

MISSOURI KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I recognize the legacy of the Korean war veterans from the state of Missouri on the day of the groundbreaking of the Missouri Korean War Memorial.

Thousands of soldiers fought courageously in the Korean war and now these veterans

and their families will finally receive the honor they have deserved for so long. Approximately 900 men and women from Missouri lost their lives to protect the Republic of South Korea between 1950 and 1953.

I would like to thank the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department for donating the land, as well as the individual donors who made this memorial possible. The memorial will serve as a beautiful site to pay tribute to the veterans of the Korean war and I look forward to 2010 when it is completed.

Madam Speaker, the dedication and sacrifice that these veterans gave in the name of freedom is humbling, and it is an honor to serve these men and women in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a very elite group of veterans from the great state of Missouri, and to congratulate the city of Kansas City on the groundbreaking of the Missouri Korean War Memorial.

THE DAILY 45: CHERYL BOOKER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.

In Buffalo, New York, two people died in separate shootings on September 15. One was 51-year-old Cheryl Booker, who was inside a lounge early Monday morning when she was shot in the upper body.

In the other shooting, a 19-year-old man was hit by gunfire from a car and died at the hospital. His name has not yet been released, but we don't need to know his name. We know that it could have been your loved one, it could have been mine.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on Monday, September 15, 2008 because of Hurricane Ike. I missed rollcall votes 589 through 591. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 589, "aye" on rollcall 590, and "aye" on rollcall 591.

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF AMAVEX AND OTHER VEN- EZUELANS IN EXILE TO SHOW THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN CHAVEZ AND THE FARC

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today in support of the efforts of