

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 VENEZUELAN 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

AMAVEX, a group of Venezuelan exiles who work, along with more than thirty non-profit organizations, in support of the “Bring Chavez to Justice” campaign. This campaign aims to highlight the troubling associations between Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez and the Marxist-terrorist group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC.

The FARC has been listed as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States government since 2001. Between 1996 and January 2008, the FARC kidnapped 6,877 people including three U.S. citizens who were recently liberated by the valiant efforts of Colombia’s government. Mark Gonsalves, an American contractor kidnapped and held by the FARC for more than five years, described his ordeal at the hands of his captors and declared that the FARC are “terrorists with a capital ‘T’.”

Chavez supports the FARC unashamedly proclaims his admiration for this violent terrorist group. He described the FARC in January 2008 as “a real army.” While his praise is sometimes peppered with halfhearted criticisms of the FARC’s narco-trafficking, kidnappings, and violence, his actions betray his true intentions. He welcomes the FARC to conduct operations along Venezuela’s border with Colombia and does nothing to cooperate with Colombia and the U.S. to combat the terrorist group’s drug trafficking within its borders.

The computers and evidence that came from the raid that killed the FARC’s second in command, Raul Reyes, also resulted in the discovery of evidence showing FARC-Chavez associations. Seized computer files reveal high level connections between the FARC and senior officials in the Chavez administration. These files, authenticated by INTERPOL, reveal hundreds of millions of dollars in payments from the Venezuelan government to the FARC. And, as recently as June of this year, Colombian officials captured four men, one who was a sergeant in Venezuela’s national guard, for transporting 40,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition to the FARC in Colombia.

It is often said that one can judge a person by the company he keeps. In this context, we should all take note that just last Thursday, while Americans observed the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, Chavez rejected all semblance of solidarity with the U.S. and our battle against terrorism by expelling the U.S. ambassador from Caracas. Chavez chooses the company of terrorists, drug traffickers, kidnappers and murderers, and severs diplomatic ties with the U.S. Chavez is a dictator who harbors terrorists.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of AMAVEX and the efforts of all Venezuelans to bring the terrorist associations of dictator Hugo Chavez to the world’s attention.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
MICHAEL McNULTY

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congressman MICHAEL McNULTY on the occasion of his retirement from Congress and also to wish him a happy birthday. For 20 years, MIKE has

represented New York in the House of Representatives, now in the 21st District. For nearly 40 years, MIKE has served in public office at the local, state, and national level. This Congress, MIKE announced that he would not seek an 11th term in the House.

MIKE has had an impressive career. He first served as Town Supervisor of Green Island, New York at only 22 years old. He was subsequently elected Mayor of Green Island and then to the New York State Assembly. Mike was elected to Congress in 1988 and has been known for his honesty and integrity. He has served on a number of important committees, including the Armed Services Committee, the Executive Committee of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and the Ways and Means Committee, where he is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security. He has traveled to all seven continents.

While MIKE’s service to his community and nation has been meritorious and incredibly valuable, what I have always admired most about him is the way he has gone about doing his job here in Congress. Among his colleagues, MIKE has often been referred to as “the Quiet Gentleman” due to the manner in which he does business. MIKE has managed to be an effective and fair legislator while treating people with respect and acting with dignity, which is no small feat in Washington. MIKE has always stayed above the fray and shunned the kind of partisan bickering that is far too often associated with the work of Congress.

MIKE is universally admired by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and has served this body with distinction and I know that I speak for all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives when I say that we are honored to have served with him.

I want to join MIKE’s wife Nancy, his family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him today on his impressive career and wishing him well. The United States of America owes a debt of gratitude to MICHAEL McNULTY for the public service he provided. We will miss him from the New York delegation and from the Congress as a whole. We wish him good luck in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DAIRY
AND SHEEP H-2A VISA ENHANCE-
MENT ACT OF 2008 (H.R. 6885)

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2008, I introduced legislation, the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act of 2008 (H.R. 6885), which is designed to ensure that American dairy farmers and sheep ranchers can legally hire the employees they need. Very simply, it would provide dairy farmers with access to the H-2A visa program and codify longstanding regulatory practices that currently allow sheepherders such access.

As I have previously mentioned, one cannot overstate the importance of the dairy industry to the United States economy. In 2007 alone, nearly 60,000 commercial dairy farmers produced 185 billion pounds of milk worth \$35.5 billion. This generated more than \$140 billion in economic activity and 1.2 million jobs. In New York’s 23rd District, which I have the

privilege of representing, dairy is an integral component of the economy, as there are approximately 2,000 dairy farms with some 190,000 milk cows dispersed across the 11 counties that comprise the District. Likewise, in 2007, national retail sales of sheep products were nearly \$768 million. These retail receipts supported an additional \$1.4 billion in economic activity for a total economic impact of \$2.2 billion.

For all of its importance, the dairy industry simply cannot continue to operate at its current capacity, let alone expand, without immigrant workers. Increasingly, the U.S. dairy workforce is relying upon those born outside of the United States, with some estimates indicating that at least 50 percent of all current labor is now foreign-born. Without access to a stable workforce, many American farms could well go out of business. According to an analysis completed by the Farm Credit Associations of New York, over 445 New York dairy farms are highly vulnerable to this situation. In recent years, I have seen this vulnerability first hand as dozens of constituent dairy farmers have repeatedly shared with me the toll that the uncertainty associated with the status quo is extracting from them.

There is a similar need for year-round sheepherders. Given that the U.S. sheep industry was unable to secure sufficient domestic labor to herd range livestock beginning decades ago, a regulatory provision was created allowing the industry to utilize the H-2A program to employ foreign sheepherders. This measure has proven to be extremely successful. For more than 60 years, more than one-fourth of the nation’s entire sheep flock has been produced by ranchers utilizing sheepherders born outside of the United States.

Unfortunately, due largely to its “temporary or seasonal in nature” employment requirement, dairy farmers are currently unable to utilize the H-2A visa program. Thus, it is imperative that Congress act now to provide American dairy farmers access to this program through enacting the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act of 2008. This measure would codify existing regulatory practices and allow American sheep ranchers to legally hire foreign workers for an initial period of three years and additional terms of three years without requiring intervening periods of absence. It would also allow dairy farmers to hire foreign workers on a similar basis.

Put simply, American dairy farmers need workers now. They can ill afford to wait for Congress to complete its long delayed attempts to enact legislation accomplishing comprehensive immigration reform. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to work with me to help American dairy farmers and bolster our nation’s economy by enacting the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act of 2008.

REMEMBERING LEONARD B. “BUD”
DOGGETT, JR.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, on August 13, when the Congress was in recess, the Washington, DC, region lost one of its great civic leaders when Leonard B. “Bud” Doggett, Jr.,