

All at the ready . . . all out in front  
ever steady while on the hunt, for our  
freedom to so insure . . .

But, in life . . . There are new battles, and  
new wars . . . Only won by heart's of  
gold so fine and pure, that which so  
touch us all with their sacrifice all the  
more . . . Building day by day, passing  
heartache's way . . . lifting up her  
head . . . This Magnificent Force . . .

In Susan Downes . . . In what was lost, we so  
see in life . . . against all odds, what so  
can be found! When Courage Crests, as  
her faith does us so bless . . . when but  
the best of all heart's so astounds . . .

Could we, would we? Ever find the such  
strength to go off to war, then come  
back home and fight one more? To re-  
build where none lies left, without  
arms or legs . . . not to cry or beg, to  
so touch our Lord!

Some people, are put upon this earth . . . So  
sent down from our Lord above, to but  
teach us all above faith's true fine  
worth! To Teach Us To Reach Us, To  
So Touch All Our Hearts . . . inside all  
of our souls here first!

Against all odds! When, all the chips are  
down . . . only where heart's of faith so  
found . . . In such courage now, do our  
hearts astound . . . all in Heroes like  
Sue Downes! In Hearts As Found!

Susan Downes was a gunner in Afghan-  
istan. She is an F4 in The United States Army.  
She lost both her feet and part of her legs in  
an IED explosion. She is from Tazewell, Ten-  
nessee, is married to her husband Gabriel,  
and they have two wonderful children named  
Austin and Alexis.

#### TRIBUTE TO LTG JOHN R. WOOD

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has  
come to my attention that LTG John R. Wood  
is retiring from the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant General Wood graduated from  
the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in  
1972. He has served in many posts, including  
as the platoon leader to the commanding gen-  
eral of the 2nd Infantry Division of the 8th U.S.  
Army—Republic of South Korea, as a National  
Security Fellow to the White House, and as a  
commander at the U.S. Joint Forces Com-  
mand's Joint Experimentation Directorate.

Lieutenant General Wood has overseen the  
Joint Forces Command's missions on training,  
experimentation and integration for the U.S.  
military. Lieutenant General Wood is a highly  
decorated commander, earning the Bronze  
Star, Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service  
Medal, and many others. The General also  
holds advanced degrees from the University of  
Chicago and the U.S. Army Command and  
General Staff College.

Madam Speaker, LTG John R. Wood is a  
valuable member of his community, but more-  
over, an honorable soldier. His dedication to  
the Armed Forces should certainly be noted. I  
know the Members of the House will join me  
in thanking Lieutenant General Wood for his  
service in the U.S. military, and in wishing him  
and his family nothing but the best in the  
many years to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 7063, THE U.S. AND THE WORLD EDU- CATION ACT

##### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.  
Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my col-  
leagues to support H.R. 7063, the U.S. and  
the World Education Act, which I introduced in  
the House this week.

This bill addresses the need to improve stu-  
dent awareness of and achievement in inter-  
national education so they will be able to com-  
pete in an information age world that is con-  
stantly shrinking due to rapid technological ad-  
vances.

This bill will create a grant program to fund  
international education professional develop-  
ment for elementary and secondary teachers,  
and related supplemental extracurricular activi-  
ties for students. These activities could include  
Model U.N., geography bees, and foreign lan-  
guage clubs, among many others.

In addition, H.R. 7063 would establish an  
international education research repository  
containing scientifically valid education re-  
search, and promising and exemplary prac-  
tices related to international education and for-  
eign language education. This repository  
would be available to state and local educa-  
tional agencies in order to continually im-  
prove their international education curriculum  
and teaching methods.

This bill supports improvements in the way  
international education is taught in the class-  
room, and encourages students and teachers  
to engage in life-long learning on the various  
topics involved in international education, such  
as foreign languages, geography, world his-  
tory, international economics and international  
culture.

These days with just a simple computer  
mouse click, we can create personal or pro-  
fessional relationships with anyone around the  
world. In the workplace, American-based mul-  
tinationals corporations and small businesses  
are increasingly in need of employees with  
knowledge of foreign languages and cultures.

Future generations need to be equipped  
with a skill-set that will help them be success-  
ful and meet the demands of a global work-  
force. H.R. 7063, the U.S. and the World Edu-  
cation Act will help prepare our students and  
our country for the global economy of the fu-  
ture.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. BLACKBURN, JR.

##### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise  
today in honor of John R. Blackburn, Jr.,  
Chairman of the UPMC Bedford Memorial  
Board of Directors. Mr. Blackburn will be re-  
tiring after 53 years of service to the UPMC  
Bedford Memorial Hospital. During his tenure  
John, or Jack, as he prefers to be known, has  
served in multiple leadership roles and has  
been active in a variety of committees includ-

ing the Finance Committee and the Scholar-  
ship Committee. Jack helped form the Memo-  
rial Hospital of Bedford County Foundation,  
worked on the Spring House Estates project,  
and was a key player during the transition of  
the hospital to the University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center.

Mr. Blackburn was born on December 19,  
1922 and has been a life-long resident of Bed-  
ford County. After graduating from Bedford  
High School he enrolled and graduated from  
the prestigious Dartmouth College in New  
Hampshire. Jack served in the Army Air Corps  
for 3 years and was 1st Lieutenant in the Pa-  
cific Theatre during World War II. He was also  
one of the select few who flew the B-32  
bomber in the Philippines during that conflict.  
After his military service Mr. Blackburn re-  
turned home and became a partner of  
Blackburn Russell, a grocery distributor in  
Bedford.

When Jack became a member of the Bed-  
ford Memorial Hospital Board of Directors in  
1955 he was following a path paved by his fa-  
ther, John Blackburn, Sr., who has been one  
of the original Board members. Jack's service  
to the hospital was anything but in his father's  
shadow. He served on 12 different hospital  
committees administering everything from the  
Buildings and Grounds Committee to the Con-  
gestive Heart Failure Committee. He was  
elected Secretary of the Board in 1964 and  
served in that role until he was elected Vice-  
President in 1976. Ten years later Jack found  
himself elevated to the position of President of  
the Board of Directors. His position was re-  
titled in 1994 making him Chairman of the  
Board. After 22 years of leading the Board,  
and 53 years of service overall, Jack made  
the decision to step down and enjoy retire-  
ment.

Mr. Blackburn and his late wife, Elizabeth  
dedicated their lives to improving their com-  
munity. Jack has been an active member and  
leader in the Bedford community for many  
years and is well respected. A life of servitude  
to one's community is something to be proud  
of. It is also not one that is easy to step away  
from, because in a man like Jack Blackburn,  
the desire to help others and the community is  
something that never truly disappears. I would  
like to wish Mr. Blackburn all the best in his  
future endeavors. It is my pleasure to honor  
Mr. Blackburn today for his many years of  
service to the Bedford Community, and I hold  
him up as a model example of good citizen-  
ship.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB AHRENS

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to re-  
cognize the retirement of a local Ogden, Iowa  
mechanic, Bob Ahrens and to express my ap-  
preciation for his dedication and commitment  
to his community.

For 41 years, Bob has been fixing cars for  
his friends, neighbors and strangers in the  
Ogden area. He is known for doing quality car  
repairs without costing a fortune to his cus-  
tomers. He also has performed many jobs on  
cars where he did not bother to collect the  
money owed to him. His long-time business

has been a staple holding the community's transportation needs together, and his services will be greatly missed.

Bob Ahrens selfless, hardworking Iowa mentality has set a lasting standard for the people of the Ogden community. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Ahrens for his service. I consider it an honor to represent Bob in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF PETTY OFFICER  
JOSHUA T. HARRIS

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of former Petty Officer First Class Joshua T. Harris, who was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan last week. Joshua was a native of Lexington, North Carolina, and was deployed to Afghanistan from an assignment at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group in Dam Neck, Virginia.

Joshua graduated from Lexington Senior High School where he distinguished himself as an outstanding linebacker earning both all-county and all-conference honors. He enrolled in Davison College in Davison, North Carolina, where he studied studio art before pursuing graduate studies in architecture at the University of North Carolina.

After enlisting in the Navy on August 23, 2000, Joshua attended Navy SEAL training in California.

Joshua Harris is survived by his mother Evelyn, his father Sam, his twin sister Mary-Maria Kirstin and his older brother, Sam Ranchor. He will always be remembered by his family and friends as a competitive athlete with a passion for art and design.

I would like to share with my colleges a poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell in memory of Petty Officer First Class Joshua Harris, recognizing his heroism and sacrifice to America. The poem titled "Thou Art" reads as follows:

THOU ART

A thing of Beauty . . .  
A sheer work of art . . .  
Can only come but from deep inside one's heart . . .  
From only deep down inside one's soul . . .  
All in the brush strokes of a lifetime so . . .  
All on the canvass of a life behold . . .  
To all hearts and minds, and souls . . .  
A thing of faith and courage, so!  
A thing of beauty . . .  
A work of art . . .  
To warm all hearts as we grow old . . .  
As was your fine life Josh, so . . .  
All in courage's quote . . .  
All in the seeds of freedom you so sowed . . .  
As left behind, to all hearts which spoke . . .  
All upon your fine canvass of life as lies such hope . . .  
Which but means the very most . . .  
That so touches all of our hearts and souls . . .  
Is but your fine portrait of life, that which you so wrote!  
Painted, all there by your oh so magnificent heart of gold . . .  
All in this your Honor's Code . . .  
Is but left a fine reflection of your very soul!

Bringing Light!

Bringing Hope!

As in the darkest days of war you fought . . .  
Such a thing of beauty Joshua, as you Thou Art!

Are but the colors of your heart . . .

All in this your life's design!

Reminds us all, how against all odds your courage climbed . . .

As against the darkest of all evil's you so shined . . .

All in your Seal of Honor burning bright . . .  
To win that day, that night!

Shining, all in your most sacrificial light . . .

Burning bold, burning bright . . . blessing all of us here this night!

For Joshua, how so you lived and died . . .  
Brings such tears, even to The Angels eyes!

As so surely, it was but Heaven Joshua you'd find!

As we gaze upon this Masterpiece, all in the life you so left behind!

Mount Up Seal . . . Your new battle has begun . . .

It's your new war to be won!

All as an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my son!

Now with wings of courage full . . .

A thing of beauty . . .

A work of art . . .

Joshua, my most magnificent of all sons . . .  
You are Thou Art!

Amen. . . .

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
THE PATIENT ADVOCATE ACT

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well being of our citizens. With 46 million uninsured, including 9 million children, and many more underinsured, we must focus on strengthening our existing system as we continue to work to assure that quality health care is available to all. The Patient Advocate Act will assist patients, particularly those with a chronic illness, in successfully meeting the challenges brought on by their illness.

Patients battling a life-threatening illness are generally ill-equipped to negotiate with insurance companies, hospitals and other medical providers. Advocates will be available to assist with job retention and other debt crisis matters, while the patients are dealing with the reality of their illness at the same time. The limited network of existing patient advocate programs have proven their value and cost effectiveness. It is in the best interest of the patient to have someone available to advocate on their behalf while suffering from chronic illness.

Madam Speaker, the Patient Advocate Act would establish a demonstration grant program for State, local, tribal and non-profit entities to develop and operate patient advocate programs. The programs will assist patients in resolving health insurance, job retention, debt crisis and other problems related to the patients' diagnosis and illness. Specific services include negotiating pre-authorization claims, expediting the appeals process on contested claims, resolving billing errors and other bill issues, resolving debt crises, brokering resources to supplement limits to insurance, gaining access to services for the uninsured,

and addressing other problems related to the patient's illness, at no cost to the patient. The grants will be made available to existing and new patient advocacy programs.

Madam Speaker, to ensure that patients facing serious illness are able to effectively address the major issues that confront them during their illness, it is vitally important that they have access to professional case management services. The Patient Advocate Act will provide communities with the ability to establish patient advocate programs to assist patients as they negotiate the challenges of serious illness. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOWELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Jerry Howell, organist at the Maxwell Church of the Brethren and Loring United Methodist Church of Maxwell, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his church and community.

For the past 50 years, Jerry has contributed his time and talents to his church community. He began piano lessons at the age of 11. In 1958, the organist at Santiago Methodist Church in rural Mitchellville retired, and at the age of 14, Jerry was called up to the organ bench. In 1989, Jerry and his wife Opal transferred their church membership to Loring United Methodist Church in rural Maxwell, Iowa. The organist at Loring retired, and Jerry was back on the organ bench. For the past 10 years, he was the organist for both Loring and Maxwell Church of the Brethren.

It is estimated that in the past 50 years, Jerry has played for 2,700 Sunday morning services, 120 funerals and 25 weddings. Unfortunately, Jerry's career has been cut short with his diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration that has caused blurry vision that makes reading and playing the music difficult. Although he no longer plays the organ at church, the memories of Jerry's musical contributions live on, and he continues to be an active member of his community.

Beyond retiring from his service at church, Jerry also retired from his job as an accounting technician at the Iowa Department of Transportation a year and a half ago, and he has taken the opportunity to travel around the country while his vision remains strong enough. I consider it an honor to represent Jerry Howell in the United States Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement as he continues to serve his community and travel around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
RON LEWIS ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable RON LEWIS for his service to the people