

progress that Croatia has made in military modernization and in other aspects of the program outlined for the country in the MAP. That evening Ambassador Bradtke arranged for us to meet with members of the Croatian parliament, including opposition figures and key members of the foreign policy and defense committees, as well as independent voices in Croatia. This meeting allowed us to hear a wide range of views beyond those in the government, and added to our ability to evaluate Croatia's progress in the MAP. There is a consensus that significant progress has been made over the past several years. A key issue was the relatively low level of public support—somewhat over 50%—in the population for NATO membership, a figure that appears to be climbing. There must also continue to be progress made in the fight against corruption.

The following day we flew first to the Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), then to Albania. In Macedonia, our ambassador gave us a briefing that touched on several issues of relevance. The delegation then proceeded to meetings with Macedonian President Cervenkovski, Prime Minister Gruevski, and other senior officials, including General Stojanovski, the chief of defense forces. The internal political situation in the country remains complicated and unsettled, and issues range well beyond ethnic divisions in the country. Macedonian troops serve in NATO operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we met several soldiers who had returned from assignments there. A key issue in NATO is the formal name of the country, and there are continuing discussions with Greece to attempt to reach a compromise under U.N.-sponsored talks. We are hopeful that Skopje and Athens can reach a settlement of this issue, and that Macedonia's candidacy for NATO can be judged solely on its qualifications under the MAP.

In Albania we met with President Topi and with Prime Minister Berisha. We also met with members of parliament from both the governing parties and the opposition. We were accompanied throughout our meetings by U.S. Ambassador Withers, who provided an overview of developments in Albania. There are conflicting views on the depth of the problem caused by organized crime and corruption in Albania, and this was one issue raised in our discussions with government officials. While laws have been passed to fight crime and corruption, it may be useful for Congress in the coming months to examine the degree to which such legislation has been implemented. It should be said that Albania, although a poor country, by all accounts has made progress in downsizing and modernizing its military.

The Serbian reaction to Kosovo's independence time and again surfaced during our meetings. In the coming months, we are likely to see a range of ideas raised for and against the possible membership of the "Adriatic 3" in the alliance. These are small countries with correspondingly small militaries; they must concentrate on niche capabilities to make a contribution to allied security, and each is making progress along this road. Given the continuing tensions in the region in part brought on by Serbia's reaction to Kosovo's independence, proponents of the three governments' candidacies are likely to argue that their developing democracies and contributions to multinational, cooperative efforts to bring stability are factors in their favor. These

are issues that my delegation and other Members of Congress will be considering in the coming months.

As always, members of the United States military contributed greatly to the success of this trip. The logistics of such a trip, compressed into a tight time frame, are complicated and require lengthy and detailed preparation. Our crew was from the 932nd Air Wing at Scott AFB, Illinois. This is an Air Force Reserve unit, and they did an outstanding job. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ADAMS, GERALD HAYS, AND MARCEL SHIPP

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention the lives of three fellow natives of my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, Mike Adams, Gerald Hayes, and Marcel Shipp, who will be honored this evening by the Murph Boys Charitable Association, not only for their impressive athletic achievements, but for all they have done for others in need.

Each of these men began his journey in Paterson, New Jersey, and attended the same high school, Passaic County Technical Institute, PCTI, in Wayne.

In his career at PCTI, Adams earned all-state honors, as well as all-area and all-county, and was chosen as one of the top 100 players in New Jersey. He was outgoing and well-rounded, also lettering in track and baseball. He is remembered at PCTI for his tenacity and perseverance, overcoming many obstacles to succeed. He took this "can-do" attitude to the University of Delaware, where he started 23 of 43 career games, and posted 213 tackles, 11 interceptions, and 14 PBU, and ranks 11th in school history in interceptions. He entered the NFL in 2004 as an undrafted free agent and signed with the San Francisco 49ers. He made his NFL debut in November 2004 and by the next year appeared in 14 games. In 2005 he started 10 games, posting 68 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, and tied for the team lead with four interceptions. In 2006 he started eight games and played in all 16, recording 67 tackles, three PBU, and 12 special teams tackles. After 3 years in San Francisco he signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Browns, recording 29 tackles, a sack, and two PBU in 2007 before a knee injury placed him on injured reserve.

During his time as a PCTI Bulldog, Gerald Hayes impressed coaches from the start and was a 4-year varsity player. He was a dominating player on the field, and off the field, won numerous awards in fine arts, and his pencil drawings were displayed in galleries throughout the State. He went on to play college football at Pittsburgh, and was a three-time first-team all-Big East selection. His career statistics at Pittsburgh include 387 tackles, 13.5 sacks, nine pass deflections, and two interceptions. He was chosen in the third round of the 2003 draft by the Cardinals, and by 2004 he saw action in every 2004 game, and was poised to start in 2005 before suf-

fering a season-ending injury in the preseason. He made his return in 2006, starting 14 games, leading the team in tackles with 111, despite missing the last two games with an injury. He had another successful season in 2007, with 98 tackles, four sacks, an interception, and three passes deflected.

Shipp was a quiet unassuming leader while at PCTI. He knew what he wanted to achieve and worked hard to reach his goal. He was an all-state selection as a senior, running for 1,510 yards and 24 touchdowns on 172 carries. Shipp then played 1 year at Milford Academy Prep, gaining 3,239 yards and 42 touchdowns on 429 carries. He then went on to the University of Massachusetts and is one of the school's most decorated athletes. He was the 6th ranked rusher in the history of NCAA Division 1-AA, with 5,383 yards. He gained over 100 yards 33 times, including 7 200-yard efforts. He holds UMass career records with 1,215 carries for 6,250 yards, 58 touchdowns, 378 points, and 7,759 all purpose yards. He signed in 2001 with the Arizona Cardinals as an undrafted free agent and as a rookie played in 10 games. He ended 2002 with 1,247 total yards, on 226 touches, a 5.5-yard average that was 2nd in the NFC. In 2003 he shared running back duties with Emmitt Smith until an injury sidelined Smith, and Shipp started the final 11 games. He gained 830 yards on 228 carries. He was the first Cardinal since 1992 to log back-to-back 100-yard games. He missed the 2004 season with an injury, but came back in 2005 to lead the team in rushing with 451 yards on 157 attempts. In 2006 he finished the season with four rushing touchdowns in the final four games and became the first Cardinal to rush for three touchdowns in one game since 1998.

What is most special about these three men is not what they achieve on the field, but what they do off of it. They all dedicate time and financial support to help those who are in need through charitable endeavors. Never taking their success for granted, they look for ways to make their communities a better place to live.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to recognize the charitable community efforts of Americans like Mr. Adams, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Shipp.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone at Passaic County Technical Institute, all those who have been touched by the generosity of these men, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mike Adams, Gerald Hayes, and Marcel Shipp to their communities.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
ZANE STATE COLLEGE FOR ITS
INCLUSION IN WASHINGTON
MONTHLY'S LIST OF THE TOP 30
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Zane State College is ranked ninth among two-year colleges in the nation according to a report released by Washington Monthly; and

Whereas, the results are based on graduation rates and on student feedback as collected in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE); and

Whereas, Zane State College has used student feedback in a successful effort to satisfy students' needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Zane State College for its outstanding service to students, families, and the Zanesville community. Congratulations to Zane State College on its ranking as number nine among two-year colleges in the U.S.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FRESHOUR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, a hero is someone that accomplishes great things for others without seeking glory for themselves. Heroes don't identify themselves with this title and try to shrug off accolades by living a life of strong character and silent modesty. We pass by many heroes throughout our lives and don't even realize it because they hide their true identities behind humble titles such as dad and grandpa.

Sgt. David F. Freshour is a hero from the Second Congressional District of Texas. He recently passed away on Monday, February 18, 2008. He was a World War II veteran and a member of the 15th Air Force, 451st Bomb Group Heavy, 725th Squadron stationed in Italy.

Sgt. Freshour's once described to me some of his fondest memories of military service. He repaired and maintained heavy bombers, specifically the B-24 "flying boxcars." His overseas tour of duty began when his squadron was shipped over to Europe in the hold of a Liberty Ship. After 25 days in a convoy, they disembarked in Naples, Italy. During this time, the U.S. Infantry was still fighting the Germans on the west side of Italy just north of Naples.

According to Sgt. Freshour, his convoy leader got confused and led the squadrons north instead of east. They soon realized their mistake when they began to hear the bombardment of ground troops. The convoy leader turned them around and led them over the mountains to the east.

When they arrived, the base was not ready. They were then taken to a temporary location that they used for two months until the runway was so badly damaged that they had to move to another base in the south. They finally got to their final location on a plateau that overlooked Foggia Airbase occupied by the British Air Force.

Their primitive base consisted of canvas tents, some of which were located in an olive grove. There was no way to heat the tents and their January arrival was in the middle of a cold Italian winter.

Five other soldiers shared a tent along with Sgt. Freshour and they all decided that this was to be their house for the duration of their military service unless "Axis Sally" fulfilled her promise to bomb them out of existence.

Instead of complaining about their circumstances, Sgt. Freshour and five other sol-

diers took it upon themselves to improve their rustic living conditions. They borrowed a truck and went to Foggia Airbase where they loaded it with stones from bombed out buildings and brought them back. A member of the group spoke some Italian and managed to hire local laborers to pour a concrete base for their house.

Another member of the group was a construction worker and he supervised the roof and window installation. The man was so much of a perfectionist during the construction process that one time Sgt. Freshour had to cut one-eighth of an inch off a six-inch wooden board.

Military men are known for being very resourceful and Freshour's group proved that by completing numerous projects with very limited resources. They built a stove which heated their new home using 1/3 of a 55-gallon steel barrel and with copper tubing from a gasoline drum.

Their efforts inspired a building boom in the area. Most of the ground crew, air crew and officers built houses instead of living in tents.

Their enthusiasm in building extended into a desire for a permanent mess hall. Thinking about entertainment opportunities in the future, Freshour, along with several other men, began building a mess hall with a large stage to be the main focus of attention for the diners. The smart men used trusses for roof support instead of posts so that the soldiers' view of the stage would not be blocked. The stage had a curtain made of aircraft cotton and canvas on each side with murals painted by a Canadian air crew member. The stage was often used as the site for USO shows.

A kitchen which included a steam table was also built inside the mess hall. The steam table didn't improve the food much, according to Freshour, but the mess sergeants tried. The finished mess hall was a proud display of American craftsmanship. During an inspection by Major General Nathan Twining, he said the mess hall was the finest in the 15th Air Force.

As a member of the air maintenance crew, one of Freshour's main jobs was replacing fuel cells damaged by anti-aircraft flack. The plates covering the cell had thousands of small screws and the only thing they had to use was a small hand drill to remove and replace them.

Sgt. Freshour was additionally assigned as crew chief of a radar ship that was used as a lead ship to drop bombs when targets were obscured by clouds. It was sometimes used for rare night missions.

There was also a guard group assigned to patrol the planes at night. One time, some of the guards got into a plane and played a prank on the crew by cutting out the parachute nylon and replaced them with rags. When the crew found these chutes, they were so furious that the officers were afraid a war would break out. The guards were removed that day.

Sgt. Freshour and his fellow soldiers became the replacement guards. They were issued ammo for their carbines and spent the night on patrol protecting the planes and keeping the other guards and flight crew from killing each other over the parachute prank.

Freshour recalled that the day Germany surrendered; the American troops put all of the planes on the base in the air for a great fly over. The end of the war in Europe was good news because it meant that they were on their way home. They returned on a fast troop ship that arrived in America in a little over six days as opposed to the usual 35-day convoy.

One day, while on the ship, Sgt. Freshour was emptying a trashcan overboard when he ran into his good friend from his neighborhood back home. He had been a radio man on a B-24. It was a rare chance encounter seeing a close friend thousands of miles from home.

After returning to the U.S., Freshour was not yet able to immediately leave the military because the war in Japan was raging. He was assigned to an air transport squadron in Presque Isle, Maine. The ground crew they replaced had been there all throughout the war, but since they had been stationed state-side, their everyday lives were completely different from Freshour and his squadron because they had cars, part-time jobs and their wives in the same location.

While stateside, Sgt. Freshour was Charge Quarter on night duty. He had the job of waking the air crews up and leading them to the planes that were going to the war in the Pacific. As soon as Japan surrendered, they were discharged and Sgt. Freshour reentered civilian life.

Sgt. Freshour married Doris and together they had four children: Karen, David, Sue and Denise.

As a U.S. Representative, one of the most honorable things I have the privilege of doing is recognizing American heroes of past wars such as Sgt. David F. Freshour, for their honorable actions. On August 5, 2006, I presented him with medals and citations that he had earned more than 60 years earlier for his service during World War II but had never received. I presented him with the Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and the World War II Victory Medal in a ceremony at First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood.

It was an honor to finally recognize an American hero. Our country owes a debt of gratitude towards those who fought and won World War II. We owe our lives and our liberty to "The Greatest Generation" of our time. The courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of the military forces of the Allied Powers who served valiantly to rescue the Pacific nations from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered.

Our Nation is safer, stronger and better because of the sacrifice of Sgt. David F. Freshour and the thousands of other World War II veterans. Though his light here on earth has extinguished, his sacrifice has made America's lantern of liberty burn brighter.

Thank you, Sgt. Freshour for being a loving father, a caring grandfather and a great American.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF CLYDE WALKER, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, Clyde Walker, Jr. served as the chief of the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department for more than 35 years. The fire department was his life, and his love of volunteering and serving others