

damage and irreparable harm to an ecosystem that provides more than forty million people with jobs, water, food, and recreation. A new invader, the Asian carp, threatens to further destroy the region's ecosystem and economy, and it is imperative that we act to prevent this catastrophe.

A single barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, built as a temporary demonstration project five years ago, is the only thing preventing these invaders from entering Lake Michigan and drastically altering the entire region's ecosystem. While Congress recently provided full authorization and funding for this critical barrier, it may not be enough to prevent the Asian carp from infiltrating the Great Lakes and the devastating consequences that would follow.

It is therefore critical that we also explore alternatives and supplements to the carp barrier. My legislation would direct the Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration and Great Lakes States to conduct a study on the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. The legislation specifically directs the agencies to study the feasibility of temporarily harvesting Asian carp as a means to eradicate the invasive species in an environmentally responsible manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to explore all possibilities to effectively eliminate the threat this dangerous species poses to our Nation's most precious natural resource.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOLE VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER IN WICHITA, KANSAS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff and administrators of the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, past, present and future.

For 75 years, the Dole Veterans Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas has improved the health and overall well-being of all veterans who visited. The capable and trusted staff has provided care, comfort and answers to multitudes of difficult questions. When our brave service men and women return home to the State of Kansas, they know, and they have known for three quarters of a century, that their wounds, whether physical or psychological, will not go untreated. They have encountered care, compassion and wisdom from the staff here at Dole Veterans Medical Center. With our support, that level of care will only increase.

In my first 2 years in office, this House has voted to add almost \$18 billion more in veterans funding. Many of those dollars are directed specifically to health care needs which had, in the past, been grossly underfunded.

I will continue to fight for increases in funding directed toward veterans' health care programs, in order to help preserve the legacy of quality health care and fuel improvements for the future.

The Dole Veterans Medical Center, with its 75 years of success and unparalleled performance, is an absolute godsend. The State of Kansas thanks everyone involved in making that true and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service and the service of all our Nation's veterans.

CHINA'S EARTHQUAKE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, for the people in and around the city of Seattle, home to my Seventh Congressional District, the devastating earthquake in China is very personal and very painful.

For over a quarter century, Seattle and Chongqing, in the Sichuan province, hardest hit by the quake, have been sister cities. I'm proud that I was a member of the 1982 delegation which established the relationship with the people of Chongqing.

It is always difficult to see devastation on a scale like this, but it's especially hard when there are direct and personal ties, as there are with the people in Sichuan province, where the death toll keeps climbing.

The magnitude of this tragedy is hard to comprehend, and we want to help any way we can.

Seattle has a significant Chinese community and people are making every effort to obtain news about family members and friends.

And, as a community, we are involved in relief efforts.

Constituents in the Seventh Congressional District are donating money and supplies to international relief organizations.

Companies and organizations in and around Seattle are helping.

And, people across Washington are involved as well.

I applaud them all for their generosity and willingness to get involved.

I want the Chinese government and Chinese people to know that they are not alone in this time of tragedy.

Geography may separate us, but humanity unites us.

If you want to get involved, world renowned organizations like World Vision and Mercy Corps are leading relief efforts. All that we do will help.

SGT. LUKE SHIRLEY AND
SPECIALIST JOSHUA SHIRLEY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two soldiers and brothers, Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley of LaBelle, Florida.

Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley bravely served their country in Iraq when Luke was severely injured by a land mine in December 2007. Upon returning home, Joshua received orders to return to Iraq. Joshua felt he could best serve his brother

and his country by helping his brother and fellow soldier, Luke, recover and petitioned to stay in the United States.

The Department of the Army reassigned Specialist Joshua Shirley to a post in the Washington, DC area to allow him to be close to his recovering brother. Sgt. Luke Shirley's courage in battle and Specialist Joshua Shirley's devotion to his brother and his country exemplify what it is to be true American heroes. These brave young men put their lives on the line to serve our country. America owes them a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of LaBelle, the 16th District, and the United States, I would like to express my immense gratitude to Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these remarkable young men.

Below is a poem written by Bert Caswell to honor the Shirley Brothers.

THE BOOK OF LUKE

The Book of Luke . . .

Written by a fine young Man, of Character,
Courage, Honor and Truth!

Who went off to war, as had all his fine family
of patriots . . . so many times as before.

It's all about a family. . . .

Who but for, God and Country. . . . so much pain and heartache endured! All for Our Freedom to ensure, as what they have given. . . . all in their living, they bore!

Luke, an Army Man. . . .

Who as one fine warrior, of strength in honor . . . and character does stand!

As him and his brother Josh too, both were on their third tours. . . . as together they would band!

When, in The

Face of Death!

With, only but an arm and leg so left . . . he would stand . . . all in this his most heroic quest!

To rebuild, as his heart to all so instills . . . of what is good, is great . . . of what is best!

For in him, there are no regrets!

Not looking back, for in life it's only about what you do in your short time . . . in those pages you have left!

As he has our Nation so blessed, as his soul to our's does so caress!

As this book he so writes . . .

To all hearts so invites, for us to look into our own lives . . . between what's wrong, and is right!

To so find in this world, what it is which burns bright . . . and what really counts, on this very night!

Chapter and Verse!

What have the words, of our lives so versed? What have we so written, which so comes first?

For it's only the few, who have so who . . . have written and so shined so too . . . that for Heaven does search!

For we write the words, that our Lord and his Angels have read and so heard . . . which burn bright!

Found in all of our lives of courage, faith and sacrifice . . . are inspiration, touching all souls here tonight.

When, all is said and done . . . in what's really to be won when we leave this light!

Could we but write?

With our hearts and our souls, such a courageous fight . . . to march off into the dark, to leave the light!

To go off to war, for your country . . . such heartache and burdens bore . . . and rebuild, with no hope in sight!

In The Book of Luke, he has spoken . . .
 Of chapters of faith he's invoking, of character and courage spoken . . . all in his actions invoking . . .
 Of an American Hero, A Tale of Hope then . . . and Inspiration, To Teach our children, worth quoting!

The Heart!

The greatest of all things, which can not so be stopped nor so broken!

Which pound's, with his words of faith, courage and hope then, in The Book of Luke he has spoken!

In honor of Luke Shirley, and his brother Josh both in The United States Army . . . who came home with him to help him heal, and their family of generations who have

fought for our country and given so much throughout the generations so we could live free. . . . Their uncles, Dwight Harris Williams Jr., Kenneth Wayne Williams, John Dennis Williams were all Marines and did tours in Vietnam.

THE DAILY 45: HELDER TOMAR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

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

United States. We have become too numb to the continued violence that plays out daily. On April 26, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 19-year-old Helder Tomar was shot and killed in Jenks Park in Central Falls. Unfortunately, this set off a cycle of teenage violence in Pawtucket and Central Falls.

According to a local newspaper, a young man said the obvious: "Death is part of life, but it's supposed to be natural, not by violence, not by strife."

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."