

is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

MARION BERRY,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST MONICA L. BROWN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation with my colleague, RON PAUL of Texas, that honors the sacrifice and courage of a young Army soldier. This happens to be Women's History Month, and this happens to be in honor of the heroic deeds of U.S. Army Specialist, Monica L. Brown.

I believe this legislation is especially pertinent, given that March is Women's History Month. Specialist Brown is the first woman in Afghanistan, and only the second female soldier since World War II, to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas is only 19 years old.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the HUMVEES. When Specialist Brown saw fellow soldiers were injured, she grabbed her aid bag and started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire, without regard to herself.

All five wounded soldiers from her platoon scrambled out. Under this commotion, she assessed her patients and moved them to a safer location because they were still receiving fire.

The Pentagon says that they don't send women to the front lines, but in Afghanistan and in Iraq there are no front lines.

She happens to be only the second woman to receive the Silver Star since World War II. We honor her with this resolution, H. Con. Res. 320.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that honors the sacrifice and courage of a young Army soldier. My colleague and fellow Texan, Representative RON PAUL seeks to recognize the heroic deeds of U.S. Army Specialist Monica L. Brown.

I believe this legislation is especially pertinent given that March is Women's History Month. Spec. Brown is the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas is only 19 years old.

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and started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers from her platoon scrambled out. Under this commotion, she assessed her patients and moved them to a safer location because they were still receiving incoming fire.

The Pentagon's official policy is to prohibit women from serving in front-line combat roles in the infantry, armor or artillery, but the nature of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no real front lines, has seen women soldiers take part in close-quarters combat more than previous conflicts.

According to the Army four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously in 2007. Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of Nashville, Tenn., was the first to receive the Silver Star in 2005 along with two fellow male soldiers for her gallantry during an insurgent ambush on a convoy in Iraq.

The Army has stated that Spec. Brown's "bravery, unselfish actions and medical aid rendered under fire saved the lives of her comrades and represents the finest traditions of heroism in combat."

This legislation is not about condoning the wars in Afghanistan or in Iraq. This legislation is about us supporting and honoring our troops. It is about this Nation's children fighting for the rights of all of us in places we do not dare to go, under environments we cannot fully appreciate from this comfortable position.

Spec. Brown reminds us that our youth are fighting in this war, our mothers and daughters are fighting in this war, and they deserve to be recognized for their achievements. However, we not only recognize the sacrifice and courage of Spec. Brown, of even just the brave acts of her fellow soldiers, marines, and airmen. We must also recognize the families of our military. Spec. Brown's grandmother said she was the proudest Grandmother in all of Lake Jackson, Texas, when she learned of her granddaughter's heroism. We should all be as proud of our young men and women as Spec. Brown's grandmother. In being proud of them, we are not condoning the Administration, we are recognizing their efforts and their belief in what they have been tasked to do.

We sit in these chambers and discuss the idea of war, and the economic costs to the Nation. However, our men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq are dealing with the realities of war everyday.

I am proud of Specialist Monica L. Brown, Texas is proud of Monica L. Brown, and this country should be proud of Monica L. Brown. She thought first of her fellow soldiers and not of the harm that may come her way.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join Representative RON PAUL and myself in recognizing a true hero, a soldier, a daughter of Texas, with this legislation.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Bill of Rights confers liberties on individuals to protect us from government power. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the second amendment. It states, "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to a free state, the right of the people

to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

The second amendment confers two rights; it allows individuals to bear arms, and it allows for a state militia, or the National Guard.

There are several reasons for the second amendment. But notice the phrase, "the right to bear arms." This is a military term. The colonists, who all owned firearms, were somewhat fearful of a strong Federal Government that would be oppressive and totalitarian. So it seems they wanted the right to protect themselves, individually and also collectively, through militias from not only outlaws but an outlaw Federal Government.

As the Supreme Court decides if the government can ban gun ownership, it would do well to adopt a lower court opinion which said, "The right to bear arms was premised on the private use of arms for activities such as hunting and self-defense; the latter being understood as a resistance to either private lawlessness or the depredation of a tyrannical government."

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS TIGERS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as most everybody in America knows, this is March Madness, and March Madness is a wonderful experience when people cheer for their basketball teams and watch great athletes compete for the national championship.

One of the teams competing in San Antonio for the national championship will be the University of Memphis Tigers, my home university and my alma mater. We are extremely proud of the University of Memphis. And in Tennessee, it was 173 years ago that a great group of Tennesseans, including my predecessor from the Western District of Tennessee, Davy Crockett, went to the Alamo. This time, Mr. Speaker, it's going to be a different story. Tennesseans will win, have a victory in San Antonio, and your Congressman who is in the House will come back to the House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CORPORAL SCOTT A. MCINTOSH— TEXAS WARRIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the youth of our Nation have always been willing to

volunteer and take care of the rest of us in times of war. Sometimes those young men and women give their lives for the rest of us. United States Army Corporal Scott A. McIntosh, of Humble, Texas, was one of those noble few. He was killed in Iraq on March 10, 2008 by a suicide bomber, and he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Not only was he a loyal and courageous soldier, but he was a beloved son, a caring brother and a friend to many.

His life was special not just because of how he died, but also because of how he lived. He was both the kid next door and a proud soldier defending this Nation.

He was born on February 4, 1982 in Humble, Texas, and he graduated from Cypress High School in 2001. After trying college for a little while he decided it wasn't ready for him, and he joined the United States Army. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in Fort Stewart, Georgia. He re-enlisted for three more years when his first tour of duty was over.

His parents, Alex and Gwenn McIntosh, did an excellent job raising such a fine son. His family described Scott as someone who loved people. His mission in life was to meet and make friends with every person he came in contact with. He shared his hearty laugh and always had a smile to give. Scott always had a positive outlook on life. He loved to hunt and fish in his spare time, but most of all he loved his family, the Army, the country he lived in and his life.

His smile matched his fun-loving personality, which carried over into everyday tasks, like work, with humorous results.

Eric McIntosh described his brother's comical attempt at being a golf caddy. When Scott went to work, he said, "it was like a scene right out of the movie Caddy Shack. Scott barely showed up on time, still tucking his shirt in his pants and tying his shoes, and he would grab the golf bag and march down the fairway with all the clubs and balls falling out all over the place."

Scott would have fun with everything that he did and his joyful, worry-free personality was contagious to those that knew him and everybody around him. Not only did he love to laugh, but he truly cared about others, especially his family in Texas.

Scott was always looking out for other people, and that's why he joined the United States Army. He wanted to protect and serve those he loved. And as the Good Book says in John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Scott's life was a shining example of this greater love which he demonstrated for family, friends and country.

Scott went off to war because he was a faithful son of America. Over Easter weekend this past weekend I had the

opportunity to be in Iraq with our troops. And Mr. Speaker, there is no finer military in the long history of warfare than our troops that are in Iraq that proudly wear the uniform of the American fighting man. Scott McIntosh was among those elite fighting forces.

Scott's wonderful life is a huge loss to those that were close to him. His father said, "My family is devastated by this loss, and it is something that we will have to carry with us for the rest of our lives. At the same time, however, we are bursting with pride for our son's service to this country. We understand the sacrifices required to keep this country free. And Scott was the best son anyone could ever have asked for. I will love and cherish him for the rest of my days."

Mr. Speaker, this is a photograph of Scott McIntosh. He was a real person and he was proud to wear the uniform of the United States soldier.

In a moving speech at his brother's funeral, Eric told hundreds of friends and family that he loved his big brother. He thanked Scott for being such a good friend, a good son, a great person and the best brother anybody could ever have.

In a final act of sacrifice for others, his family has established the Scott McIntosh Memorial Fund. In the attack that took Scott's life, four other soldiers were also killed. Three of them were married and had small children. And the purpose of the fund will be to raise money for those kids who lost their fathers that were soldiers in Iraq. Even in death, the eternal spirit of Scott's love and care for others will continue.

We do not forget, as a Nation, Corporal Scott A. McIntosh and all those who sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom. Scott's memory will live on in the hearts and minds of friends and family, while his life will always be an inspiration to Americans.

We can honor his sacrifice by following his example, to live life to the fullest and to take care of those people around us.

In 1940, a reporter, right before the great World War II, made this comment, he said, "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

Our country, Mr. Speaker, will long survive and live free because of the likes of Scott McIntosh and his band of brothers.

And that's just the way it is.

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THE BIGGEST BURDEN OF THE IRAQ CONFLICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm really glad to be back in the House. I've been away for over 6 weeks because

of back surgery. I've been patched up, and I'm going to be just fine. I'm not worried about myself. But I'm worried, and I hope every Member of the House is worried about the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and civilians who have been injured in the conflict in Iraq.

Nearly 30,000, probably many, many more of our brave troops have been wounded.

Many have injuries that will rack their bodies and their minds for the rest of their lives.

Yet Vice President CHENEY said last week that President Bush carries the biggest burden of this conflict. Tell that to the widows and widowers, Mr. Vice President. Tell that to the families who have been devastated by the injuries to their loved ones. Tell that to the children who see their mother or father in a hospital bed without a limb or with a terrible head wound. Tell that to the veterans who have not gotten the care they need and the care they deserve, the care we promised them.

One of our soldiers in Iraq, Lieutenant Sean Walsh, wrote a piece for Time magazine recently about the human costs of the occupation. He wrote that his fellow soldiers have become his family and that three of them have died. And he asked the question, "What is worth the lives of three of your loved ones?" It is a good question.

And so I would like to ask every Member of this House who supports the occupation the very same question: Is our occupation of Iraq worth the lives of three of your loved ones?

We must also remember the Iraq civilians who have been injured. We seem to forget them, and that is truly a disgrace. According to the best estimates, anywhere from 80,000 to 150,000 civilians have been injured. And the real number, the real number is certainly much, much higher.

What kind of health care are they, the Iraqi civilians, getting? The International Committee of the Red Cross reported last month that public hospitals in Iraq now provide 30,000 beds. Mr. Speaker, that is less than half of the 80,000 that are needed.

In addition, 2,200 doctors and nurses have been killed since the year 2003, and another 250 have been kidnapped. And the current conflict has worsened the impact of the previous war and the years of international sanctions. Of the 34,000 doctors registered in Iraq in 1990, 20,000 have fled the country, some by choice and others by force. What about their burden, Mr. Vice President?

Meanwhile, the administration continues to play its cynical game with troop levels. It is clear that the administration intends to keep 140,000 troops in Iraq until it leaves office in order to put an artificial lid on this violence. That way, the outgoing administration can say that it improved the security situation and that we are on the road to victory in Iraq.

But the truth is, all that has been achieved is a temporary military and