

to hold a single hearing on the release of these detainees.

In fact, the majority included a provision in FY2009 spending bills explicitly prohibiting the disclosure of any information to the American people.

If the American people knew who these detainees were, the acts of terror they have committed, or to which countries they were going to be released, they would never stand for it.

This is a dangerous precedent. Given that more than 74 former Guantanamo detainees have returned to active terrorism, there is real concern about the potential for these remaining detainees to return to a life of terror.

The American people deserve the facts. I encourage the public to visit the New York Times "Guantanamo Docket" Web site to review what scant information about these detainees was released by the previous administration.

I believe they will find these summaries deeply troubling.

This Congress has a responsibility and an obligation to the American people to hold hearings, request information, and work with the administration to have an open dialogue over transfer and release policies.

This has not happened. And 10 months after the administration issued an executive order to close Guantanamo, we have no more information about this than we did when the President took office.

Of the many unstable countries to which detainees may be sent, I am most concerned about the impending release of 26 detainees to Yemen—a growing haven for al Qaeda in the Persian Gulf.

It is my understanding that the administration is also preparing to release several other detainees to another country that anyone with a basic understanding of world affairs would agree is unacceptable. Unfortunately, this information has been classified.

Yemen is undoubtedly one of the most unstable countries in the world today—and the country where al Qaeda has reconstituted its operations over the last year.

The director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Michael Leiter, stated in an October Voice of America interview, "In Yemen, we have witnessed the reemergence of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and the possibility that that will become the base of operations for al-Qaida."

A number of former Guantanamo Bay detainees have returned to Yemen to launch terrorist attacks, including one just 2 months ago.

On October 13, Saudi police prevented an imminent suicide bomb attack as two al Qaeda terrorists slipped across the border from Yemen.

One of the would-be suicide bombers, Yousef Mohammed al Shihri, was a former Guantanamo detainee released in 2007 to Saudi Arabia. He quickly left Saudi Arabia for dangerously unstable Yemen where he rejoined al Qaeda.

In September 2008, another former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Said Ali al Shihri, helped orchestrate the terrorist attack on the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, killing 10 guards and civilians.

Since that time, al Qaeda's posture in Yemen has grown stronger with the merger of the Saudi and Yemeni arms of al Qaeda into one group—al Qaeda in the Arabian Penin-

sula—with Yemen as its base for training and operations.

Yemen is also now home to radical cleric Anwar al-Aulaqi, who influenced alleged Fort Hood gunman Major Nidal M. Hasan and who U.S. intelligence believes to be a critical link in al Qaeda's efforts to radicalize Americans and Europeans.

I have repeatedly urged the President to halt the release of detainees to dangerously unstable countries. The consequences of such releases could cost American lives.

I implore this Congress to get serious about its oversight responsibility. The American people deserve better.

#### HONORING KEN DIEHL

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Diehl for his tremendous contributions to promoting housing and development in the Central Valley. Mr. Diehl is being honored at The Greater Yosemite Council Boy Scouts of America's annual distinguished citizens dinner on October 28, 2009 in Modesto, California.

Ken Diehl was born and raised in Beaver, Iowa. He attended Iowa Wesleyan College, where he excelled in athletics, lettering in basketball and baseball. He was also involved with the Blue Key (an honorary fraternity) the letter club and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. During college, he served in the United States Army and served overseas with the 100th Infantry Division. He spent over a year in combat, where he commanded a light machine gun section. For his efforts and achievements he was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II ended, Mr. Diehl made his way to California and settled in Patterson. He married Dorothy Sutherland and they had three children. Although he spent a great amount of time with his family, he was also very involved with professional and community organizations. Mr. Diehl served as the president of The Life Underwriter Association of Central California, chairman of the Heart Association for the Life Underwriters, member of the board of director of Toastmaster International. His mid-life career change to real estate offered him new opportunities to get involved. In his new position, Mr. Diehl was a developer and a builder for his own account; quickly realizing that a real estate investor was more profitable than a real estate agent. With the knowledge he acquired in the profession, he wrote a book, "Affordable Housing".

Mr. Diehl created The Diehl Company; over the years the company bought and sold hundreds of properties, built apartments, strip centers and several sub-divisions. He became very involved with the local Board of Realtors, chaired many committees and served as board president. He was a regional vice president for California Association of Realtors, CAR, where he represented seven local boards. He chaired various committees for CAR including: the Legislative Committee, the Board Presidents Committee, the Policy Committee, and the Regional Vice Presidents Committee. For his service, Mr. Diehl was awarded the Director for Life designation, a

prestigious award that is given to only three realtors out of one hundred and fifty thousand.

He also served as the director of the million member National Association of Realtors, representing California for 6 years. He was a chairman of the Federally Assisted Code Enforcement program. With this program he and a group of others were able to save hundreds of homes that were on the verge of being deemed uninhabitable, and made them livable in the City of Modesto and the surrounding areas. Mr. Diehl spent many years as a director of the Community Housing Shelter Service. His primary focus while in the real estate industry was permanent housing for low to moderate income families.

Mr. Diehl is a 58 year member of the Elks Club number 1282 in Modesto. He chaired the United Way for Modesto, served as the director of the California Apartment Association, president of the Apartment Association of Central California and chaired many committees of the Sportsman of Stanislaus. Mr. Diehl served a 3 year term as president of the Yosemite Council of Boy Scouts.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ken Diehl for the impact that he has made on the real estate industry in the Central Valley and the State of California. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MARINE SGT. JAY M. HOSKINS

#### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of United States Marine Sergeant Jay Michael Hoskins of Paris, TX, who died August 6, 2009 at the age of 24 in Farah Province, Afghanistan, due to complications from wounds received when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Born January 26, 1985 in Paris, Texas to Michelle Sparks-Hoskins and Danny Hoskins, Jay Hoskins attended Aaron Parker Elementary, graduating from North Lamar High School in 2003. Throughout his youth, Sergeant Hoskins was active in baseball and football, and was an active member at Gospel Lighthouse in Powderly, Texas.

Following his graduation from North Lamar High School, Mr. Hoskins joined the United States Marine Corps, graduating from boot camp in San Diego, CA, as a Private 1st Class. In 2004, Sgt. Hoskins was deployed to Iraq where he fought in the Battle of Fallujah with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. In 2005, he served seven months in the Tora Bora area in the Afghanistan mountains, for which he received the first of his Afghanistan Campaign medals. From 2005 to 2008, Sgt. Hoskins served as a member of a training cadre in infantry tactics for Marine Officers at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA, where he was able to employ his background as a martial arts black belt instructor. In 2009, Sgt. Hoskins was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment III Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay, HI. He was deployed to Afghanistan in May, along with 1,000 other Marines to Helmand and Farah Provinces.

Sergeant Hoskins received many awards during his service as a United States Marine, including three combat ribbons, three sea service deployment ribbons, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, a Navy Marine Corps Achievement medal, a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terror Service medal, a Good Conduct medal, and a Purple Heart, along with other pending medals, as well as rifle and pistol expert badges.

Known as an unwavering Christian devoted to his wife, his children, his family, and his country, Sergeant Hoskins lived his life with strong moral character, a strong faith, and a strong sense of service. He was loved and respected by those that knew him, and he will not be forgotten.

Sergeant Hoskins is survived by his wife Chandler McRae Hoskins of Paris, Texas, their son Tristen, and a second child due in January; his mother, Michelle Sparks Widner and step-father, Chris Widner; his father, Danny Hoskins; two sisters, Amber Young and Chelsie Hoskins; a brother, Cameron Widner; along with many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Let us all continue to support our troops, and remember that freedom does come at a price. Madam Speaker, I ask those here today to join me in paying tribute to this American patriot, United States Marine Sergeant Jay Michael Hoskins.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BOYS SOCCER TEAM AT ST. FRANCIS DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

##### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the many outstanding athletic accomplishments achieved by students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. DeSales High School is in my congressional district, and I am proud to recognize a school that excels in and out of the classroom. Most recently, this fine academic institution won the 2009 Ohio Division II Boys Soccer Team Championship.

As you know, this sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and strong commitment. The soccer team, led by Coach Domenic Romanelli finished its remarkable postseason without allowing a single goal. In the championship game, where they beat Bay Village High School 1-0, David Harper scored the lone goal, while keeper Chris Weisgarber finished his accomplished season with yet another shutout. This is the fourth title for the Stallion soccer team, and their first since 1997.

Everyone at DeSales should be extremely proud of this group of student-athletes and the standard they have established. Their accomplishments attest to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people who have a strong dedication to each other, their sport and their academics. I know every member of this championship team will treasure the memories of their remarkable season and I commend them, and the greater DeSales community, for this truly great achievement.

#### CELEBRATING A CENTURY WITH THE CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO

##### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today a proud Chattanooga with the distinct privilege of recognizing the 100th anniversary of the world famous Chattanooga Choo-Choo. As one of the city's oldest and most well-known attractions, the appeal of the Choo-Choo has stood the test of time reaching far beyond the banks of the Tennessee River.

History recalls a bitterly cold winter morning of December 1, 1909, as a crowd of several hundred gathered in the 1400 block of Market Street for the dedication of Chattanooga's "Gateway"—Terminal Station, and the first train pulled into the station that day. At its pinnacle, the depot grew to serve nearly 50 passenger trains a day. Over the years, the Choo-Choo has welcomed many honored guests including three United States Presidents—Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and my political role model, Theodore Roosevelt.

This Terminal Station's place in history was literally recorded by the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1941 in the movie *Sun Valley Serenade*. Over the years, those words, "Pardon me boy . . . is that the Chattanooga Choo-Choo," have actually become more well known than the movie that introduced the Choo-Choo to the world.

Even though the last train stopped on August 11, 1970, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo has thrived as a unique vacation and business gathering complex. As part of the Centennial Celebration, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo will join the prestigious group of Historic Hotels of America as one of HHA's two-hundred plus unique historic properties, hotels and inns across the country. This is a remarkable accomplishment for a facility that was spared the wrecking ball in 1973 by a group of local businessmen. In 1974, it was most appropriately added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Choo-Choo is a great testament to the citizens of Chattanooga who have remained committed to preserving our city's history for future generations to enjoy.

#### HONORING WILLIAM J. ROGERS

##### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of William J. Rogers of Auburn, ME.

Bill Rogers was a model American. He fought to protect our country, was an advocate for veterans and a leader in his community. Bill was born and grew up in Auburn, Maine. He attended Syracuse University, but his education was cut short when he enlisted in the Navy to fight in World War II. During flight school he was classmates with Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams and Boston Red Sox great Johnny Pesky. He was roommates with the latter. Bill Rogers flew F6F Hellcat Fighter planes and Lockheed Ventura Submarine hunters in the Pacific theatre.

When he left the military after the war in 1946, his decorations included the Air Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, he became very active in veterans affairs. He was a founding member of American Legion Post 153 in Auburn, where he held several offices at both the local and state levels including adjutant, vice commander and department commander. On the national level, he was Maine's national executive committeeman, a member of the liaison committee to the National Public Relations Commission and national vice commander from 1965 to 1966. In 1976, he was elected national commander of the American Legion, the first national commander from the State of Maine. In his capacity as commander, he met with Panamanian dictator General Omar Torrijos and then testified before a congressional committee on the process of returning the canal back to Panama.

During his tenure as commander, he also met with Presidents Ford and Carter, Mexico's President Lopez Portillo, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, and President Chiang of the Republic of China. During his year as national commander, he traveled more than 300,000 miles throughout the world representing millions of veterans in all 50 states and 17 countries.

Bill Rogers was a lifelong member of the American Legion, the Army/Navy Club, the Navy League of the U.S., the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a trustee of the Maine Veterans' Home. Bill was named Auburn Maine's Citizen of the Year in 1995. The State of Maine and the American Legion are honoring his memory and hard work by dedicating American Legion Post 153 to him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring William J. Rogers for his life of dedication and service to his community and his country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OF WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN'S BOYS SOCCER TEAM

##### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure I congratulate the members of the Worthington Christian Boys Soccer team as they recently won the Division III State Championship.

The soccer team finished its remarkable season by beating Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy 2-1 when junior midfielder, Trent Smith scored the winning goal in the first overtime. Led by Head Coach Dan Roads, the victory reflects his team's outstanding perseverance as they rebounded from losing in last year's final to win the 2009 championship.

After their winning 2009 season, the school can proudly display their second title in four years. With a history like that, I'm sure the future is bright for this fine soccer program.

This team has set a standard for future Worthington Christian athletes of all sports to strive toward. Everyone at this fine academic institution should be extremely proud of this group of student-athletes, and I'm proud to congratulate this team and join with them in celebrating the history made with their State Championship title.