

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martin is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world's largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live our their life long dreams whether it be to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracye will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life's long mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a "University for Children."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DETECTIVE LESTER J. NERI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania, who has retired after 33 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Detective Lester J. Neri started his career in 1975 with the Springfield Township Police Department and faithfully served the Tredyffrin Township Police Department for the last 27 years.

Detective Neri earned the respect of fellow officers and supervisors with his outstanding leadership and analytical skills over the course of his distinguished career.

He has been a tremendous asset to the department due to his wide range of skills, including crisis negotiations, homicide investigations, undercover investigative techniques and fingerprint processing.

Despite retiring in December, Detective Neri continues to serve the 42,000 men and women who pin on a badge each day in his position as State President of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Detective Lester J. Neri, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE GERMANTOWN BULLDOGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a championship team from Germantown, Illinois.

The Germantown Bulldogs beat Mt. Vernon-St. Mary 35–32 to clinch the 2009 Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association Class S state championship. The Bulldogs brought home the trophy after finishing the season with a stellar 28–1 record.

To win the title, the Bulldogs built an early lead, then had to hold off an intense second-half rally, but they showed poise under pressure, and held on to get the win.

I want to congratulate Coach Gerard Alpers and his assistant coach, Jeff Lampe, on their fine work with this group of student athletes. I also want to extend my congratulations to the members of the 2008–2009 Germantown Bulldogs state championship boys basketball team: Seth Haake, Nick Hitpas, Jalen Albers, Drew Foppe, Grant Haake, Kevin Haar, Kyle Kohnen, Brandon Becker, Mitchell Langenhorst, Christian Kohnen, Kyler Scheer, Jordan Lampe and Travis Wuebbels.

This outstanding group of young men represented themselves, their school, families and community in a first-rate fashion. It is my privilege to congratulate them on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING PLIGHT OF TIBETAN PEOPLE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S EXILE

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, a wave of protests began in Lhasa and swept across the Tibetan Plateau. In the time since, the Chinese government has pursued policies that demonstrate a failure to live up to its commitments to its ethnic minority citizens—commitments that are well-documented and unmistakable. Chinese law includes protections for the distinctive culture, language and identity of ethnic minority citizens. China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, for example, guarantees ethnic minorities the "right to administer their internal affairs." Specifically, the term "regional ethnic autonomy," as the law itself defines it, "reflects the state's full respect for ethnic minorities' right to administer their internal affairs." Over the past year, the actions of the Chinese government have reflected neither "the state's full respect" of ethnic minority rights, nor of human rights standards recognized in both Chinese and international law.

On January 19, 2009, the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region established a new holiday called "Serfs' Emancipation Day." As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has reported, this new holiday commemorates the March 28, 1959, Chinese government decree that dissolved the Dalai Lama's Lhasa-based Tibetan government. The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress said the new holiday would "strengthen Tibetans' patriotism." He also said that officials had met to "ensure that all people mark the occasion with festivities." Chinese officials have required Tibetans to celebrate the end of the Dalai Lama's government, and, by implication, his departure from Tibet fifty years ago. This is how the Chinese government demonstrates its commitment to "the state's full respect for ethnic minorities' right to administer their internal affairs."

For the last several weeks, international media organizations have reported that Chinese authorities have been closing Tibetan

areas to foreign reporters and travelers. Last month, China's Central Propaganda Bureau and State Ethnic Affairs Commission publicized a document titled "An Outline Concerning Propaganda Education on the Party and State's Ethnic Policy." As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has reported, this document calls for resisting "international hostile forces raising the banner of such things as 'ethnicity,' 'religion,' and 'human rights' to carry out westernization and separatist activities toward our country." Let us be absolutely clear: Tibetan grievances exist not as a result of foreign influence. Tibetan grievances exist for one reason and one reason only: in spite of what the Chinese government has written in its laws, in practice it has created an ethnic autonomy system that denies fundamental rights to ethnic minorities. This could not be clearer than it has become over the last year.

The time for change is now. I repeat today what I stated in this chamber nearly one year ago: protest activity that results in the destruction of property or death of anyone, whether Tibetan or non-Tibetan, is unacceptable in any context. But the harshness with which the Chinese government has handled affairs over the last year across the Tibetan plateau and in other ethnic minority regions of China—harshness that Chinese officials have sought to justify as being necessary to preserve stability—has revealed instead a level of hostility toward China's ethnic minority citizens not seen in decades, and has heightened fears for Tibetans, Uyghurs, and other ethnic minority peoples in China.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China has tracked policies that undercut protections for ethnic minority languages that are stipulated in Chinese law. Measures to promote Mandarin-focused "bilingual" education in schools in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, for example, have resulted in language requirements that disadvantage ethnic minority teachers. These and other job hiring and labor practices are part of a broader set of policies that restrict ethnic minority rights, and that illustrate the Chinese government's failure to abide by commitments as set forth in China's own Constitution and laws. Article 4 of the Chinese Constitution and Article 9 of China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, for example, both forbid discrimination based on ethnicity. Article 12 of China's Labor Law and Article 3 of China's new Employment Promotion Law state that job applicants shall not face discrimination in job hiring based on factors including ethnicity, and Article 28 of China's new Employment Contract Law states that all ethnicities enjoy equal labor rights.

The Chinese government seems to protect some aspects of ethnic minority rights in communities that are not perceived to challenge state policies. But shortcomings in both the substance and the implementation of Chinese policies toward ethnic minorities prevent ethnic minority citizens from fully enjoying the rights that the Chinese government itself plainly and openly has said are guaranteed under China's own laws, and under international legal standards. A wide range of public policy areas today present challenges that are pressing and real, but concerns in other policy areas do not eclipse the Chinese government's abuses of law and its ongoing violations of the fundamental rights of Tibetans, Uyghurs and other ethnic minority citizens of China, and of Han Chinese citizens as well.

I would urge all of my colleagues to take full advantage of the resources available to the public on the web site of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China—www.cecc.gov—and to make use of the Commission’s analysis of developments as they unfold in Tibetan areas, and across China. The Commission monitors and reports continuously on human rights and the rule of law in China, and I encourage all to check the Commission’s web site regularly for updates, to subscribe to the on-line newsletter, and to rely on the Commission’s published reports to keep up with developments in China.

Finally, the resolution of Tibetan grievances can occur only with direct talks between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama. As China plays an increasingly important role in the international community, other countries will appropriately assess China’s fulfillment of the commitments it has made in both Chinese and international law, including legal and constitutional commitments to ethnic minorities. The international spotlight remains on China. We hope that the Chinese government will welcome such attention with a full commitment to openness, and to the implementation of basic human rights.

YEAR OF THE MILITARY FAMILY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of making 2009 the Year of the Military Family.

It is an honor to support this measure and to express my heartfelt appreciation, and that of our entire congressional district, for the families of our men and women who serve in the military.

For so many New Mexican families, military service has been in our blood for generations.

Our state has often had the highest rate of military volunteerism in the country and the 1st congressional district is home to countless veterans, not to mention the large number of proud service members stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Yet we know all too well that with each individual who generously gives their service to their country through our military, there is a significant impact on those closest to them.

Each time a service member leaves home, they leave behind caring husbands and wives, loving sons and daughters, worried parents and whole communities that remain concerned for their safety.

There is no question that these affected families are also serving our country—by courageously enduring long separations from loved ones and the demands of deployments abroad.

So today, I proudly honor the commitment, sacrifice, courage and steadfast support that have been provided by our country’s military families, allowing our service members to serve and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO BILL GHENT, INC.

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community institution in Harrisburg, Illinois, celebrating its 100th birthday.

Bill Ghent, Inc. began business in 1909 as J.C. Robertson, and boasted as its slogan, “Friends may sympathize, but we pay cash.” Bill Ghent joined the business in the late 1930s, and in 1957, Bill Ghent, Inc. was established. In the early days, the only worries this small-town insurance agency was concerned with were fire and lightning. “Now, we’ve got all kinds of perils to deal with,” Bill Ghent, II, told the local newspaper.

These days, Bill Ghent, Inc. insures not just private citizens and their property, but also looks after the schools of the area. Insuring schools is something of a tradition for Bill Ghent, Inc. In Mr. Ghent’s office, behind glass, is the 1909 to 1911 policy for the Bramlet School in Raleigh, Illinois. It insured the school building for \$500 and the contents for \$100.

Bill Ghent, Inc. has served the residents of Harrisburg and southeastern Illinois from the days of horse and buggies to today’s modern world. I want to congratulate Bill Ghent and all the employees of Bill Ghent, Inc. on one hundred years of service to the community, and to wish them one hundred more.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BRIAN SCHAR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Albert Caswell is one of the finest tour guides in the United States Capitol Guide Service. But what many may not know about Albert is that he is also a gifted poet.

Oftentimes, when I run into Albert in the Capitol, he shares his work with me. Recently, he gave me a poem about a man from my District in East Tennessee, Sergeant Brian Schar.

Sergeant Schar served our Nation valiantly during the War on Terror, and in doing so made a sacrifice only few could imagine.

Albert’s poem is a tribute to Sergeant Schar’s courage and strength as he adjusts to life as a double amputee. While we often hear on the news of the lives lost in the War, we also need reminding of the thousands more who suffered life-altering injuries.

Madam Speaker, I would like to call Albert’s poem to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD, and I pray many will be inspired by his words.

Everyday, magnificent men and women like SSG Schar go off to war and leave their loved ones behind. All for the greater good, putting themselves last while putting their nation first. Many lie in graves as the ultimate sacrifice. While, others like Brian . . .

must come home and fight another battle. While all the time teaching and inspiring us, with their undying faith and courage to inspire us.

ONE THING . . . FOR SCHAR

Throughout the course of our nation’s history . . .

There have come so many fine patriots who have blessed her so indeed . . .

And many all from this great state of Tennessee . . .

Men like Crockett all in their glory . . .

And Sargent York, all the more he . . .

Who, fought and died . . . all so we could be free . . . their story . . .

Men, who went straight into that face of hell . . .

With hearts of courage full, which swelled . . .

Who all in that moment of truth . . .

Have so showed us the proof . . .

That on this earth, angers dwell . . .

For there have been so many Tennesseans, such fine lives would create . . .

Men who have so blessed our nation, and this their state . . .

But, One Thing For Schar . . .

The Tallest of All Tennessean’s by far . . .

Are but men like this young star . . .

Men who so bravely lived and died . . .

Who come home without arms and legs . . .

And don’t ask why? . . .

For they have a higher calling . . .

As they wipe those tears from their eyes . . .

For he won’t moan and he won’t beg . . .

As a new war he must wage . . .

As on this day he stands taller, than any other man with legs . . .

As he must go through hell and back, all so you can say . . .

I am free this day . . .

As one of The Tallest of Tennessean’s, he now stands . . .

As it’s his heart that which now so commands . . .

Teaching us . . .

Reaching us . . .

Into your our very souls to make us understand . . .

Why we are free, and how beautiful a heart can be . . .

Blessing us all, you and me . . .

As the high cost of freedom we so see . . .

As from his heart he speaks!

Saying, I will not be stopped . . .

I will not be slowed . . .

As a force of nature, as onward he goes . . .

As his fine heart climbs mountains tops . . .

And if I ever have a son . . .

I but hope and pray that he could but be like this fine one . . .

But, one thing I ask . . .

One, Thing . . . For Schar . . .

As you go home this night . . .

Holding, your family warm and tight . . .

As all in your world, all seems so right . . .

Remember, the great price of freedom paid . . .

Get down on your knee’s . . .

And thank this young man so brave . . .

And all of his brothers and sisters in arms, who now so lie in soft quiet graves!

Just, One Thing For Schar . . .

ALBERT CAREY CASWELL ©, 2009

FAOY This poem is dedicated to a real American Hero Brian Schar . . . he was injured on September 9th 2007 in an IED blast . . . SSG Brian Schar of A. Co. 9th Eng 1st ID The United States Army . . . Brian is a Combat Engineer from Sevierville Tennessee.