

"Just because it was with my dad," John said. "It was a good time because we both got to experience it, and it felt like something not just for me, but something he enjoyed as well."

The afternoon at Mr. Rodriguez's penthouse was memorable.

"No Madonna," John said with a laugh.

John was never shy about expressing his feelings on a subject and was always known to ask questions. His father laughs at a couple questions John asked as Mr. Rodriguez was showing them around his home.

"Now John had no idea about these Madonna and A-Rod rumors [about an affair], and John goes, 'So, where's your wife?' I couldn't believe it. But A-Rod just said she was in Florida at their other home with their kids.

"Then John asked him if his wife worked. John wasn't trying to be smart. He was just curious. He told John that she didn't work, but that she had a psychology degree."

John faced his death with courage, dignity, a never-quit attitude and an awareness that was hard to fathom.

John's mother told of a nurse who started coming to the family home in June. "The first time she was here, John said, 'I know why you're here. You're here to make me comfortable in my last weeks. But it could be more than a few weeks, right?'"

"The kid was just unbelievable," Mr. Wetzel said. "His attitude and messages I think changed how some people looked at their lives. He changed how I went about life.

"I feel like a piece of my heart is gone now. The thing I'll miss most is his smile. He had a smile that could light up a room."

John said his Catholic faith and belief in God got stronger through his illness.

One of the things that made John happy in recent months was the start of a foundation that will raise money to help other sick teenagers enjoy a sports experience. The foundation was the idea of John and Mr. Wetzel.

"If I can help someone else going through this, then that would make me feel good," John said.

The foundation has a Web site—[www.courageforlifefoundation.org](http://www.courageforlifefoundation.org)—where donations can be made.

When asked a few weeks ago how he would like to be remembered, John said, "I could see people having some beers and hopefully remembering how I always tried my best, no matter what I was doing. That's my message—just for people to always do their best, no matter what they're doing or how stupid it might seem. And no matter what, there will always be a reward, no matter how small it is."

In addition to his parents, John is survived by his younger sister, Lexie.

Visitation will be tomorrow and Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Noll Funeral Home, 333 Third St., Beaver. A Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday in SS. Peter & Paul Church, Beaver. Burial will follow at Beaver Cemetery.

The family asks memorial contributions be made to John Challis Courage For Life Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Monaca, PA 15061.

Also, there will be a golf outing to benefit John's foundation Monday at Chartiers Country Club. For more information, go to [www.courageforlifefoundation.org](http://www.courageforlifefoundation.org).

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1217) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1217

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present for consideration H.R. 1217, which designates the United States postal facility located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building.

Introduced by Representative W. TODD AKIN on February 26, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by a voice vote, H.R. 1217 enjoys the support, the unanimous support of the entire Missouri House delegation.

A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter Joseph Navarro bravely served with the United States Army's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

On December 13, 2005, Specialist Navarro and three fellow members of his unit were killed in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Humvee while the soldiers were conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Navarro, a member of the United States Air Force Junior ROTC Program, graduated from Lafayette High School in 2003. He subsequently decided to forego his acceptance at Truman State University in order to join the United States Army.

As noted by his father, Jose, a retired chief petty officer for the United States Navy, Specialist Navarro was a strong-willed young man and a dedicated soldier who cared for the soldiers that he worked with and would do anything for his friends. Mr. Navarro also recounts that his son wanted to try and make a difference, and that being a soldier was what making a difference is in this time of our lives.

Specialist Navarro's dedication to his unit and his country was evidenced in July of 2005 when he returned home to Wildwood to attend the funeral of his younger brother, Daniel, who had been killed in a car accident. Specialist Navarro's mother, Rowena, begged her son not to return to Iraq in the summer. As Mrs. Navarro recalls her son telling her, "Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody's taking my place, and that's not fair. They'd do the same thing for me."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Peter J. Navarro's life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who have served and continue to serve our Nation at home and abroad. It is my hope that we can further honor his service through the passage of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1217 and dedicate the Manchester Road Post Office in Ballwin, Missouri, after this outstanding American soldier.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building. As you may know, in the previous Congress, we had voted to name this post office and, unfortunately, the term ended before we were able to pass this.

But the failure of the Senate to act should not diminish what happened in the summer of 2005 when Specialist Peter J. Navarro returned home from duty in Iraq to join his family at their home in Wildwood, Missouri, not for a joyful reunion, but to bury his younger brother, who had died in a car accident.

After Daniel's funeral, Peter's mother, distraught over the loss of her middle son, begged him not to return to Iraq. This young man's response to his grieving mother is nothing short of heroic. He had to go back. He said,

"Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody's taking my place, and that's not fair."

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This selfless devotion to his comrades and his country exemplifies the character of this tremendous young man.

Forgoing his acceptance to Truman State University, Specialist Navarro enlisted in the Army right after his graduation from Lafayette High School in 2003.

This young man believed in the mission, men, and country he served. Tragically, on December 13, 2005, just 1 month before he was scheduled to end his deployment, Specialist Navarro lost his life while on patrol in Iraq.

Specialist Navarro has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for his service. Specialist Navarro's father, a veteran of the Navy, remembers his strong-willed son with admiration: "He died because he was trying to make a difference, and being a soldier was what was making a difference in this time of life."

Like many young men and women in uniform today serving our country, Specialist Navarro in fact has made the decision to go into harm's way to help another people far away—people he never met, people he knows nothing about, and people who he only knows he's going because our country is there and because we are trying to make a difference.

I join with the majority today and with Congressman AKIN, who could not be here, for passage of his bill, in saying this is the right name in this town for the right individual who gave so completely to the American people, and I urge support.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1217, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Peter J. Navarro by designating the post office in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building." A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter J. Navarro was part of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. On December 13, 2005 Specialist Navarro was one of four soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, Peter declined his acceptance at Truman State University so he could join the Army right after graduation.

When Peter returned home for his younger brother's funeral, he was faced with the undeniable risks of serving his country. However, he returned to Iraq telling friends and family, "They need me there."

Peter was a dedicated soldier, willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to protect his county and the men and women who reside there. As Peter's father, Jose Navarro said, "He cared for the soldiers he worked with. He would do anything for his friends. And he told me he believed in what the mission was."

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq; it is a privilege to stand

here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Peter's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our nation has to offer. His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing put themselves in harms way for freedom's cause.

Our nation will be forever indebted to Specialist Peter Navarro. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Peter.

Vote "yes" on H.R. 1217.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) for authoring the measure at hand. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1217.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1284) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1284

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 1284, a bill to designate the United States Postal Facility located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office Building."

Introduced by my friend, Representative GENE TAYLOR, on March 3, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by voice vote, H.R. 1284 enjoys the support of the entire Mississippi House delegation.

Born in Neely, Mississippi, on November 20, 1927, Major Ed W. Freeman proudly served his country in the United States Army as a fixed and rotary wing aircraft pilot. On July 16, 2001, President George W. Bush presented Major Freeman with the Medal of Honor—the United States military's highest commendation—in recognition of his brave actions during the Vietnam War.

Major Freeman began his distinguished military career at the age of 17, with 2 years of service in the United States Navy during World War II. He subsequently joined the United States Army, serving in Germany for 4 years before being deployed to Korea.

Notably, Major Freeman received his well-familiar nickname of "Too Tall" after being told that he was too tall to serve as an Army pilot. However, he quickly dispelled this notion by becoming one of the Army's finest helicopter pilots.

Major Freeman's bravery, dedication, and flying skills were never more evident than on November 14, 1965, during the battle of Ia Drang, at Landing Zone X-Ray, in Vietnam. As noted in his Medal of Honor citation, Major Freeman "distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity" as a member of Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

Specifically, as a flight leader and second-in-command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, then-Captain Freeman supported a heavily engaged American battalion at the Landing Zone in the Ia Drang Valley by "flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire, time after time, delivering critically needed ammunitions, water, and medical supplies to the besieged battalion."

Additionally, Major Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions which resulted in the lifesaving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers. Major Freeman's Medal of Honor citation goes on to note that his "selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary