

HONORING VETERANS OF HELICOPTER ATTACK LIGHT SQUADRON THREE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce House Resolution 1228, Honoring the Veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and Their Families, to recognize the veterans' sacrifices in service to America during the Vietnam War.

I would especially like to mention Frank Hiles who currently lives in Ozark, Arkansas who served with HAL-3. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Frank served in the United States Navy for 20 years as aircrewman on many different types of aircraft. After retiring he moved to Arkansas to start a business and raise his three children as a single parent. Frank continued his service to his country as an intern in the Fort Smith Congressional office last year as he worked toward his bachelor's degree.

I want to thank Frank and all of our veterans who served with the HAL-3 Seawolves.

Despite the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War, most of the officers and enlisted men who served in HAL-3 were volunteers. Most of the pilots were fresh out of flight training in Pensacola and most of the juniors enlisted were recent graduates of Navy boot camp and technical training schools. Their leaders were also new to combat, coming mostly from ship-based helicopter squadrons normally assigned to track submarines and haul supplies.

HAL-3 fought from 1967 to 1972. In that time, they earned the respect of Army and Navy units throughout the Mekong Delta for their courage under fire and their dedication to supporting their comrades on the ground and in small boats patrolling the canals and rivers. They supported Army troop insertions and extractions. Navy SEALs counted on their support in tight situations.

Wounded sailors and soldiers benefitted from battlefield medivacs. In short, the Seawolves mastered every form of combat helicopter operations.

Here are some statistics from the Resolution:

The nine detachments and home guard of HAL-3 flew 130,000 flight hours in 5 years, they performed 1530 medical evacuations, inflicted thousands of casualties on enemy forces, transported 37,000 passengers and hauled a million pounds of cargo.

In accomplishing those milestones with a fleet of cast-off gunships and a few slicks, the veterans of HAL-3 were awarded 156 Purple Hearts, 5 Navy Crosses, 31 Silver Stars, 219 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 101 Bronze Stars, 142 Vietnam Gallantry Crosses, 16,000 Air Medals, and numerous other awards including six Presidential Unit Citations, the highest recognition given to military units.

Like any combat operation, there was a cost. Forty-four Seawolves lost their lives and are among the 58,000 immortalized on the Vietnam Memorial. Today, the children and grandchildren of those brave souls can be justifiably proud of the heritage of courage and sacrifice of their fathers and grandfathers.

It has been my honor to bring this resolution honoring the HAL-3 Seawolves to the House

and I strongly urge my colleagues to add their names to the roster of those recognizing these American sailors.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARDEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the recipients of the 2010 Best of Braddock Awards. The awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Va., who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community.

Residents of the 11th Congressional District enjoy an exceptional quality of life. Fairfax County schools are ranked as some of the best in the country, our communities are safe, and our employment rate is second highest in the nation. However, much of what defines a community cannot be found in statistics; it lies in the commitment and contributions of all who strive for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Recipients of the 2010 Best of Braddock Awards:

Citizen of the Year—Duane Murphy.

Club or Organization Making a Difference—Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls.

Most Can-Do Public Employees (Local)—Neighborhood College Team for the 2010 Sessions.

Most Can-Do Public Employees (Federal)—Mike McMahon, National Park Service.

Young Person of the Year—Kelsey Rose, West Springfield High School; Melissa Sbrocco, Robinson Secondary School.

Special Achievement Award—Tommy Salvi, Canterbury Woods Elementary School.

Outstanding Business Persons—Jules and Nicky Verster, previous owners Great Harvest Bread.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification, Homeowner—Fernando Restropo, Wakefield Chapel Road.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification, Civic Association—Mike Walsh, Woodwalk HOA Landscaping Committee Chair.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding residents and companies and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

REMEMBERING JOSHUA FUESTON

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, nearly one year ago Joshua Fueston, a 19-year-old Army soldier from Bellingham, Washington, committed suicide in Washington DC. Joshua was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center receiving treatment for physical wounds suffered in Iraq, but he was also suf-

fering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In honor of his life and service, I request that the following poem, penned by Bert Caswell, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE SCARS OF WAR

As when our fines sons and daughters go off to war. . . .
Much heartache, and such great burdens bore!
As some come home all encased in wood, all but for the greater good!
While, others come home without arms and legs. . . as do they!
Ones without eyes, and faces . . . with burns upon their bodies as placed this . . .
Touching all hearts, in so many ways . . . as it's for them we now so pray . . .
But, some scars are not so easily seen . . .
But found deep down inside most heroic hearts, convened!
Are but found Those Scars of War, not so easily seen!
The kind that, in the middle of the dark night make them so awake . . .
All in cold sweats, as upon all of their fine souls such heartache is placed . . .
All in their most sleepless sleeps, now carried in their souls so very deep . . .
As each day these scenes from hell they pray not repeat, as its for them we weep!
For War is Hell, and Hell is War!
For their battles do not end, when they reach their home shores again!
As from the outside, they look so strong and secure . . .
While, deep down inside . . . in all of them, the battle builds all the more . . .
Destroying even the bravest, and the strongest of all hearts for sure!
As upon their fine hearts and souls, but lie these most dreadful scars of war!
As P.T.S.D., is but the silent killer . . . that we all should so look for!
Because, while some die on battlefields of honor bright . . .
And then others, come home all in anguish . . . to fight this fight!
And sadly, without help . . . many will but live their last and final nights!
As they must fight their own private wars, never ending both day and night . . .
As this darkness upon them so lies, as they so try and try!
With tears in eyes!
As another Hero died this day!
Take a look around you, I say . . .
A Hero stands beside you, with tears of heartache upon their souls which lay!
All in their quiet suffering, we must somehow so hear their pain!
For some things are not so clearly seen!
But, lie so deep down so inside this pain . . .
Remember, under the surface but lie all of their most dreadful dreams . . .
Such things that Heroes dare not repeat!
Now, carried all in their fine hearts, so very deep!
For ever vigilant, as we must keep!
For all of our Sons and Daughters, who deep down inside their fine hearts!
The Scars of War, they so keep!
P.T.S.D. a silent enemy . . .

SERVAAS STOKVIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Servaas

Stokvis who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Servaas Stokvis is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Servaas Stokvis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Servaas Stokvis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.
ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL S. PRIDHAM, JR.

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 6, 2010, America tragically lost another of its brave heroes. Army Private First Class Michael "Mikey" Pridham, Jr. was killed in Qalat, Afghanistan, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was 19 years old. A Louisville, KY, native, Mikey's father currently lives in New Albany, IN.

Mikey, who was known to have a great sense of humor and cared greatly for people, joined the Army as he saw the military as a better path to the one he was on prior to enlisting. According to his father, "Mikey was more of a man at 19 years old because of the Army than most men I know." His mother said he was more mature after returning home from basic training and that he had an eye on building a life.

Days before deploying to Afghanistan, Pridham married his wife, Deidre, who is expecting the birth of their first child. At the time of his death, Pridham was just six weeks away from redeployment—he would have been back just in time for the birth of his baby girl. While in Afghanistan, Mikey and Deidre spoke on the phone twice a day, every day. He would tell his wife how excited he was to come home and be with her and their daughter. Justly, Deidre plans on telling their daughter that her father died a hero.

Pfc. Michael Pridham is a true hero. His sacrifice for our nation deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and reverence. Though I did not have the pleasure of knowing Pfc. Pridham, I will mourn his death. His friends and family are in my prayers.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH AFRICA
ON FIRST TWO CONVICTIONS
FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Representative CHRIS

SMITH and Representative KAY GRANGER in congratulating the government of South Africa for their efforts to combat human trafficking.

Let there be no mistake: human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Although slavery was abolished almost 150 years ago in the United States, millions of people worldwide are still deprived of their freedom. Victims of this growing epidemic are forced into a world of abuse and exploitation. I have worked with my colleagues in Congress for years to fight this horrific problem but our work is far from over.

Past experiences indicate that global sporting events such as the World Cup strongly affect the human trafficking industry. The influx of millions of tourists to South Africa for the World Cup increases the demand for prostitution and facilitates the entry of trafficking victims to the country. Women and girls are reportedly being trafficked to South Africa from all over the world in order to meet the demand for commercial sex. With so many people entering the country, it is important to raise awareness of the horrors of human trafficking and be able to identify victims from tourists. The government of South Africa not only needs to protect its vulnerable population but also those that have been trafficked from across the globe.

House Resolution 1412 is an important measure that not only commends the government of South Africa for their efforts to combat human trafficking but also urges them to act quickly to pass anti-trafficking legislation. Strong police enforcement and strict government laws are especially critical during the World Cup in order to protect potential victims and ensure victims are given proper attention. Although the government of South Africa has worked to tackle this issue and has successfully convicted two human trafficking cases more needs to be done to prosecute traffickers and buyers of the industry.

It is our duty to protect men, women, boys, and girls from this devastating scourge that is destroying people's lives.

CONDEMNING THE RISE OF SEXUAL
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
IN HAITI IN THE AFTERMATH OF
THE EARTHQUAKE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake, and its aftershocks, that struck Haiti in January, 2010, there has been a horrifying rise of sexual violence against displaced women there. I rise in condemnation of this unconscionable crime and fundamental violation of human rights. And, I call upon my colleagues in Congress, the administration, the international community, and all Americans to speak out against this abuse and act swiftly to end it.

It is widely documented that sexual violence often increases in emergencies and post-crisis situations, due to mass displacements of people, lack of safe, secure shelter and other scarce resources, and the breakdown of rule of law. In Haiti, according to reports from the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, major media outlets and many others, violence against women in the aftermath of the earthquake has risen dramatically.

In particular, the displaced women in camps have been the main targets of sexual violence. These women have lost their homes, loved ones, contact with friends and family, and have nowhere else to go but to makeshift shelters often consisting of little more than a plastic tarp. These camps offer little privacy, order, or protection from any kind of danger.

The conditions in the camps are so deplorable that they actually increase the chances of women and girls experiencing sexual violence. For example, men and women share the same latrines, which remain unlit after dark, effectively turning a basic necessity into a predatory opportunity and increasing the chances that a woman using those facilities will be raped.

Access to food, clean water, health service and other critical necessities is also limited or nonexistent in these camps. This forces women to take on great personal risk and brave unsafe conditions simply to acquire essential requirements for survival, for themselves and their dependants.

The breakdown of law enforcement has only exacerbated this intensifying problem. There is insufficient policing in and around the most volatile areas. Women have no recourse to report violence, seek protection from abuse, and ensure their cases are brought to justice. Often they are too afraid to speak because their attackers live in the same camp and the women fear retribution. They have nowhere to seek refuge.

Furthermore, as many individuals are still unaccounted for, women and girls who are sexually assaulted are too often faceless, nameless victims. Any surviving family may not know their loved ones are out there, let alone in dire need of protection from rape.

We must make the safety and protection of women and girls in Haiti a top priority during the ongoing recovery efforts. It is critical that we in Congress, along with the UN, human rights groups and non-governmental organizations take a strong stand against this sexual violence and do all we can to protect women in Haiti during this difficult time of national crisis.

We must not allow sexual violence against women in Haiti to continue. Freedom from violence and intimidation is essential to empowering women and improving societies all over the world. It is a fundamental human right.

I strongly urge for a greater police presence as well as more peacekeeping forces on the ground to enhance and ensure security for vulnerable women and girls. Additionally, I strongly support efforts to help strengthen the capacity of local women's organizations. These local organizations help women acquire access to crucial medical and mental health services after an attack.

Strengthening medical and counseling services while building a stronger and more effective security force that patrols the camps are critical first steps to curb the rampant rise of sexual violence and address its devastating consequences for women already suffering from the trauma of the earthquakes that devastated their country just six months ago.

Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the earthquake we saw a worldwide outpouring of support and goodwill that was truly inspirational and demonstrated the best of what is within all of us. We also heard a lot of talk about ensuring accountability, sustainability, and a commitment to revive Haiti at all levels,