

HONORING DR. JOYCE HEDLUND,  
PhD

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joyce Hedlund.

The former president of Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, Joyce is now the president of Washington County Community College in Calais.

A native of Fort Kent, Joyce has dedicated herself to education for the past 36 years, having started her career in higher education administration at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, then at the University of Maine, Husson University, and finally at Eastern Maine Community College in 1987 as president for sixteen years. Joyce has been credited as a visionary leader and an integral member of her community. She is a member of the Maine Higher Education Council, the state committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Secretary/Treasurer for the Maine Compact for Higher Education, a member of the College Board's New England Community College Advisory Committee, a Commissioner on the ACE Commission on Lifelong Learning and board member for Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and the Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

An accomplished academic, Joyce holds a PhD from the University of Maine, where she also received her master's and bachelor's degrees in personnel services and counselor education. She is a graduate of the Delta Class of Leadership Maine and is the recipient of the 1998 Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award, granted by the Alumni of Leadership Maine.

Joyce is recognized as one of New England's most outstanding college leaders; I am confident she will continue her track record of excellence in her new role with the Washington County community college system. Joyce has left a lasting mark on Eastern Maine Community College and surrounding areas. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Joyce for her excellent work; I would also like to offer my continued support and best wishes.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Joyce Hedlund for her continued commitment to the education of Maine's students.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE: SGT  
KENDRA COLEMAN, 173RD SPECIAL  
TROOPS BATTALION, AIRBORNE,  
THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. JIM MARSHALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Georgia's finest! On May 11, 2010 in Charkh Afghanistan, an American Hero named Sergeant Kendra Coleman of The 173rd Special Troops Battalion Airborne, United States Army almost lost her life in an IED explosion. Clinging to life, and

losing her leg she had a choice to make, give up or get up! She chose to get up and begin her run to recovery! In just a few short months she traveled so far and so fast in her recovery. The strides she has made, have taught us all so much, and will continue to bless us all. She is a shining example of the type of women and men who serve our Nation in The United States Armed Forces, and their families quiet courage who help them to recover. Kendra and her husband Brandon, are rebuilding their life at record pace, and they make us all proud to be Americans. I ask that this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE

Stride,  
Stride by Stride!  
Step, Step by Step!  
All within a fine heart resides. . . .  
All in what, a heart of honor so excepts. . . .  
So excepts, so deep down inside!  
This gift from God!  
That which so brings tears, to even the Angel's eyes. . . .  
Our Nation blesses, with all of your most  
selfless sacrifice so yes this. . . .  
As yes you Kendra, are but where courage  
lies. . . . where Courage Crest's!  
A Hero who goes off to war. . . .  
All for our God and Country Tis of Thee, as  
was your burden bore!  
When, all in the midst of most evil war. . . .  
A hero lies bleeding, clinging to life. . . . As  
Such Strength In Honor. . . .  
Faith In Heart's, she is so needing!  
As when you looked down, and saw what this  
war had found!  
As when, your most courageous heart began  
to pound. . . .  
With only one leg now!  
As you hit the ground running, for nothing  
was going to hold you down!  
Wiping those tears from your most beautiful  
eyes, and as you began to stride!  
Step by Step! Stride by Stride, as defeat you  
would not except! RISE!  
Going The Distance, When Courage Crests!  
To Teach Us! To So Beseech Us! To All  
Hearts, To So Reach Us!  
Running To Recovery, upon wings of courage  
you now so glide!  
Because, your Army Strong! Because, The  
Title Hero. . . . upon you so belongs!  
Mothers! Fathers! Teach your daughters  
about this great American Love Song!  
And The Steps We Take, The Strides We  
Must Make! All to live a great life!  
Kendra, at such a great pace. . . . your fine  
heart so runs this night!  
Oh how you Shine, 'Oh how you bring your  
light!  
In life, What Steps do take?  
What strides must we so make?  
To Heaven rise!  
Hooah! Kendra. . . .  
Oh how you touch our hearts inside!  
With each new Stride!  
Stride By Stride!

HERO DAJA WANGCHUK MESTON

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues the untimely passing of a brave and heroic man who made the cause of fighting for the people of Tibet his life's calling.

Daja Wangchuk Meston served as my guide when I traveled to Tibet in 1997. Accompanied

only by my late chief of staff Charlie White and Daja, I was at the time just the second sitting member of the U. S. House of Representatives to visit Tibet since the Chinese occupation began in 1959. We traveled with U.S. passports and on tourist visas issued by the government of China. At no time did anyone ask nor did I make known that I was a member of Congress. Had I done so, I am sure that my visit would not have been approved, just as other members of Congress requesting permission to visit Tibet have been turned down.

I couldn't have made the trip without Daja. He knew the Tibetan people and their struggles against iron-fisted Chinese rule. He opened the doors for my meetings with persecuted monks, men and women on the street and others who risked their personal safety and well-being to steal a few moments alone with me to reveal the unspeakable conditions in Tibet and to petition help and support from the West. He later paid the price for his heroism when he returned to Tibet to investigate the Chinese government's population resettlement program underwritten by the World Bank. He was subsequently captured, tortured and imprisoned by Chinese authorities, and badly injured when he tried to escape by jumping from a window. He endured a harrowing experience before his release.

In our search for modern-day heroes, Daja Wangchuk Meston is a true hero. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to know him. I submit for the RECORD a moving account of Daja's life written by Linda Anna Mancini, coordinator of the Boston Tibet Network, who worked closely with Daja. The Boston Tibet Network links various Tibetan support groups, local individuals, national and international organizations, and the Tibetan Association of Boston.

Daja Wangchuk Meston was beautiful in his modesty, strength and honesty. Powerful in his choices. This hero would not be called by that title when he was with us, but now that he has left us, I feel compelled to name him the hero that he was. Brave in the face of danger, with strength above tragedy, Wangchuk was a hero. It was my honor to know him. Such a beautiful man.

With so much sadness at his death, I look at his brave life for comfort. While remembering his work, I can treasure his dignity and all that he achieved. May the memory of his beauty and achievements sustain his family and all who loved him and cherish him still.

Certainly His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the most significant treasure to Tibetans and Tibet supporters. He is a great leader. And, as he knows, the actions of many others also shed a light—Wangchuk was one, a bright light. We are all indebted to him. The moment of his capture in Amdo in 1999 galvanized the Tibetan struggle into the unified grass roots movement that has held strong since that time.

The Tibetan issue in itself is truly an ocean of suffering. Each person's story is distinctive, whether born in Tibet, or India, or the states—or, in Wangchuk's case, an American raised as a Tibetan. Wangchuk was born in Switzerland, child of Americans who traveled to Nepal where his mother placed him with a Tibetan family and later, when he was 6, into the monastery. His mother lived as a nun in India, while his father returned to California burdened with great personal challenges. At 17 Wangchuk left the monastery and came to the states. After a few years, he attended Brandeis. How valiant he

was when he first arrived, young teenager alone, wearing jeans, not maroon robes. Looking for his birth family, an education and his American self. He found his dear wife—they understood too well both tragedy and exile. They courageously trusted each other, shared love and pain and family, and the struggle for human rights in Tibet.

It was the spring of 1999 when I met Wangchuk. He was impressive, knowledgeable. We were just a group of people interested in Tibet who gathered to share ideas. We formed an alliance, the Boston Tibet Network (BTN) to share information and be able to act on it. Present were Tibetan Buddhists, folks from Amnesty, a scholar archivist of Tibetan Buddhist texts, a Harvard professor, those interested in Tibet, in Buddhism, in social justice. All concerned about the well being of Tibetans in Tibet and those in exile, about human rights and non-violent action. The network still exists, we now know each other well and continue to work toward the same goals.

A few months after our first meetings, Wangchuk went to Tibet. He went in August to investigate, see what was happening to the nomads in Amdo at the hands of the Chinese. He was outstandingly brave to do this. He knew there was danger. The Tibetan movement had learned that the World Bank, contrary to their own mandate, had financed Chinese population resettlement. Tibet supporters worldwide protested loudly with marches and more. Bowing to international pressure, the Chinese government said all were welcome to visit and explore their nomad resettlement project which they claimed was beneficial; yet the pattern was set—the Chinese were perpetually hard about all things Tibetan. Wangchuk was one of those who decided to take them at their word and go and see their project.

Once there Wangchuk was quickly captured by the Chinese, questioned and tortured. Despairing of ever being released, he jumped from a window trying to escape. He was seriously injured and held in a nearby hospital by the Chinese.

For BTN our first group action was to announce the terrible news that Wangchuk was imprisoned. We begged the Chinese government to release him and lobbied our own government to assist in freeing him. The Chinese made his release difficult, so Wangchuk's wife Phuntsok and their friend, Carl, went to China to get him. A harrowing experience but finally they returned to the states and he was admitted to Brigham and Womens' Hospital for a long stay.

August of 1999, Wangchuk's imprisonment, his subsequent injuries and release, world protests—all this was a pivotal moment for the Tibetan movement. The World Bank relented to demands and stopped the funding to the Chinese for nomad resettlement in Amdo. The Tibetan movement was energized and Tibet supporters became a strongly united grass roots movement that has continued to grow powerful all these years since.

Wangchuk was heroic to go to Amdo. He was brave when he endured the endless surgeries needed to rebuild his shattered feet. He was generous to write his autobiography "Comes the Peace" and share his personal life, thoughts and feelings. He was happy with his wife and their boutique "Karma" where they shared workdays and he told stories to friends and shoppers, and enjoyed his Newton Center community.

Yes, it hurts that he is not with us anymore, and that he chose to leave us. But I am

so grateful to have known Wangchuk, he was a hero. Such an honest man, he took my breath away. He is remembered well.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on July 28, 2010 I was unable to cast rollcall votes 476 through 482. Had I been here I would have cast the following votes: on rollcall No. 476, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 477, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 478, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 479, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 480, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 481, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 482, I would have voted "yes."

#### TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5850) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5850, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2011." This bill includes important funding and necessary investments in our transportation, housing and other critical aspects of this country's infrastructure. This bill also provides assistance to the most vulnerable Americans, including the homeless, disabled, low-income and elderly. Additionally, this bill provides support for our veterans who serve this nation so valiantly and who have earned a right to adequate housing.

Mr. Chair, this bill includes funding for critical transportation projects that will improve mobility and stimulate economic activity in communities across the country. What I am particularly proud of is the funding for two light rail lines in Houston, Texas—the North and Southeast lines. These projects have successfully gone through the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts review process, and I am looking forward to passage of this bill and funding of these projects. As the fourth largest city in the country, we are anxiously awaiting construction of an integrated rail network that will create jobs, provide mobility and spur economic development. Funding for these projects will be a significant step towards achieving our goals.

This bill also invests in National Infrastructure to Support Jobs. It includes funding for:

#### Highway infrastructure

There is \$45.2 billion in the bill to improve and repair our nation's aging highway infrastructure. It is estimated that this increased investment will support more than 142,000 additional jobs across all sectors of the economy, according to the job model developed by the Department of Transportation (DOT). According to the DOT's 2008 Conditions and Performance Report, an average annual investment of \$105.6 billion from all levels of government is needed just to sustain the current conditions of our highways and bridges, and \$174.6 billion is needed to improve our current system. In addition, the report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission issued in December 2007 recommended investing \$225 billion annually over the next 50 years to maintain, upgrade, and expand our transportation networks.

#### Public Transportation Investments

There is also \$11.3 billion to support bus and rail projects, including capital expenditures. The increase from last year will support an estimated 20,000 additional jobs for transit workers around the country. The Federal Transit Administration estimates that our nation's public transportation system has a state-of-good-repair backlog of nearly \$78 billion.

#### Public Housing Capital Fund

Additionally, the bill includes \$2.5 billion to help Public Housing Authorities make critical repairs and improvements to public housing units and improve living conditions for residents, including green and sustainable rehabilitation. Every dollar invested in the Capital Fund produces \$2.12 in economic return for local economies.

#### HOPE VI

The bill also includes \$200 million for grants to rehabilitate distressed public housing neighborhoods by transforming them into sustainable mixed-income communities. This transformation will help create jobs in the hard-hit construction industry and will revitalize distressed neighborhoods.

#### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

In addition, the bill provides for \$4.35 billion to spur local construction and development. The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG helps local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities and makes a difference in the lives of millions of people across the nation.

#### Passenger Rail Grant Program

Also included in the bill is \$1.4 billion to expand and improve intercity passenger rail and develop a robust national high speed rail system, which will create jobs and reinvigorate our manufacturing base. Additionally, this investment will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and decrease congestion between cities across the country.