

life with great love and devotion to his family and his service has made our community a better place for all residents.

RECOGNITION OF WILLIE WATSON
FOR HIS SERVICE TO COUNTRY
AND COMMUNITY

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie Watson who is a great community member, a proud father, and a patriot. In our country's time of need, Mr. Watson bravely and fearlessly enlisted to serve in the military and became a member of one of the most inspiring and decorated Air Force squadrons of our time, the Tuskegee Airmen. Despite racism and bigotry in the country, Mr. Watson and his fellow airmen selflessly devoted themselves to fight for our nation.

Mr. Watson served as a Service Master for over twenty years. During WWII, Mr. Watson was sent into battle for one of the most harrowing and brave missions: to life-flight wounded soldiers off the battlefield. He performed these duties faithfully and honorably and after 20 years of work, retired from service.

As a young man, Mr. Watson and his fellow airmen became America's first African-American military airmen. These brave young men enlisted or joined from all over the country and trained to become fighter pilots, mechanics, engineers, intelligence analysts, and parachute riggers, among many other specialties. From 1941 to 1946, nearly 1,000 pilots graduated from the Tuskegee Air Force School, and four hundred fifty of them served overseas. These fighters had many accomplishments including flying over 15,000 sorties into enemy territory, accomplishing a nearly perfect record for not losing U.S. bombers, and destroying 112 German airplanes.

These men not only faced a war abroad, but also challenges at home because of segregation and racism. Their struggle eventually contributed to the desegregation of American society and their patriotism was rewarded with several honors, most notably on March 27, 2007, when the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On September 23, 2010, a ceremony will be held to honor Mr. Watson's incredible life. His dedication and service inspired a generation, and I am proud to recognize Willie Watson, whose service to our country in its time of need will never be forgotten.

HONORING MARINE 1ST LT. SCOTT
FLEMING

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of 1st Marine Lt. Scott Fleming who gave his life September 17, 2010, while supporting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. His unit was conducting pre-election security operations when he was struck by enemy small arms fire.

Scott Fleming was a sophomore at Blessed Trinity High School in Roswell, GA on September 11, 2001. It was those attacks that led him to the decision to join the Marines. He began his training just two weeks after graduating from LaGrange College with a degree in Education.

1st LT. Fleming will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He is survived by his father, Joseph and mother, Joanne; wife, Brandi; and sister, Andrea.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that we honor 1st Lt. Fleming's sacrifice on behalf of our nation. He is a hero to his countrymen, his family, and his fellow Marines. He reminds us that America is blessed to have so many young men and women willing to stand up and fight to preserve our precious freedoms. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all our military families, whose selfless dedication to this Nation is an inspiration to us all.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY RE-
MARKS BY LTG ROBERT L.
CASLEN, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on August 15, 2010, LTG Robert L. Caslen, Jr. spoke at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Missouri, regarding Military Appreciation Day. His remarks are set forth below.

MISSOURI STATE FAIR—MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY—LTG ROBERT L. CASLEN, JR.—MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SEDALIA, MO—15 AUGUST 2010

Good afternoon. Thank you for that kind introduction. It is always great to visit the Show-Me State and Sedalia. It gives me an excuse to stop by the "Wheel Drive-in" and get myself a "Goober Burger". I want to thank Governor Nixon and Congressman Skelton for their inspiring words and presence here today as we honor our Military Heroes past and present. I am truly honored and humbled to be asked to speak with you today on such a momentous occasion for our Nation's military.

One of our Nation's defining Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, once said, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and . . . dare to do our duty as we understand it."

These words epitomize our military's ethical charter, extended to us by the American people, and defined by the ideals and precepts of our Constitution. As we enter our 9th year of continuous war, our Nation faces an uncertain future—a future that will most certainly require the service and continued sacrifice of our Nation's military men and women. As our Nation and its military embark into this uncertain future, we must ever be mindful of President Lincoln's words—to solemnly do our moral duty and earnestly hope that 'right makes might'.

As Americans, we are a people defined by our moral character. Indeed, many of our forefathers came here in order to flee religious persecution in their native lands. These immigrants, from the Pilgrims to the Quakers to the Mennonites, boldly forged out new lives for themselves in the frontiers of America. Many of Missouri's early pioneers were just such people.

Our forefathers' hard work, perseverance and strong moral ethic helped shape our

country's beginnings and define our Nation's character. Our Founding Fathers were in many cases, men such as these—men of substance—whose character was born out of sacrifice and moral conviction. They understood and rejected the yoke of oppression—they knew full well the heavy price that must be paid to earn and maintain their freedom. Their vision enabled the creation of a radically new concept in the world—a nation, governed by and subservient to its people, committed to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice for all. The ultimate manifestation of our forefathers' ideals can be seen in the instrument that established the American experiment in freedom: our Nation's Constitution.

The pure genius of the U.S. Constitution still evokes awe in us today. Apart from the freedoms extended to us in its Bill of Rights, the Constitution also serves as the source document from which we derive our military's authorities. The governmental roadmap established by the Constitution clearly delineates the military's subservient role to the people and civilian authority of the military. Indeed, the Constitution establishes a client relationship between the military and the citizens of this Nation. Our client status requires us to maintain a healthy and confidence-inspiring relationship with our bosses. Trust is, and always has been, the cornerstone of this relationship. Said another way, it is incumbent on all of us in uniform to earn your trust and then to maintain it.

We in the Army know all too well the heavy price that must be paid for failing to maintain the trust of the people.

In the aftermath of our Nation's last persistent conflict, Vietnam, our Army faced a crisis of trust. Our relationship with the American people had been strained and as an institution, it required us to become introspective and examine all facets of what defined us ethically as a profession. And as a result, we enacted sweeping internal reforms and reinforced our Professional Military Ethic in our professional military education. But this took time and it was only after many years of demonstrated adherence to our Nation's principles and values that we were able to restore the trust of the American people.

I would offer that the key ingredient that makes this difference is leadership. Leadership grounded in the principles of a Professional Ethic—whose foundation can be found in the ideals and precepts of our Constitution.

Our leaders today at every level of the Army face extraordinarily complex and uncertain situations on a daily basis. Confronted by these unique and taxing circumstances, influenced by character, values, and a collective ethic, our leaders invariably will strive to make the right decisions, and thus preserve the trust we must maintain with the clients whom we serve.

But it is not easy and this has not always been the case. Take Abu Ghraib for example—where we saw a failure of leadership result not only in a loss of confidence, but in the rallying of extremist Islam to join the Jihad. Fortunately this leadership failure was countered by the great work of many other leaders over a number of years.

Our Nation's military is a reflection of you—the people of the United States. Our military is an all volunteer force, comprised of citizens from all walks of life throughout our country. We are a microcosm of our society—where all our country's races, religions, and creeds—equally share in the task of defending our Nation and its Constitution. Consequently, our military's character and ethic is a reflection of your own. We stand for the principles and values that you and

our Nation hold dear. We are always mindful that our actions and undertakings should, at all times, reflect this fact. Our all-volunteer military is comprised of your neighbors, friends, and relatives, who have answered America's call to service during a time of war.

I would like to tell you the story of one such American that answered America's call to service during war:

Rick Rescorla was not born of this country. He came to this country from his native England in 1963, and entered the United States Army shortly thereafter. His natural leadership abilities were identified early on. Having graduated from Basic Training, Rick was selected to attend Officer Candidate School and Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation Rick was assigned to 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. It was here that he would learn lasting lessons in service and sacrifice.

In November 1965 a young 2LT Rick Rescorla found himself leading his men during America's first major battle of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang. The battle was a vicious, guttural affair, and was vividly described by the commanding officer of the battle, LTC Hal Moore, and war correspondent Joe Galloway in their book, *We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young*.

In the book, Moore described Rescorla as "the best platoon leader I ever saw." Rescorla's men nicknamed him "Hard Core" for his bravery in battle, and revered him for his good humor and compassion towards his men.

Shortly after the Battle of Ia Drang commenced, Rescorla was ordered to move out to seize the high ground surrounding the landing zone. He immediately led his platoon forward through the brush towards an enemy that they knew was lying in wait. As he did this, his image was captured by a combat cameraman—this iconic photograph adorns the cover of Moore and Galloway's book. In the picture, his face muscles are taut and eyes wide under the brow of his helmet. His eyes look almost white because they are open so wide . . . intense anxiety is plainly evident in LT Rescorla's face. He is very clearly afraid . . . afraid that his life may be snuffed out at any moment, yet he moves with his M-16 at the ready, clenched firmly in his hands, its bayonet fixed—a Soldier dutifully doing what is asked of him despite the danger.

The picture—captured in a moment of desperation and sheer terror—is a powerful image of a Soldier doing his duty in combat. It's quite probable that LT Rescorla didn't really know why it was necessary to move his platoon forward and take the high ground, but he felt a compelling responsibility both to his fellow Soldiers and unit to do his duty. Rescorla did his duty that day earning a Silver Star for his valor. Yet, this was not the last time that his nation would require his service and his ultimate sacrifice.

The final chapter of the Rick Rescorla story is even more moving. On September 11, 2001, Rick was serving as Vice President of Security for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in its headquarters in the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. After the building was struck on that fateful morning, Rescorla calmly and expertly directed over 2700 employees to safety down the fire escape stair wells of the South Tower. Rescorla also oversaw the evacuation of another 1000 employees from the World Trade Building #5. When an old Army buddy, Dan Hill, reached him on the phone that day, Rescorla could be heard barking orders calmly and collectedly through a bullhorn. He exhorted his fellow employees to "be proud to be Americans . . . everyone will be talking about you tomorrow."

After the last of the employees had evacuated the South Tower, he took his security team back into the building to make a final sweep to ensure everyone had escaped safely. When one of his colleagues urged him to evacuate as well, Rescorla replied, "As soon as I make sure everyone else is out." He was last seen alive on the tenth floor, moving towards danger much in the same way he had done 36 years prior at the Battle of Ia Drang. Rick Rescorla certainly knew the mortal danger he faced, yet did his duty for his fellow man.

Rick Rescorla was not the last hero to die in our Nation's Global War on Terror. His actions along with hundreds of others that momentous day sparked a renewed era of sacrifice and service in our country.

Many in this country do not yet fully realize the incredible value and impact that this 9/11 generation is having, and will continue to have, on our society—for they are a humble, resilient and selfless generation. They all remember exactly where they were 9 years ago when the planes went into the World Trade Center, and into the field in PA, and into the Pentagon. They are volunteers all of them, and our Country has placed the security of our Nation on their backs, again, and again, and again. And yet despite the repeated sacrifices, they have answered the call to duty each time, and stood in the gap between the evil that is out there and our way of life. They have never wavered or questioned. They quietly stand among the generations of Americans that have gone before, standing in the gap between the evil that is out there, and the values of our Nation and our way of life.

I have no doubts that history will gloriously record their service and sacrifice, for it has protected the free world from tyranny and evil, and has restored freedom and inspired hope where it was absent. As was the case with our forefathers, they do not seek exclusion and intolerance and violence, but rather they seek moderation, and tolerance, and inclusion. They protect, defend, and advocate for the downtrodden and defenseless. They are indeed a reflection of you—the American people.

In closing, I ask that we all remember those service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation. We are forever indebted to them for their service and sacrifice.

May we also remember those that are, at this very moment, standing watch for us around the globe in the name of freedom and democracy.

God bless the great state of Missouri.

May God bless and protect our Service members in harm's way, as well as their families back home.

And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Army Strong.

CONGRATULATING SAINT CECELIA INTERPAROCHIAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School for receiving the Department of Education's esteemed designation of a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School.

Founded in 1948 with only 60 students meeting in the renovated Saint Cecelia Church

rectory, today it is a hallmark of superior education for nearly 500 students. In conjunction with their mission of providing a strong spiritual and academic foundation, the highly educated teaching population at Saint Cecelia Interparochial School inspire students to achieve at a high level as they undertake core instruction in religion, math, language arts, science, and social science with further enrichment offered through courses in the fine arts, language, and technology, as well as clubs, ministries and service projects.

It is no small feat for a school to receive the distinguished honor of the Blue Ribbon Award. In fact, Saint Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School was one of just 50 private schools throughout the nation to receive this distinction. Their effective school leadership and approach to education has led to a culture of excellence and a population of high performing students.

As Saint Cecelia's proudly raises the Blue Ribbon flag on its campus, may those in our community and across the nation be reminded of the good work done there each day to improve the quality of life for every child passing through and look to this school as a model of exemplary educational practices.

HONORING LEWISTON-ALTURA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Lewiston-Altura Elementary School in Lewiston, Minnesota.

Last week, Lewiston-Altura Elementary School was named one of two schools from the First District of Minnesota to be designated as a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School.

This award recognizes exemplary schools like Lewiston-Altura Elementary where students have made significant progress and the gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students, have decreased. Schools that receive this award truly exemplify the belief that every child has promise and must receive a high-quality education.

As a teacher on leave from Mankato West, I know that achieving success for all students takes a commitment from the entire school, from the principal to the counselors to the teachers. When students see every adult in their school dedicated to their success and achieving a higher goal, they are motivated to do their best.

This is exactly what Lewiston-Altura Elementary has done for its students. Under the leadership of Principal David Riebel, they have focused on building relationships with every student, identifying struggling students early and setting high standards for achievement.

This award recognizes what the Lewiston-Altura community already knows—Lewiston-Altura Elementary is a place where every student, no matter their background, can fulfill their potential. Lewiston-Altura Elementary is an outstanding model of achievement for schools across Minnesota and the country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Lewiston-Altura Elementary School for its dedication to the students of Lewiston.