

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT STEVEN
J. DELUZIO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio, of Glastonbury, Connecticut. Steven was killed on August 22, 2010 when insurgents attacked his unit in Paktika, Afghanistan. I had the honor of attending the funeral service for Steven in which hundreds of friends, relatives and others took time to honor his life, his service, and his sacrifice.

For those who knew Steven, they talk of a man who was passionate about life, about service and about sports. Steven played four years of varsity ice hockey and was an avid Yankees fan in part just because his father loved the Red Sox. Our thoughts are with Steven's father Mark and his mother Diane. My heart goes out to his brother Scott, his fiancé Leeza Gutt, and the scores of friends and family members who had the privilege of knowing Steven DeLuzio.

Steven graduated from Glastonbury High School in 2003 and joined the Vermont National Guard after being motivated by the attacks of September 11th. He was deployed to Iraq in 2006 and was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge. After returning home, Steven was again deployed to Afghanistan in March 2010.

Sergeant Steven DeLuzio led a life that serves as an example to all. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me, and the people of Connecticut, in honoring Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio for his sacrifice. Our thoughts and our prayers are with the DeLuzio family in their time of need.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHARLIE JOHNSON

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism and courage of Private First Class Charles R. Johnson, better known as Charlie to his friends. Private Johnson fought and died to save his buddies on a hot day in a far away land, in a war largely forgotten by the American public. However, for those who fought in Korea against a dedicated enemy in some of the most forsaken terrain on this earth, scarcely a day goes by without remembering the sacrifices made there. And for those that were at Outpost Harry in June of 1953, they will never forget Charlie Johnson.

Charlie was a Browning Automatic Rifleman with Company B of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. Early in June of 1953, Baker Company, as Company B was known, was ordered to defend Outpost Harry with other units from the 15th Infantry. This

outpost in the Chorwon valley was of strategic importance. The high ground that Outpost Harry occupied could be used by communist forces to directly engage United Nations forces' defensive positions. If Outpost Harry fell, the U.S. 8th Army would have to fall back 6 miles to a new, defensible position. It was feared that public support would erode and the United States might agree to a cease-fire under unfavorable conditions if the communists could inflict heavy casualties and force a retreat of the 8th Army. As peace negotiations were ongoing, the loss of Outpost Harry was simply not an option.

The battle for Outpost Harry was fierce. Almost 90,000 communist artillery rounds landed on Outpost Harry during the battle. The U.S. and Greek soldiers were outnumbered 30–1. Some of the fighting was hand-to-hand. The fighting went on for 8 days.

It is in this context that Charlie's brave actions took place. He selflessly put himself in the line of fire to protect his fellow soldiers, all of whom were injured during the attack. After treating the wounds of his fellow soldiers, he led them to safety and then returned to defend the position and enable the rescue of his fellow soldiers. This sort of bravery went unrecognized for over 50 years. Thanks to the leadership of the current 3rd Infantry Division, Major General Cuculo and Brigadier General Phillips, this brave act has not gone unrewarded. For his actions on the 11th and 12th of June, 1953, Charlie Johnson was finally awarded the Silver Star, our nation's third highest medal for valor in combat. I believe Charlie's Silver Star write up says it best:

"During the night and early morning of 11 and 12 June 1953 against overwhelming odds during an attack on his element's position, Private First Class Johnson acted with complete disregard for his personal safety to ensure the safety of his fellow Soldiers. Ignoring his own injuries, he treated several wounded comrades, dragging one Soldier through the Trenches while under direct artillery, mortar and small arms fire to a secure bunker, stopping only to clear the path of enemy soldiers in close combat operations. Ignoring the proximity of the opposing force, he left the bunker to assess the situation and secure weapons and ammunition. When he returned, he organized a defense and departed his fighting position in order to place himself between his comrades and the enemy, thereby creating the conditions for their successful rescue."

In an age of persistent conflict, it is useful to reflect on those who have gone before us and have shown character, integrity, sacrifice and bravery in their actions. Today's soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, and indeed all of our men and women in uniform, will look to Private First Class Johnson's actions as an example to live up to. There was an easy way out that night; Charlie could have chosen to retreat. But he chose to fight, and because of his actions others lived. That is the textbook definition of the ultimate sacrifice.

Charlie's Silver Star was presented to his family this last weekend in Poughkeepsie, New York. His good friend Donald Dingee, one of the men he saved that night, was in attendance. It is unfortunate that Charlie's Silver Star had to wait so long, but I am happy that the final chapter has finally been written. Our nation continues to enjoy liberty and freedom

unlike any other, and it is due in no small part to heroes like Private First Class Charles R. Johnson. Thank you Charlie.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICES OF DR. PETE TATSUO OKUMOTO AND OTHER JAPANESE-AMERICAN SERVICE-MEN OF WORLD WAR II

HON. CHARLES K. DJOU

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. DJOU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism and sacrifices of Dr. Pete Tatsuo Okumoto and other Japanese-American veterans of World War II.

Dr. Okumoto served as a frontline combat surgeon with the United States Army's 10th Mountain Division in Northern Italy during World War II and participated in two major campaigns including North Apennine and Po Valley. Dr. Okumoto received numerous military decorations for his honorable service. I commend Dr. Okumoto for his dedication and commitment to the field of medicine and honorable service to the United States. It is with great pleasure to formally recognize Dr. Okumoto on the floor of the House of Representatives.

As a Captain in the Army Reserve, I understand the demands placed on our servicemen and women. I thank Dr. Okumoto and all other Japanese-American veterans for their heroism and for their service to the state of Hawai'i and the United States. Aloha.

HONORING PARKER STEVEN SPAW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Steven Spaw. Parker is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Parker has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Parker has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Parker solicited donations for and volunteered his assistance towards refurbishing the family resource center for IMPACT ministries in Eastern Jackson County, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Parker Steven Spaw for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5297, the Small Business Jobs Act. Legislation that provides much needed lending to millions of small businesses and offers tax incentives to help small businesses grow, hire, and fuel our economy.

As we all know, small businesses are a key engine of our economy, creating two-thirds of the new jobs over the last 15 years. America's 27 million small businesses continue to face a lack of credit and tight lending standards, with the number of small businesses loans down nearly 5 million since the financial crisis in 2008 under President Bush.

Last month, I went on a tour of small businesses throughout my district. I have also met individually with many small business owners who are struggling to stay open. While visiting these businesses, I saw firsthand the serious challenges they face while the United States struggles to overcome its most significant economic crisis since the Great Depression. It was clear to me that they have all the tools necessary to prosper but need our financial institutions to function properly and provide them the resources to succeed.

H.R. 5297 will provide small businesses with this opportunity by increasing access to capital and spurring investment and growth throughout our country. In fact, it is estimated that this bill alone will create 500,000 new jobs in America.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, which will provide our small businesses with the assistance they need to compete in this difficult economic climate. I know it will have a substantial impact on my district and strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND ECO-
NOMIC WELFARE IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6132, which improves the social services currently offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, by reaching out to and providing benefits for many veterans not currently enrolled accounted for under our current federally-funded programs.

I want to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the Congressman for sponsoring this legislation and for his dedication to ensuring that this nation does everything it can to repay our veterans for the sacrifices they have made to protect us.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of a district that is home to over 23,000 veterans and the VA Medical Center of Long Beach, I know how important it is to ensure that our veterans have the resources to access affordable health care, housing, and financial security.

H.R. 6132 establishes a transition program for new veterans not eligible for other employment aid programs. With 40 percent of young veterans from who Iraq and Afghanistan more likely to be unemployed than anyone in their age group, it is vital that we continue to demonstrate our support for them through bills such as this.

The bill's provisions are aimed at directly improving the disability claim system by extending the 120-day limit for filing an appeal to the Court of Veterans Appeals after a final decision of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The bill would also increase the pension amount for Medal of Honor recipients, establish an award program that will allow the VA to recognize businesses for their contributions to veteran employment, and protect veterans from losing their non-service connected pension benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the bold actions taken by Congress and the Administration thus far have been critical in assisting our courageous Veterans. Not only have they provided the vital services that our veterans have earned, but they also equip our former soldiers with the resources they need to lift them out of unemployment and live stable, healthy lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6132.

HONORING THE KALISHMAN
FAMILY**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary St. Louis family dedicated to community service and who embodies the spirit of volunteerism. The Kalishman family is receiving this year's Netzach Award from the St. Louis Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

The Kalishman legacy of community service began with Nancy and late husband Jerry, and continues today through their children. Nancy has a long record of service but continues to show her dedication and compassion by reading to underserved children as part of the Ready Readers Program. Formerly a teacher, she is a past and lifetime member of the board of the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, past president of the Temple Israel Sisterhood, and has served on the boards of many other community organizations.

Daughter, Susan Goldberg, follows in her mother's footsteps by currently serving as board president for Ready Readers and as vice-chair of the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation. She is also a board member of the Scholarship Foundation and the Magic House. Closer to home Susan serves as troop leader for both her daughter's Brownie troops and as president-elect of their school's parents' association.

John Kalishman serves as vice president of finance/treasurer of the Jewish Federation. He previously served six years as chair of the investment committee for the St. Louis Jewish Community Foundation in which he was responsible for managing its endowments.

Jim Kalishman and his family just moved back to the St. Louis area five years ago and did not wait to get involved with the community. He is now vice president of the board of Congregation Shaare Emeth and was selected to participate in an emerging leader program. He also led the launch of the successful campaign to pass Proposition 0 for the Ladue Schools.

The Kalishman family has shown unwavering dedication to the Jewish and St. Louis communities in the past, and there is no doubt that they will continue to serve and provide as examples of how volunteerism is alive and well in this country. Please join me in congratulating the Kalishmans in their much deserved honor in receiving this year's Netzach Award.

IRAQ ELECTED OFFICIALS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution I am introducing today that encourages all elected officials and political leaders in Iraq to redouble their efforts to form a government that is just, representative, and accountable to the people of Iraq.

More than six months ago, on March 7, 2010, the Iraqi people went to the polls and elected 325 members of the Council of Representatives which, pursuant to the constitution of Iraq, must select the new Prime Minister and President. Iraq currently remains without a Prime Minister or President, and negotiations between the elected political parties seem to have reached a stalemate.

This is not good for Iraq or for the region. The vacuum created in the absence of a new government has encouraged violent attacks against government officials and Iraqi civilians by terrorist thugs who are intent on destabilizing the country.

Destabilizing as well is the fact that more than two million citizens of Iraq remain displaced both inside Iraq and in countries in the region and around the world, and the failure of the government of Iraq to enact comprehensive oil and gas sector framework and revenue-sharing legislation to meet development needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that calls on the leaders of Iraq to form, as quickly as possible, a capable and representative government that is accountable to the people, to address the needs of its displaced citizens and to effectively, fairly and transparently develop its oil and gas resources in order to meet its pressing development needs.