

IN GRATITUDE TO CHRISTIAN
SHREWSBURY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a brave young boy in my district, Christian Shrewsbury.

At just one year old, Christian is battling Spinal Muscular Atrophy II, a motor neuron disease, which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control and swallowing. It is a relatively common "rare disorder": approximately one in 6,000 babies born are affected, and about one in 40 people are genetic carriers.

Though there is currently no cure or treatment for SMA, I am profoundly inspired by the courage exhibited by Christian and his family each day.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend our sincerest gratitude to Christian, for his spirit and the encouragement he provides to other young children and for the joy he brings to all around him.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE
WITH AMENDMENTS IN SENATE
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3619, COAST
GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1665, which provides for concurrence by the House in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 3619, with amendments.

The Coast Guard reauthorization before us is the product of four years of work. I commend Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership and Ranking Members MICA and LOBIONDO on the Transportation Committee for working so closely with us.

I also thank Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING of the Homeland Security Committee—and I thank all of our Senate counterparts for their commitment to completing this authorization.

I have often described the Coast Guard as our "thin blue line" at sea. That line has rarely been stretched as thin as it was this past year as the service responded to the Gulf oil spill and the earthquake in Haiti while carrying out its other daily missions.

H.R. 3619 authorizes \$10.2 billion in fiscal year 2011 for the Coast Guard and increases the authorized end-strength for military personnel by 1,500 members to 47,000 total personnel.

This is a small down-payment on what we owe our Coast Guardsmen and women—and it is long overdue.

This legislation also includes a number of finely tuned provisions strengthening the Coast Guard's implementation and management of its many missions.

Title IV of this legislation, which includes provisions I authored and that previously passed the House as H.R. 1665, will modernize the Coast Guard's management of its billion dollar annual acquisition program by imposing requirements that complement reforms the Coast Guard has already enacted and ensure full accountability for taxpayer funds.

Specifically, Title IV will require the appointment of a chief acquisition officer who can be a senior military officer or member of the senior executive service but who must be a trained acquisition professional with the highest available acquisition certification.

It will also eliminate the use of private sector lead systems integrators and require the Coast Guard to develop independent life-cycle cost estimates for its largest procurements.

Further, Title IV requires the Coast Guard to complete a thorough mission needs analysis and a preliminary affordability assessment before initiating a large acquisition; it requires the Coast Guard to consider trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance when establishing operational requirements; and it requires thorough testing of new assets.

Finally, this legislation applies strict cost and schedule breach standards to Coast Guard acquisitions so that Congress will be alerted when cost overruns or schedule delays occur.

H.R. 3619 will also reorganize the service's senior leadership, strengthen its marine safety program, establish safety equipment and construction standards for certain fishing vessels, and strengthen the service's homeland security missions.

I am disappointed that a number of provisions in the House-passed legislation were dropped in the final bill, including provisions I authored that would have created a student loan program for maritime workers and provisions strengthening diversity at the Coast Guard Academy.

I will continue to work on these critical issues, including working to move legislation that I believe addresses significant current challenges.

That said, H.R. 3619 is an urgently needed authorization for the Coast Guard and I urge its passage in the House today.

Finally, I also join Chairman OBERSTAR in commending the outstanding service of the Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, John Cullather.

John is one of the true professionals on the Hill—and he will be sorely missed.

His knowledge of maritime issues and of the history and missions of the Coast Guard is truly unparalleled—as is his knowledge of House procedures and his passion of service to those who work, travel, and recreate on our nation's waterways.

John is also an exceptional man—a profoundly generous and caring individual who has the respect of every single person on the Transportation Committee and of everyone throughout our maritime industry.

I wish John the very best as he begins his new adventures.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD GILDEA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Harold Gildea, a World War II Army veteran from Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors our Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Harold Gildea was recognized on Tuesday, September 28. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: HAROLD GILDEA

(By: Greg Eckstrom)

Harold Gildea, a Luther native and World War II veteran, has had a varied military experience.

During his time in the service, he's escorted General George S. Patton, had a chance meeting with a prisoner of war overseas from Boxholm, saw the end of World War II and helped guard a boat full of beer.

Typical? Not really, but what was in World War II?

Gildea was born in Luther, a town his family had lived in for 150 years. After graduating from Luther High School, he signed up for the draft on Feb. 16, 1942 and was drafted after graduation. By September of 1942, he was processed at Camp Dodge and sent to Missouri to become a Military Policeman with the 211th Military Police in the Army.

"I don't know how come, but I was chosen to be in this military police company in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.," he said . . . a decision that he considered lucky, "in a way."

After training, Gildea was met with an assignment that was far from normal. He was sent to California at the end of May to help accompany Gen. Patton across the Mojave Desert. While the assignment was an honor, it was hot, to say the least.

"He'd run these tanks through an intersection, and our men would be there to direct him," Gildea said. "You could only stand out in the intersection about 30 minutes and your feet would start to scald. We'd have to have men in there to keep changing. Those tanks, the dust would be 8 to 10 inches deep, and that hot sun's over 120 degrees."

From California, he was sent to southern New Guinea to relieve MP's in the area. The fourth morning he was there, Gildea was at breakfast when he spotted a soldier that looked familiar.

"I don't know why I put it like I did, but I said, 'Would you know any of the McFarlands from Madrid?'" Gildea said. "He just sat there and stared at me. He said, 'I am one.'"

The chance encounter overseas with a fellow Boone County native was interesting—almost as interesting as Gildea's next assignment. He had been in southern New Guinea for only two weeks when he was put on guard duty . . . keeping watch over interesting cargo.

"We'd been there probably about two weeks and some ships come in, and they assigned us to guard this one ship," he said. "When we got down there it was loaded with beer. A whole ship loaded with beer. Well, [Gen. Douglas] McArthur wouldn't let them have it, so they assigned us as duty to guard that beer to make sure it stayed there."

For six weeks, the beer sat in the ship. It wasn't until a few soldiers figured out how to break open a port window and throw some of the beer into the ocean to scoop up later that any of it could be consumed. Finally, the beer was released and Gildea's strange guard duty was over.

Gildea moved around to several different areas, being assigned to various guard duties and police work. He remembers the climate being hot and humid, with not much for areas to escape the weather.

At a staging area where soldiers prepared to enter Japan, in Leyte, Gildea found himself in the hospital with an illness. While there, soldiers from Corregidor liberated American women and children from a prison there. These former prisoners were sent to the hospital that Gildea was recovering.

"I had been there for three weeks, and I was getting to where I could get up and move around," he said. "They come in one morning and wanted to know if some of us boys could get up and help the women and children with their stuff. They were putting them through their interrogation. I went up to this lady and little girl and spoke to her and said I'd be glad to help her. We got to visiting, and the little girls' folks were from Boxholm, Iowa. Her mother had died in prison, and her dad was some place out in the jungles.

"This lady . . . I can't remember where this lady was from . . . this lady brought the girl back to Boone," Gildea said. "They were in Boone and called my folks and went up and talked to them."

The dropping of the atomic bombs brought about the end of the war, and with it great relief from many soldiers. Gildea had already been training to go to Japan. He was a part of three platoons in the company—one dealing with traffic control, one with prisoners and one general guard duty. While being given their duties, one that struck the soldiers was tagging bodies.

"That's how bad they were figuring it was going to be," he said.

Gildea was 3/4 of a mile away from the U.S.S. Missouri while the peace treaty signing was being done.

"We could see it through good field glasses," he said. "You could see people moving around. We could say we've seen it, I guess."

Following the end of the war, Gildea was sent to Yokohama, where he stayed in the third floor of a large building. Everything in the area had been fire bombed, however this building had been spared. He also recalled one other building in the area that was still standing.

"There was a little Methodist church," he said. "It was made of brick, and it never burned."

It was while staying in this building that he made a trade with a Japanese man that was moving out of the building. He had several postcards of the building on his desk, which Gildea asked for, and the man agreed. He then asked Gildea for some chocolate from his rations . . . he had a little boy who had never tasted chocolate. Gildea obliged.

"He had a little boy who was seven years old and never tasted chocolate," he said. "It was kind of amazing to think that he wanted that candy."

Gildea's time overseas was varied. His recollections vary from the odd to touching to humorous. He enjoyed his time overseas, however quickly reminds folks that at the time, it was not much of a choice. Whether being drafted or not, for most men at the time, serving their country was something they did without much thought.

"We had no other choice," he said. "It's just our duty and we had to do it."

I commend Harold Gildea for his many years of loyalty and service to

our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF STEVE HEGEDUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Steve Hegedus, beloved family man, friend, mentor, firefighter, peace activist and United States veteran.

Mr. Hegedus grew up in Cleveland along Buckeye Road where many Hungarian immigrants, like his parents, had settled. He served with honor in the United States Army during World War II as a member of the 11th Airborne in the Pacific Theater. The young men he met while at war grew to be close and life-long friends. After the war, Mr. Hegedus joined the Cleveland Heights Fire Department where he served with excellence, compassion and dedication for more than thirty years. He eventually attained the rank of Captain. While a firefighter, he operated a small home repair business. Although his work ethic was unwavering, his first priority was always his family. He and his wife, the late Mary Rose Hegedus, raised their children and remained closely connected to them and their grandchildren. When Mary Rose became ill, Mr. Hegedus lovingly cared for her. His daughter, Pamela; son, Steven; son-in-law, Timothy; daughter-in-law, Debbie; and grandchildren, Jordan and Ariel continued to be the center of his life.

Mr. Hegedus' energy for life, passion for learning and willingness to take a stand on issues of social justice were always part of who he was. He lived with love for humanity and concern for our planet. He was an environmentalist before most even knew what the word meant. Mr. Hegedus took great care of his garden and fruit trees, sharing his harvest with friends, family and neighbors. He utilized green practices before they were popular, was an active member of the Sierra Club and he served on the board of the Cleveland Peace Action. Mr. Hegedus was an outspoken advocate against nuclear arms and was an outspoken leader of the Lyndhurst Nuclear Weapons Freeze Group. He was also an avid patron of theater, music, literature and the arts, and he attended lectures and performances on a regular basis. Mr. Hegedus was a long-time member of the South Euclid Library Book Club.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Steve Hegedus, whose kindness, colorful personality, love for humanity, and devotion to family and friends framed his entire life. His beautiful spirit will live on, and he will always be remembered.

CALLING ON TURKISH-OCCUPIED CYPRUS TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS ARTIFACTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to H. Res. 1631, a one-sided resolution that seeks to advance political interests under the guise of the protection of religious sites on the island of Cyprus. This resolution carries with it the potential to significantly damage relations between Turkish and Greek Cypriots at a time when reconciliation talks are at a critical stage. In fact, the United Nations special envoy for Cyprus expressed hope that, an agreement on the divided island could be brokered by the end of the year.

In 2009, Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders took a tremendous step toward reconciliation with the formation of the Cultural Heritage Technical Committee, an organization tasked with the protection, preservation, and restoration of the rich cultural heritage of Cyprus. This committee has made enormous progress in identifying sites, located in both northern and southern Cyprus, which are suitable for restoration and protection. This committee has been one of the most successful vehicles yet created for fostering open dialogue and honest conversation between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on an issue of great importance to both communities. It would be unfortunate if actions by the U.S. Congress were to somehow unintentionally disrupt the progress that has been made so far to protect and restore precious artifacts and heritage sites.

While I commend my colleagues for their desire to protect the rich cultural heritage of Cyprus, the two parties in this conflict are already working to correct the wrongs of the past. This resolution puts their hard work in jeopardy, and I urge Congress to play a peacemaking role, rather than take sides in a dispute.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. JOE HUBBARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exemplary life of Mr. Joe Hubbard, a tireless advocate and dedicated servant for people in need.

For fifty years in the East St. Louis community, Joe Hubbard has been the person that people turn to when they have nowhere else to turn. When a single mother needs shelter and food for her children; when a family has seen all their possessions destroyed in a fire; when an unemployed father has lost all hope of finding a job; or when an elderly person comes to the end of life with no family or friends to see them through their final days, there has been one response—call Joe Hubbard.

Joe Hubbard learned about families in need the hard way. His father experienced a debilitating workplace injury when Joe was young,