

service. I am grateful to the Guard for recognizing Tim's contribution to the security of our country.

In 2004, Tim deployed to Balad, Iraq, one of our largest air bases, with Missouri's 131st Bomb Wing. He was one of only five members of his unit sent to Iraq. While everyone who goes to war is affected, some return more affected than others. Tim Wymore is one such person.

Tim is one of thousands of our service members exposed to hazardous materials while operating in and around the burn pits in Iraq. Since returning, Tim's health has deteriorated to the point where he is unable to work. He's been in and out of the hospital and today cannot stand on his own and relies on oxygen to breathe.

Through it all, Shanna, his wife of 25 years has not only stood by his side, but fought to get the benefits and care he deserves from a system sometimes indifferent to his suffering. I got to know Tim and Shanna after they contacted my office seeking assistance with the Veterans Administration.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor TSgt Tim Wymore, so I won't take further time to elaborate on how the system has failed to support this warfighter. I will only say that I will continue to work to see that the Veterans Administration is held accountable for how it serves our citizen soldiers.

Despite his suffering, Tim Wymore remains a patriotic citizen and father. In fact, rather than try and dissuade his son from serving in uniform, he supports his youngest son Cody's decision to follow in his footsteps and enlist in the United States Air Force.

I pray God bless the Wymore family and the United States of America.

**"STEVEN SOLARZ: A GREAT  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS"**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, America lost one of the outstanding people to have served in this House. Steven Solarz was a Member of the House from 1974–1992, and no Member either in my personal experience or in my reading of history was a more effective and constructive leader in foreign policy as a Member of the House. Too often, Members of Congress, especially the House Members, distinguish themselves in the foreign policy field mostly in a negative way. Sometimes that is a very good thing because these Members are preventing things from happening that shouldn't happen. But there is a tendency to demagogue and to play to public dislike of foreigners. Steven Solarz was a role model for those who think that Members of the House have a constructive role to play in foreign policy. Without ever having risen to the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he made himself an extremely significant positive force in foreign policy, for human rights, and for constructive American relations with a wide range of nations. He understood the importance of our being strong when we had to be, and of our being open and generous when that was called for.

Madam Speaker, Steve Solarz was a personal friend of mine for many years, and I suppose that people could claim that I have exaggerated the greatness of the role he played because of that. So I was particularly pleased to see that one of the best students of Congress, Norman Ornstein, expressed eloquently and cogently the importance of the role Steve Solarz played in foreign policy as a House Member, in his December 8, 2010 article in Roll Call.

Madam Speaker, as an example that I believe all Members ought to aspire to, I ask that Norman Ornstein's deserved tribute to Steven Solarz's foreign policy leadership be printed here.

[From Roll Call, Dec. 8, 2010]

REP. SOLARZ WAS A LEADER WORTH

REMEMBERING

(By Norman Ornstein)

This is the season for farewell addresses from many lawmakers leaving at the end of the 111th Congress. Some speeches, such as those of Sen. Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) a few weeks back and of Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) last week, are particularly poignant, reflecting decades of dedication to the Senate and reverence for its traditions (if a touch too much deference to its existing rules and too little concern for how the contemporary abuse of the norms have distorted those traditions and call for modest but meaningful tweaks in those rules).

But their eloquence underscores how elections, while bringing necessary change for a democracy and reaffirming popular will, also result in the departure of some of the most solid citizens of the Congressional village. The loss of expertise, insight and institutional memory—not to mention fundamental decency—that comes with the departures, some voluntary and some not, of people such as Reps. John Spratt (D-S.C.), James Oberstar (D-Minn.) and Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) and Sens. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) and Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), among others, is painful to those of us who care about Congress.

Then there are other losses. Former Rep. Steve Solarz (D-N.Y.) died last week at age 70, after a four-year battle with esophageal cancer. While he received prominent obituaries in the Washington Post and the New York Times, chances are many new and not-so-new Members of Congress who weren't around in the 18 years that Solarz served in the House, from 1975 to 1993, were either unaware of his passing or paid little attention to it. As a start, they should go back and read those obituaries, and then make a note to read his wonderful book, "Journeys to War and Peace: A Congressional Memoir," which will be published next year.

I wrote a foreword for the book, in which I noted my striking experiences on visits to the Philippines and Cambodia; in each case, when I met with academics, high government officials and others, I was asked frequently, "Do you know Steve Solarz?" In the Philippines, actually, the question was, "Do you know Steve Solarz personally?" He helped save my country from dictatorship." In Cambodia, it was whether I knew the Steve Solarz who was instrumental in saving Cambodia from the murderous excesses of the Khmer Rouge.

Solarz was not a secretary of State, a Senator or even the chairman of a powerful committee. He was a rank-and-file House Member who, by the force of his personality, a remarkable work ethic, a political savvy, an articulateness unmatched in contemporary politics, a commitment to democracy and human rights mixed with hard-headed sense of reality, and a willingness to work across

the aisle to accomplish mutual goals, had a greater effect on the world than most secretaries of State, Senators and chairmen of powerful panels.

Solarz traveled the world, but not with Congressional delegations; he went alone. American embassy personnel dreaded his arrival; they would not have to arrange trips to the souk or the rug store, but would instead have to keep up with 18-hour days choreographed by Solarz to include meetings with the foreign minister, the defense minister, the intelligence chief and the key opposition figures.

When he scoped out situations and found corruption, abuse of power and worse, he used his skills and connections to relentlessly push for change. Back in Washington, D.C., his office became a home away from home for dissident leaders from around the world who got short shrift elsewhere. As a consequence, to pick one example, Solarz probably had better ties with the Kurdish leaders in Iraq than any other American.

Solarz's shining moment, perhaps, was on the House floor during the stirring debate over whether to authorize the use of force against Saddam Hussein after his invasion of Kuwait, i.e., the first Gulf War. There were dozens of emotional and wrenching speeches as Members struggled with the decision about whether to send young Americans to war, and perhaps to death; at the time, there were predictions of potential mayhem in the desert. When liberal Democrat Solarz stood up and spoke in favor of the authorization, it was truly a riveting moment. Everyone stopped to listen. He was powerful and eloquent, and he did as much as anyone to shape the outcome. There are few examples in which an individual lawmaker has any effect, much less one that is consequential, from a speech on the House floor.

It is hard to imagine another Solarz emerging in a political system that is now so polarized that a powerful opinion leaders and statesmen like Sen. Dick Lugar (R-Ind.) cannot persuade his own party colleagues to vote for the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. It is even harder to imagine a House Member throwing himself into peripatetic travel to every corner of the globe and trying to shape events and outcomes in the world without being shredded by cable news and anonymously funded campaign attack machines, or finding ways to build unlikely and persuasive partnerships across every partisan and ideological divide. But it is not impossible to imagine some new Members of both parties persuaded by Solarz's example to take some trips abroad despite the predictable criticism of junkets and the equally predictable partisan flak, and to think about core values of freedom, human rights and America's national interest as transcending petty partisan interests. At least I like to think is not impossible.

**THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF LONG  
BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fire Department of Long Beach, California. Specifically, I would like to thank and honor firefighter paramedics Chuck Hakopian, Mark Miller, Joyce Vanderweide, and Carston Sorensen for their heroic response to an apartment fire in Long Beach last week. These firefighters risked

their lives to save a young boy who was trapped in his bedroom as flames engulfed his family's apartment. Thanks to their bravery, 2-year-old Justin Aruomah is in stable condition and continues to improve daily.

We must never take for granted the men and women of the local fire departments across the country who courageously respond to emergencies on a daily basis, risking their lives to save those of others. Their willingness to face danger in order to serve and protect their communities affords us a peace of mind that too often goes underappreciated.

Madam Speaker, I am humbled by the firefighters of the Long Beach Fire Department, whose bravery and devotion to their community is nothing short of heroic. The events of last Monday, December 6, 2010 is only one of many moving examples of this heroism.

Just after midnight, firefighter Chuck Hakopian and Carston Sorenson rushed into a burning apartment. They ran up the apartment's stairs through billowing clouds of smoke and into a bedroom that was engulfed in flames. The floor in the room was so weakened by the fire that Mr. Hakopian fell through the floor to his elbows. After pulling himself up and out of the collapsed floor, he rushed into a second bedroom, where he found 2-year-old Justin Aruomah lying face down on the floor. As Mr. Sorenson battled the flames with a fire hose, Mr. Hakopian covered the boy's head and body and rushed him out of the burning house to awaiting paramedics Mark Miller and Joyce Vanderweide. Justin was unconscious, but alive. As he was rushed to the hospital, Ms. Vanderweide and Mr. Miller were able to revive his breathing. Justin was soon placed in critical condition. Thanks to these brave men and women he is alive and recuperating.

I do not share this story of bravery and sacrifice because it is any way uncommon. The firefighters of the Long Beach Fire Department, along with departments across the country, risk their lives every day to protect people who they have never met. These acts of selflessness are typically accompanied by little fanfare. These brave men and women simply return to work the next day to await the call of duty.

I share this story because it is a powerful reminder of the need to support the men and women who stand ready to serve our communities, day and night. We have an obligation to provide our firefighters—along with our police officers, paramedics, and all other emergency responders—with the resources that they need to do their job successfully and as safely as possible. This means providing enough funding for them to afford all the necessary training and cutting-edge equipment. This is the right thing to do for the men and women who dedicate their lives to serving our communities.

As the Chair of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Communication, Preparedness, and Response, supporting our emergency responders is one of my top priorities in Congress. Emergency situations cannot always be prevented, but their effects can be mitigated by ensuring that emergency responders have all the resources that they need to protect us.

Again, I thank Chuck Hakopian, Mark Miller, Joyce Vanderweide, and Carston Sorensen of the Long Beach Fire Department and the emergency responders all across the country who risk their lives on behalf of their communities. Your courage and selflessness do not go unnoticed.

IN HONOR OF ALEX MACHASKEE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alex Machaskee of Warren, Ohio on the occasion of his being honored by the American Nationalities Movement, and for his lifetime of service, commitment, and dedication to the greater Cleveland community.

Mr. Machaskee graduated from Cleveland State University with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He worked at the Warren Tribune before joining the Plain Dealer in 1960. He moved up the ranks, becoming Publisher and President in 1990. In this position he initiated a large expansion program, in which the Plain Dealer improved the quality of its service by investing in a new facility, a redesigned distribution system, and expanded coverage of local news. He retired in 2006, capping a 46-year career at the Plain Dealer.

As a result of his prolific career in journalism, Mr. Machaskee has been recognized by many local organizations and institutions. He has received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Cleveland State University, the University of Akron, and Heidelberg College. Some of his honors and awards include the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition Organization, the Whitney M. Young Humanitarian Award from the Urban League of Cleveland, and the Nonprofit Board Executive of the Year Award from the World Trade Center Cleveland. He has also been inducted into the Northeast Ohio Business and Cleveland Journalism Halls of Fame.

In a further demonstration of his dedication and commitment to the Cleveland community, Mr. Machaskee has been welcomed into the boards of many local nonprofit organizations. Some of the cultural institutions whose boards he joined include the Musical Arts Association of the Cleveland Orchestra, the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, the Cleveland Opera, and United Way Services.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Alex Machaskee for his decades of commitment and service to the greater Cleveland area. His leadership of the Plain Dealer and his efforts in greater Cleveland area nonprofit organizations demonstrate the strength of his character and the dedication he feels to his community. I commend Mr. Machaskee and wish him success in his future efforts.

RETIRE MAJOR GENERAL FRED-  
ERICK HARWOOD "FRED"  
FORSTER

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Retired Major General Frederick Harwood "Fred" Forster passed away on November 18, 2010, after a long and very brave battle with cancer. I do not know another person who has met

such a challenge with more strength, faith, and grace.

Fred was a very patriotic American and one of the finest men I have ever known. He had an immeasurable impact on Blount County, Tennessee, and the United States in many positive ways.

Upon reporting the news of his death, The Daily Times newspaper in Maryville, Tennessee, referred to Fred as "a community treasure."

Fred's pastor at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church said Blount County has lost a "great man and friend to this community," and he continued on to say that, "(Fred) believed in prayer and accepted the will of God without complaint. Dignity, respect, honor, faith, love, commitment; these are the words that describe Fred."

Sharon Hannum, Chair of the Blount County Chamber Foundation, said, "I have met no stronger, dedicated and compassionate leader than in the person of Fred Forster."

Former Maryville Mayor Joe Swann said, "His steadfastness in the face of such adversity makes him the soldier we point to and say, 'I had the great privilege of knowing that remarkable man.'"

Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, a native of Maryville himself, called Fred a friend and said, "Blount County and I will miss him greatly."

Fred is perhaps best known for his success in the military. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1968, his accomplishments as a pilot and natural leadership abilities propelled Fred to the rank of assistant adjutant general of the Tennessee Air National Guard at the time of his retirement in 2003.

During his 35-year service, he served as commander of the 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard, and chief of staff of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Fred's time in the military took him through the Air Command and Staff College, Army Command and General Staff College, and Air War College. He received countless decorations, including a Bronze Star, and served in Thailand and the United Arab Emirates, playing an important role in the liberation of Kuwait during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Fred also found much success in community development. He served as chief executive officer of the Blount Partnership, a venture made up by the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Board, Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau and Blount Chamber Foundation.

His time at the Chamber is admired by all who were lucky enough to work with him until his retirement earlier this year.

As you would imagine, Fred's work did not stop with the military or his time at the Chamber. He devoted much time to other civic and private organizations too numerous to name in this space.

Fred was buried with full military honors at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, and I attended his graveside service along with many hundreds of other people. It was very obvious to everyone who was there how loved and respected he was in the community.

Recently, Fred's father-in-law, Garland DeLozier, also passed away. Garland was a community leader in his own right, and I offer my condolences to Fred's wife, Carolyn, who has lost her husband and father in such a short span of time.