

That which our Lord so creates, are but
found deep down within someone like
Nate!
And if ever I have a son, I but hope and
pray . . . he could but be like you this
one!
In Nate!

PASSING OF REVEREND S.L.
ROBERSON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, a distinguished churchman, much loved in southeast Michigan who led the House of Representatives in prayer on September 5, 2007, has been called by the God he served so faithfully.

Reverend S.L. Roberson, pastor of Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, passed away on November 11, 2010. His long and faithful service to his God and fellow man has endeared him to the people of the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor region of Southeast Michigan in a very special way.

Reverend Roberson was a Marine and he served this country at Okinawa and Iwo Jima in World War II. When he came home he never stopped serving.

Reverend Roberson led the congregation at Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church from 1954. He was a leader to that church and he was leader to the Ypsilanti community. He was a gifted communicator and he put that gift to work for his community, his congregation, and his nation.

Reverend Roberson leaves behind a grieving family and thousands of grieving friends and admirers.

He was commemorated in a celebration of his life at Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church on December 18, 2010.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, which he led in prayer, I extend our condolences to his much loved widow, Mrs. Hollie Roberson, and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN
HERO: SERGEANT MAJOR RAY-
MOND MACKEY, 3RD BATTALION
10TH MARINES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American Hero, Sergeant Major Raymond Mackey of Sierra Vista, Arizona and the 3rd Battalion 10th Marines. This Marine has served our Nation for 28 years; leading and inspiring our Nation's Marines.

On December 23, 2009, while on patrol, he noticed a marker left by the enemy indicating an improvised explosive device, IED, up ahead. As he pushed a fellow Marine out of the way of the IED, it exploded and Sergeant Major Mackey lost his legs and almost his life. With the help of his wife, Vicki, he recovered and is doing well today.

I ask that the following poem by Albert Caswell penned in honor of Major Mackey and his family be placed in the RECORD:

ARIZONA'S BRIGHT SON

Arizona's son . . .
Shining, but so very brightly . . . as but
does, so this one!
Ah yes Raymond, you are one of her bright-
est of all ones!
As thy will be done!
A United States Marine, oh yes, you are on
one of the finest of all things!
That, this our Country . . . has . . . ever so
seen . . .
As a leader of women and men, as upon bat-
tlefields of honor you would descend
. . .
A Sergeant Major, whose entire life will be
. . . and has always been . . .
One of strength in honor, time and time
again!
As so boldly forth, Mac you have worn that
fine shade of green!
As a magnificent brave heart, who would go
off to war to lead . . .
Leaving behind, all that you so loved . . .
and adored!
All for God and Country, all for our most
precious freedom to ensure!
As into such fine heroes, molding and lead-
ing our men and women so for sure!
As when, all in that moment's of truth . . .
Saving your brother in arm's life, giving up
your own two strong legs . . . as lies
the proof!
As when, you looked down . . . and so saw
what you had found . . .
As the tears upon his most heroic face, came
streaming down!
But, Marines don't quit! They lead!
As now Sergeant Major Mackey, you have a
new battle to win . . . a new war to
succeed!
For some heroes, are but put upon this earth!
To teach us, to reach us . . . to all of our
hearts so beseech us . . . all in their
worth!
For all in our Lord God's heart, they do so
surely come first!
As does, this bright son now shine! As over
the skies of Arizona, you so rise!
With but your faith and courage, but bring-
ing tears to all of our eyes!
The kind of son, I wished was mine!
Who will one day, Heaven . . . for his faith
and courage, wings will so find!
Oh Mac, how you do shine! All in your life,
all in your time!
And all of those lives that you have saved
. . .
And all of those magnificent heroes you have
so trained and trained!
And all for your most heroic brothers in
arms, who no so lie in soft quiet graves
. . .
Have so marched forth all in those magnifi-
cent shades of green!
As you will rise up with your heart of cour-
age full, as once again to lead the way!
As your most courageous life, so brightens
all of our days!
Marine! "Oh Mackey, how you do shine!"
There's an even brighter son, now shining
this day all in Arizona's skies!
It's you, Sergeant Major Raymond Mackey,
whose heart to new heights as does so
rise!

HONORING BILL COGBILL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and

honor Sonoma County Sheriff Bill Cogbill, who is retiring after a 36-year career in law enforcement.

Sheriff Cogbill began his career in 1975 with the Petaluma Police Department in Sonoma County. Three years later, he joined the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office as a patrol officer assigned to various beats throughout this large, rural county.

He was promoted to Detective in 1987 and specialized in narcotics enforcement. He was promoted to Sergeant the following year and was assigned to Patrol and Personnel Services.

In 1995 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to the Town of Windsor as that community's Chief of Police. He served in this capacity for three years when he became Captain of the Sheriff's Field Services, a position he held until 2003 when he was elected Sheriff.

He had many specialty assignments during his tenure with the Sheriff's Office, including service with the Hazardous Incident Team, Street Crimes Unit, Field Training Officer Program and Instructor and Coordinator of Defensive Tactics.

Sheriff Cogbill has received numerous awards and citations during his long career, including the Sheriff's Distinguished Service Award, the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award, and the Bob Tucks Peace Award. He is also a graduate of the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Sheriff Cogbill has served on numerous local and state committees working to improve public safety, law enforcement and detention services, including the Board of Directors of the California State Sheriff's Association Board of Directors. He has continuously encouraged his Command Staff to participate fully in professional organizations and within the community.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Bill Cogbill has served the people of Sonoma County well during his distinguished career. It is appropriate that we commend him for his many years of public service and wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF LEIGH ANN BROWN TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member of the Committee on Science and Technology, Leigh Ann Brown. She can best be described as my 'right hand' and she has been with me almost as long.

Leigh Ann has literally worked with me from the beginning of my political career. We share the same hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Her work with me actually started as the fortunate result of my mother telling me that "My good friend's daughter is interested in politics." So in 1984, as a high school senior, she worked on my first campaign; and every summer of college she either worked on my campaign or as an intern in my office.

After graduating from Vanderbilt University, she immediately joined my Washington, DC

staff. And following a period where she lived in Missouri, she returned to DC to work on the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology.

I have long been proud of the bipartisan nature of this Committee. Leigh Ann exemplifies this even in her home as she is happily married to John Cuaderes, the Republican Deputy Staff Director for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Outside of work, Leigh Ann is a dog-lover, a DC restaurant connoisseur, and she enjoys traveling.

Leigh Ann is known among staff as the person who gets things done. Throughout her career, staff have consistently relied on her sound judgment and thoughtful consideration on a countless number of projects. Beginning in 2007, the offices of the Committee on Science and Technology were renovated as the first House office space in the "Green the Capitol Initiative." Leigh Ann managed and oversaw this vast project. She also coordinated the transition of our committee to the Majority in 2006.

Leigh Ann has long been a dedicated, loyal, and hard working member of my staff. I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for everything from volunteering as a teenager on my first campaign to her expertise in managing the office for the Committee on Science and Technology.

Leigh Ann, I cannot imagine my time in Congress without your steadfast service. I know that all the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology wish you well in the next phase of your life. We will miss you and cannot replace you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HOUSING FAIRNESS ACT OF 2010

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to ensure that veterans have access to a diverse range of housing options.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation allowing veterans to use their VA loans to purchase cooperative housing. The VA loan program allows veterans to buy homes with no down payment and limited closing costs; additionally, the program offers negotiable interest rates and flexible repayment plans. With over one million housing cooperatives nationwide, extending these generous loan benefits can make affordable homeownership a reality for veterans in our districts all across the country.

This bill makes permanent the Department of Veterans Affairs loan guarantee for the purchase of residential cooperative housing units and gives veterans the freedom to choose where they live by allowing veterans to use their veterans' loans to purchase co-ops. In my district, co-ops are often the lowest cost housing. It makes no sense to deny veterans the ability to use their veterans' benefits to purchase these units. My bill will allow veterans to explore all housing options and choose the one that suits their needs.

With this legislation we can honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans by giving them the tools and resources they need to pursue their dreams.

EQUITY IN SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2010 INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Equity in Social Security Act of 2010." This bill is designed to eliminate the discriminatory policy of the Social Security Administration that prevents same-sex couples from receiving the same benefits as their heterosexual counterparts.

Social Security provides spousal, survivor, and death benefits to married heterosexual couples in their later years. Same sex couples are not eligible to receive these benefits because the federal government does not recognize their marriages or civil unions.

These same-sex couples pay into Social Security while working just the same as every other American, but in their time of need, the government treats them differently. Gay couples receive 18 percent less in Social Security benefits than heterosexual couples while lesbian couples receive 31 percent less than heterosexuals. It is no wonder that these groups are also more likely to live in poverty in their old age than heterosexuals.

All Americans should receive a Social Security benefit based on their contribution to the program, not their sexual orientation. That is why my legislation would allow couples in relationships that have been recognized by their state of residence, whether a domestic partnership, civil union or marriage itself, to receive the same benefits from Social Security as heterosexual married couples.

Let me be clear about this effort today. This is meant in no way to distract from the effort to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. That is the ultimate goal in the movement for marriage equality. My bill is not about marriage—it is about economic fairness. This legislation is meant to provide assistance to elderly individuals who have not been treated fairly by their government.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2965 and do so proudly. I support the Senate Amendment because I stand on the side of our military and all who have sacrificed for our freedom, and that is why I support the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," DADT, policy which, since 1993 has resulted in the discharge of over 13,000 American servicemen and women and cost our taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in wasted funds. DADT denies equality to thousands of our soldiers

and dissuades thousands more from enlisting in the defense of our country.

I believe that all Americans willing to risk their lives in the defense of our country and obey its laws should be allowed to do so. Both our military and civilian leaders support the repeal of DADT. It is our responsibility to ensure that this change is initiated at a gradual, manageable pace so as to avoid any unnecessary disruption.

Defense Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, understand that an orderly transition is critical to minimizing disruption in the ranks, ensuring we maintain our strength level and not compromise national security. I applaud Secretary Gates' leadership and initiative, beginning with the landmark report he commissioned in March 2010 which included a survey of over 115,000 enlisted personnel and 44,000 military family members. In conjunction with this report, the Department of Defense prepared an implementation plan that will provide a smooth transition with minimal dislocation. The Pentagon stands ready to implement this plan, and I am proud that Congress is acting to move it forward.

In the 17 years since DADT was adopted, there has been a remarkable change in public opinion regarding the acceptance of gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces. This change has been so dramatic that the repeal of DADT no longer represents a subject of controversy for the large majority of Americans. Indeed, repealing DADT brings public policy in line with informed popular sentiment, which is nearly always a positive good.

The Pentagon's report documents one of the largest surveys of the attitudes of military personnel ever conducted. Its key finding is that the sexual orientation of their peers is not a matter of concern to most service members. Nearly 7 in 10, 69 percent, of respondents believed that they had already served with a gay or lesbian in their unit, and it did not undermine morale or military readiness. The report also finds that, if properly implemented, the repeal of DADT will have no adverse effect on unit cohesion or morale. These attitudes are in line with those of most Americans, who recognize that the military needs every patriotic, able-bodied recruit during a time of war.

Mr. Speaker, opponents of the measure still claim that repealing DADT is "social engineering" that will undermine morale and erode the fighting force of our nation's military. Their claim is refuted by the empirical study conducted by the Pentagon. It is also interesting to note that similar arguments were raised in opposition to racial integration and the enlistment of women in the armed services. The critics were wrong then and they are wrong now. The action we take today also brings us in line with the long-standing practice of our NATO allies as well as that of Israel, a nation rooted in faith that would do nothing to compromise the security of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation and urge all my colleagues to do likewise. I look forward to the moment when President Obama signs this bill into law, which will at once strengthen our armed forces and ensure that all those who want to defend our freedom are given the opportunity.