

As a Member of Congress, the hardest thing we have to do is to comfort families when they have lost a loved one in a time of war. My heart goes out to the family.

But Jeffrey did not die in vain. He was part of something greater than himself. He was on a mission for freedom and liberty, on a mission to liberate the world from the scourge of terrorism.

My father, a World War II veteran, was part of what we now call the Greatest Generation. Jeffrey is now part of a new great generation of heroes.

His life embodies what we see in the Gospel of John, Chapter 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jeffrey, you are home now with God. Well done, good and faithful servant. May God bless you and may he hold you in the palm of his hand.

I would like to close with a quote from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, which I read to the family the day of the homecoming. His words are as timeless today and relevant as they were so many years ago, when he said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

God bless you, Jeffrey.

HONORING GARY WAYNE COLEMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned of the passing today of actor Gary Wayne Coleman. Although short in stature, Gary stole the hearts of American viewers with his humor and his infectious smile. He lived his life with a spunky sense of humor.

Coleman was born in Zion, Illinois. He was adopted by Edmonia Sue, a nurse practitioner, and W.G. Coleman, a forklift operator. He suffered from a congenital kidney disease which halted his growth at an early age, leading to his small stature.

Gary was best known for his role on "Diff'rent Strokes." He was cast in the role of Arnold Jackson, where he portrayed a child adopted by a wealthy widower. The show was broadcast from 1978 to 1986 and was a huge success.

At the height of his fame on "Diff'rent Strokes," he earned as much as \$100,000 per episode. Gary also appeared on "The Jeffersons" and on "Good Times." He also appeared in a 1978 pilot for a revival of "The Little Rascals," as Stymie.

His life was tough after he was off the small screen and the large screen. He struggled, but he won the attention of the world as an actor. I want to join with his family and the rest of his fans and those who admired and loved him and extend my condolences to his family, his friends, his fans and those that he worked with throughout his career.

We all mourn the passing of Gary Wayne Coleman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this has been a whirlwind of a week, and I believe it is more than appropriate to summarize for the American people the real work that has been done, the triumphs, the challenges, but also the admitted courage of those who recognize that without heavy lifting, this country may not have been explored and stretched to the far reaches of the west coast, where many who traveled beyond the original settlements went West, young man, courage of Americans. This country would not have been great had Abraham Lincoln not stood up to a divided Nation, spoke against the evils of slavery, and unified this Nation.

Although we have traveled a rocky road in the 20th century, moving to ensure the equality of all persons through the civil rights movement and women's movement, there have been many women of courage who made America different and better. I am grateful today that we left this place having voted on the American jobs bill that will provide for small businesses, that will create summer jobs, that will stop the moving of jobs overseas, that provide for the closing of tax loopholes, that provide for the physicians who nurture us, provide for our families, and it will create jobs.

A position I have taken is on an amendment that I have written that would allow those unemployed to receive training and stipends without losing their unemployment insurance. Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, we have work to do. I ask the governors of our States to stand up and be heard and provide for the FMAC, the Medicaid that is so much needed. I will fight with you. Of course, we need to work on the COBRA.

But what we have done is to provide for jobs. Then we have said to the men and women of the United States military, we believe in you, providing for more benefits, more quality of life support for their family, more posttraumatic stress disorder counseling, providing for counseling of civilians that might have suffered a violent act on a military base such as those in Fort Hood—and an amendment that I offered will support it—provided opportunities for small businesses to do business with the Defense Department.

To stand up for justice, to stand up for a young man by the name of Ensign Provo who lost his life because of his sexual orientation and the ugliness of hate, I believe we did the right thing in eliminating Don't Ask, Don't Tell, because the men and women in the United States military are well aware of what justice is all about. They are well aware of what political grandstanding is all about. They are well aware that this amendment will only move forward after we have scrutinized your opinion.

Thank you to the men and women who are courageous enough to send us home, along with my own vote, to say to those who are an American in need that we believe in you and have fought for you.

I close by thanking my beloved mom and acknowledging that her teaching gave me the grounding to be able to say that all men and women are created equal. She is no longer here, but I truly believe teachings of our mothers and fathers have always brought us to the higher calling of being able to help all people.

On behalf of myself, my brother and our extended family, we are grateful to all who expressed their concerns. I just believe, with all seriousness, that what we must do is continue to help people to make their lives better and to change America for the best.

I think we have got the best constitutional institution of democracy the world has ever seen, and that is the United States Congress. As we disagree, we still uphold this flag and the Constitution of the United States of America. We have now been sent home with a great amount of bounty for the American people and those who are in need, and we have gone home to say thank you to the men and women in the United States military and to acknowledge and to appreciate and to honor those who have fallen in battle.

May God bless you as God blesses America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WHITFIELD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute Special Order speech in favor of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is hereby vacated.

There was no objection.

□ 1700

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been quite a week. We've heard friends across the aisle get up and talk about how we've "expanded civil rights in the military." And I appreciate the fact that friends believe they did a wonderfully noble thing for the military, just as they would probably think they did a wonderfully noble thing to expand civil rights in courts martial that occur in the military. But the fact is, under our United States Constitution, that so many people want to keep referring to when it's convenient, it anticipates that there will be different rights afforded in different areas, one of which is in our United States military.

The purpose of the military is not to be some socially engineered experiment. It is to do one thing, and that is to protect our homeland, protect our way of life. For that reason, the Constitution anticipated that Congress,

under its authority to create courts, could set up military commissions, could set up and pass the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which gave the military an entirely different type of structure when it comes to processing their rights and adjudicating different aspects of military life. Because to do otherwise, to give everyone in the military, as I was for 4 years, the same rights that are afforded in a civilian court means that you can destroy the function of the military because so often the military doesn't have time to do all of the same things a civilian court does. That's why the UCMJ was created, that's why it's constitutional, and that's why we needed some forum like that for our military.

It is always an honor to get to speak in this hallowed Hall, but hopefully we can cast some light on what it means to be in the military because, for example, if you are suspected and there is probable cause to believe that a military member has committed a crime, then it can be pursued as an article 15, nonjudicial punishment. And as we saw with the outrageous pursuit of an article 15 against three valiant servicemembers, they had the right to choose not to accept the nonjudicial punishment that could have forced them into restriction, extra duty, taken away pay, dropped them in rank. Instead of having that forced on them, they were afforded their right, under the UCMJ, to say I'm not going to accept this; I want to go to trial in a court martial. That's what occurred, and all three were acquitted—fortunately and appropriately. But that's one of the ways.

Another way is the commander, at different levels of command, can order a court martial be convened. A court will be convened, and a military judge is appointed. And if it is the commanding general of a facility, he can order a general court martial, the highest level court martial under the UCMJ. And at that general court martial, you can have a dishonorable discharge—and it depends on the crime as to how serious the punishment could be—but it could be as serious as a dishonorable discharge and even life in prison. So it's a very serious matter.

But whereas during the days when I was a prosecutor, an attorney, a judge, a chief justice, when there was a jury selection in a civil court, you randomly sent out notices and randomly brought people in, and then you went through a jury qualification with all of those and called out those who did not meet the requirements of the law to be a juror in a particular case. And then once the jury panel was qualified, they were brought before the parties of a particular case and they went through what we in Texas call voir dire, but most of the country calls voir dire—it's just the way we talk in Texas. But during voir dire, the attorneys have the opportunity to ask questions of the jury panel so that they can determine whether or not there are people who can be struck for cause, and to also

allow them to exercise what are called peremptory strikes so they can go through—and in Texas, you can have as many as 10 strikes in the right cases—to strike them for any reason as long as it was not prohibited by the Constitution, strike people for no reason.

In the military, if a commanding general convenes a court martial, it means he has signed off ordering that that servicemember be prosecuted. So he's the convening authority for the court martial. He has ordered that this person be prosecuted, so he is satisfied in his mind, he thinks this guy ought to be prosecuted, brought to justice. And then that same authority gets to pick the people who will be on the jury. And the attorney for the defendant in the military will have no rights to peremptory challenges as you would in the civilian court. They would have no right to try to determine who he would like to strike for peremptory reasons.

It's a very difficult process for a defendant or defense attorney. There are cases in which someone can get life in prison in the military and may only have five members handpicked by the commanding general to be on the jury. Now, why would that be allowed? That probably just really infuriates some who are so concerned about civil rights and they will say, well, that's not fair. But what they don't understand is, in the military, you can't go through all the processes that we have so luxuriously been bestowed with in the civilian sector and still be able to fight wars and protect us against all these enemies, foreign and domestic. There has to be a difference in the rights that are afforded those in the military and those in the civilian sector, or the military cannot function. If they are out on the battlefield, they don't have time to go through a full civil trial and afford all the civil rights because, if they did, they would lose every battle. You can't do that to them and expect them to defend us.

So there are different rights for those in the military than those in American society, and it has to be so to have the strongest military that mankind and the world and history has ever known and ever seen, and that is exactly what we have today.

But our military was made promises earlier this year from the White House through the leadership here in Congress. They were promised that we're looking at changing the policy of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which will allow those who practice homosexuality to do so openly and overtly. For most of the history of our Nation, the military has made sodomy a crime for which you could go to prison. So we've made a dramatic turn in more recent years so that people could feel comfortable that they are afforded all the civil rights.

We're moving to giving our military all the civil rights that we all have in the civilian sector, not realizing a military can't function like that, not realizing that the military has to have different rights, to some extent, in order