

PFC Rushing joined the U.S. Army in March of this year. Upon completion of his training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, PFC Rushing reported to Fort Drum, New York. In August he deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

PFC Rushing's impressive list of awards and decorations include the Purple Heart; Army Achievement Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; NATO Medal; National Defense Service Medal; the Combat Action Badge; and a Bronze Star awarded posthumously.

PFC Rushing was a former student at Altamonte Christian School in Altamonte Springs where he had a reputation of being fearless, an attribute that he carried into battle. Upon completion of high school, PFC Rushing attended Seminole State College where he earned his associates degree. PFC Rushing had planned on following in his father's footsteps as a police officer once he had completed his military service.

We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice PFC Rushing has given for his country. His actions will serve as an everlasting reminder of the dedication and sacrifice the members of our nation's Armed Services make every day.

To his family, we extend our very deepest sympathy and condolences. PFC Rushing is survived by his father George, mother Ann, sister Stacy and grandparents Marcheta and William.

For his service and sacrifice, I ask all Members to join me in honoring his life and commitment to our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION PROVIDING A DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PRO- GRAM (DBE) AT THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, along with 33 minority Members of Congress, I am introducing critical legislation that will address the lack of a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) language in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill will ensure that minority, veteran, and women-owned businesses are getting their fair share of federal transportation dollars. Federal transportation spending has historically served as a crucial means of empowering socially disadvantaged businesses. Thanks to the efforts of the Black, Hispanic, and Asian-Pacific Congressional Caucus' and a bipartisan group of Members on the House Transportation Committee, every major transportation bill since 1983 has mandated minimum levels of participation by minority and/or women owned companies.

Unfortunately, because the Federal Railroad Administration has not historically been a significant grant-making agency, it is not currently authorized to require opportunities for disadvantaged businesses. Without this authority, the FRA is limited in their ability to ensure that disadvantaged businesses are provided an even playing field.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join several of my other colleagues in honoring America's first and most prestigious school of painting. Known as the Hudson River School of Painting, this 19th century school popularized the American landscape.

I have a connection to the Hudson River School. One of the school's most popular and prolific artists, Thomas Moran, grew up in Philadelphia. He later worked at a local engraving firm, which sparked his interest in painting. Moran soon garnered attention for his paintings and was hired to paint scenes of the wilderness of the American West. These paintings, for which Moran is best known, are primarily from the area that is today Yellowstone National Park.

Moran's massive landscapes, and works by other Hudson River School painters, inspired Congress to dedicate Yellowstone, as well as Yosemite and Acadia, as National Parks. Eventually, these paintings were used by environmental conservationists to encourage Congress to form the National Park Service in 1916.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in my appreciation for the works of painter Thomas Moran, and for the lasting legacy of the first indigenous American school of painting, the Hudson River School.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DWAYNE NELSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dwayne Fitzgerald Nelson who passed away suddenly on October 18, 2011 at the age of 50. Mr. Nelson, also known as "Coach Rock," coached the boys' junior varsity basketball and football teams at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Before coaching, he worked for the City of Fort Lauderdale for over 20 years. He impacted the lives of many individuals in the community and will be truly missed.

Hundreds of mourners came to Nelson's funeral service, including friends, family members, colleagues, and other members of the community, celebrating the many lives that he touched throughout his years of service. Many of his current and former players came to pay their respects, and the Dillard boys' basketball and football teams wore T-shirts with Nelson's picture on the front in memory of their respected coach. Those in attendance remembered how Nelson helped lead the boys' basketball team to five state championships.

Dwayne Nelson committed his life to serving the Fort Lauderdale community. His colleagues at Dillard High School noted how he was the first person at the school every day for almost 20 years. As a coach, he taught his players lessons that went far beyond any ath-

letic field. He made sure that they kept their grades up, so that they would succeed both on the field and in the classroom. This type of commitment is what set him apart as an outstanding mentor and coach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Dwayne Nelson's dedication to improving the lives of so many. His service to Dillard High School and the City of Fort Lauderdale, demonstrates how everyday Americans can make a real difference by helping others in their community. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Nelson's family and friends during this most difficult time.

HONORING ESTELLE RUBINSTEIN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Estelle Rubinstein who will be retiring after 41 years of outstanding work in the education field.

Through her work with Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care (AHSCC) in Lewiston, Maine, Estelle has dedicated over 40 years to improving outcomes for Maine's handicapped children. Before graduating with a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1979, Estelle worked as a Head Start teacher for AHSCC. Throughout the years, she has served the organization as its Special Education Director, Program Coordinator and Executive Director.

Throughout her career, Estelle has been a champion of the idea that every child should have the opportunity to receive a high quality education, regardless of their financial situation or disability. Her work to identify children in need of special services and ensure that their families were provided access to vital programs has touched the lives of countless Mainers. She is truly a gifted educator and should serve as a shining example to others of what can be accomplished by a single individual.

It is always with some lingering sadness that I pass along my best wishes for the retirement of people like Estelle. You can never truly quantify the work of such an individual. Although she is retiring, her contributions to the field of education will continue to benefit children for generations. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Estelle and wish her the best of luck on her retirement and in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Estelle Rubinstein for her impeccable commitment to her field and her community.

A HERO OF US ALL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of Jay Nordlinger's recent piece in National Review highlighting the plight of Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng.

Nordlinger writes, "Many people in the world regard Chen as one of the greatest men we have known in the last decade." His courageous exposure of China's brutal one-child

policy earned him the ire of the communist government. He and his family have suffered immensely. His current fate is unknown.

Nordlinger rightly calls a Chen a hero and reminds us that Chen is but one of countless other dissidents languishing in Chinese prisons. Their names may not be known to us, but their struggle is no less real.

The United States must boldly and consistently stand with men and women like Chen who yearn for the basic human liberty and dignity that is our birthright as Americans.

[From the National Review, Nov. 28, 2011]

A HERO OF US ALL

(By Jay Nordlinger)

Last month, there were reports that Chen Guangcheng was dead. That they had at last killed him. "They"? China's ruling Communists, who have tormented Chen for years. Other reports said, No, he is not dead: just in very bad shape. Any report about Chen is now impossible to confirm or deny. The authorities are not letting anyone from the outside see or talk to him.

Many people in the world regard Chen as one of the greatest men we have known in the last decade. These admirers work on the assumption that Chen is alive. A furious international campaign is under way to save him.

Chen was born on Nov. 12, 1971, in the Linyi area of Shandong Province. When a year old, he contracted a fever, which left him blind. Just a peasant, he educated himself, including in the law. He was ready and available to help people. Jianli Yang, a dissident now in America, calls him a "born leader," someone who has always cared for others and whom others respond to.

To the extent he could, Chen helped the disabled petition for their rights. He helped farmers, too. In the worldwide press, he has been known as "the blind lawyer," or "the barefoot lawyer," or "the blind rural activist." Many Chinese throughout the country know him simply as "the blind man."

What gained him his fame, and torment, was his exposure of one fact: In the year 2005 alone, in just the Linyi area, there were 130,000 forced abortions and sterilizations. These procedures are brutal. Moreover, relatives of those who escaped the procedures were detained and tortured. Harry Wu, a long-famous dissident working in America, says that few outside China really understand the consequences of the one-child policy. Jing Zhang, another dissident, associated with the Boston-based group All Girls Allowed, points out that Chen touched one of China's most sensitive nerves.

He organized a class-action suit against local Party officials. At first, the government in Beijing seemed pleased with him. In China, believe it or not, forced abortion and forced sterilization are illegal, officially. Beijing signaled that it would punish the guilty locals. But Chen was getting attention in the international press, celebrated as a whistleblower, and a blind peasant, at that. This displeased Beijing, which left Chen to the mercies of the local officials.

They seized him in March 2006. They harassed, detained, and beat members of his family and his lawyers. To him, they did worse. Eventually, they gave him a trial, but it was the usual sham. For example, his lawyers were forbidden to attend. Chen's wife, Yuan Weijing, said, "There isn't much hope. . . . We live in a nation without law, a nation without morality." He was sentenced to four years and three months in prison.

There, he faced what political prisoners can be expected to face. He was beaten over and over. He went on hunger strikes. He was denied medicine.

His wife, sometimes under house arrest, sometimes not, did all she could to help him. The months before the Beijing Olympics in 2008 were especially bad for dissidents and other "troublemakers," although Western supporters of those Olympics had said the Games would do wonders for China's liberalization. The guard around Yuan increased from ten men to 40. She wrote a letter to Chinese president Hu Jintao, calling herself "nothing but a rights defender's wife." She told of the humiliations she and her family endured.

The West protested too, in various ways. At the U.N., there were "working groups" and "special rapporteurs." The State Department and the EU uttered their peeps. Organizations were good enough to give Chen awards, in absentia. Nothing moved the Chinese government.

He was released from prison in September 2010 and confined to his home in the village of Dongshigu. This sort of confinement is known as ruanjin, or soft detention, but it has been very hard. Chen and his family have been watched constantly and subjected to escalating abuses. In February, he managed to have a video smuggled out to the West. It was publicized by a group in Texas called the China Aid Association, which said that the video had come courtesy of a "sympathetic government source."

In the video, Chen described the circumstances in which he and his family were being kept, and he said, "The thing we need to do now is conquer terror" and expose practices that are "lacking in human conscience." He said he was "fully prepared" to be tortured after the video's release, but was "not afraid." Yuan Weijing spoke too, saying that her family was in danger. With a breaking voice, she expressed the hope that friends would take care of their children, Kerui and Kesi, if something happened to them, the parents. What happened immediately is that Chen and Yuan were beaten to a pulp. A letter from Yuan, made available in June, told us the following:

More than ten men covered me totally with a blanket and kicked my ribs and all over my body. After half an hour's nonstop torture, I finally squeezed my head out of the blanket. I saw more than ten men surrounding Chen Guangcheng, torturing him. Some of them twisted his arms forcefully while the others pushed his head down and lifted his collar up tightly. . . . Guangcheng was not able to resist and passed out after more than two hours.

The letter details a great deal more.

Infuriated by the video, the authorities did their best to ensure that nothing could get in or out of the Chen home. They removed the family's electronics and sealed the windows with metal sheets. They installed surveillance cameras. They plundered the house of almost everything, down to family photos, toys, and Chen's white cane. The goal was to isolate the family completely.

Over the months, a stream of visitors have trekked to Dongshigu, hoping to see Chen. These include writers, lawyers, advocates for the disabled, and ordinary citizens. They also include foreign diplomats and journalists. All have been repulsed by teams of thugs at the four entrances to the village. These thugs—a mixture of policemen and their hirees—have detained, beaten, robbed, and shot at the would-be visitors. Many of these incidents are meticulously documented.

Impossible to document, of course, is Chen's condition at the moment. But we know for sure that beatings, malnutrition, and illness have taken their toll. The question is, To what degree? Chen's supporters in China and around the world are redoubling

their efforts in his behalf. Some people are risking a journey to Dongshigu on November 12, Chen's 40th birthday. There is also a "sunglasses campaign." Chen, like many blind people, wears sunglasses, and supporters are donning their own sunglasses and having their picture taken, to be posted on the Internet. It is a gesture of solidarity, a way of getting Beijing's attention.

There is also pressure on an American movie company. Relativity Media has just started filming *21 and Over* in, of all places, Linyi. They must be within shouting distance of Dongshigu. The company is working in cooperation with the same Party officials who are brutalizing Chen. The movie, according to publicity, is a "hilarious comedy" about "two childhood friends who drag their straight-arrow buddy out to celebrate his twenty-first birthday the night before an all-important medical school interview." And "when one beer leads to another, the evening spirals into a wild epic misadventure of debauchery and mayhem that none of them will ever forget."

The same press release quotes Zhang Shajun, a key Party official. He welcomes his "good friend Ryan Kavanaugh and his great company Relativity" and promises to "provide the best service possible in order to help make the movie successful worldwide." Naturally, human-rights groups have asked Relativity Media to use whatever leverage it has to help Chen Guangcheng, or at least inquire into him. The company has so far seemed disinclined.

On another front, Jianli Yang has written the State Department, asking it to bar from entering the United States a Party official named Li Qun. Li studied at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, and even served as an assistant to New Haven's mayor. Now, according to Yang, he is the Party official chiefly responsible for Chen's ordeal.

Have international protests done any good at all? Reggie Littlejohn, president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, says yes: "I believe Chen would be dead by now but for people in the West speaking out for him."

Across China, Chen is a symbol of human rights, like Gao Zhisheng, another lawyer, who has been "disappeared," and Liu Xiaobo, the political prisoner who is also the 2010 Nobel peace laureate. But Sharon Hom of Human Rights in China makes a point that is depressing and inspiring at the same time: There are many, many like Chen, Gao, and Liu, but whose names are unknown to us. They languish in prisons, "black jails," psychiatric wards, and other dark places. They have stuck their necks out for their rights and all people's.

Why do they do it? Why do they risk, or guarantee, the full wrath and murderous power of a dictatorship? Of Chen Guangcheng, Harry Wu says, "He had to tell the truth. Simple. He had no choice but to tell the truth. That is why people appreciate him, and why the government hates him." Perhaps Chen's blindness gave him an extra dose of compassion and courage. Perhaps not. In any case, there is someone much like him in Cuba, the blind lawyer and activist Juan Carlos González Leiva. The bravery of such people is hard to account for. But it can be admired.

In that video, released earlier this year, Chen said, "A society that is not built on a foundation of fairness and equality, but instead relies on bullying and violence, cannot possibly maintain lasting stability." He is probably right about that. Yet think how many suffer and die in the meantime.

HONORING BERT STEPHEN CRANE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Merced community, Bert Stephen Crane, on his 80th birthday. Bert was born in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley's fertile lands of California on November 29, 1931. He is the fifth generation of California farmers and ranchers that came from Connecticut during the Gold Rush of 1849. His ancestors can be traced to John Alden of the Mayflower landing in Plymouth. A true son of this great country.

Growing up on the cattle ranch he learned that the day starts in the saddle before dawn, and it doesn't end until all the work is done and the horses are grained and rubbed down. A cattle sale has always been done with an honest handshake.

Bert loves music and was the Drum Major in the Merced High School Band, and played basketball. At Menlo College, Bert enjoyed roping and polo. He later studied at Stanford University and U.C. Davis, where he achieved his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics. During these years, he fell in love with a young gal, Nancy Magnuson, who was studying at Stanford University. They married in 1957, raised three children and have been married for over 54 years.

Bert's life has been a great and wonderful adventure. His leadership skills have extended from achieving his Eagle Scout as a young man, to the highly coveted Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, which is a recognition award of outstanding service to scouting and the community awarded at the National Scouting level. He has ridden horses with Ronald Reagan, coached Little League and shipped his Registered Red Angus bulls to Europe and Hawaii. He diversified from the beef business in the early 1970s and started farming walnuts as well. Eventually, he built a walnut processing plant with his wife, Nancy and three children, Bert, Mary and Karen. His children and seven grandchildren are following the tradition of ranching and farming.

Bert's step-father was James Parker, M.D., a third generation family doctor. James' love for the outdoors was a natural match for Bert, as they enjoyed fishing and duck hunting out on the family's Sunrise Ranch. Bert has always had fond memories of loading up horses, and packing into Hetch Hetchy reservoir, and Davis Lake for trail riding and trout fishing together.

His passion for quality healthcare was learned through his stepfather. Bert has served and led fundraising events for Mercy Hospital for over 36 years and spearheaded the building of the Mercy Cancer Center, and a new state-of-the-art Mercy Hospital in Merced. Bert's wife, Nancy, was the founding president of the Mercy Hospital Volunteers and has served for over 40 years.

In 1986, Bert was honored by the University of California, Davis Alumni with the Distinguished Achievement Award for his involvement in research in the University's agriculture and governmental programs, along with his community and industry associations.

His service to his community, agriculture and research is one of great respect and in-

tegrity. Bert served on the Merced County Planning Commission for 28 years. All of this would not have been possible without the work of his loving wife, Nancy, in keeping the home fires burning and taking care of the children while supporting his passion for service to others.

REMINISCING WITH BERT

The year was 1943. The place was the Sunrise Ranch of local pioneer C.A. "Bert" Crane, located just off the old Gustine Highway. A young cowboy was growing up on this ranch; he was named Bert, after his grandfather. Well, all ranches have dogs and this was no exception. One of Bert's chores was to feed the dogs.

To digress a moment, Grandfather Bert had a best friend, Bill Moffat, of Manteca Beef fame. One of Moffat's employees named Scotty Allen, convinced him that it would be good business to use the scraps from the beef plant to make dog food. The result: Scotty Allen dog food. To promote the sale of this product, the cans were wrapped with coupons Being loyal friends, the Cranes served up nothing but Scotty Allen. As young Bert fed the dogs he fastidiously peeled the coupons off the cans and sent for the catalog of prizes. When the catalog arrived, Bert searched the pages and finally selected his prize: a fabulous crook-neck Boy Scout flashlight. Mother Crane cautioned that Boy Scout flashlights are for Boy Scouts. This saddened Bert, for the chances of becoming a Scout out there "in the boonies" were remote. However, after some soul-searching he sent for the flashlight.

Soon after, Bert and his family moved to town. Bert packed up his flashlight, and the family settled across the street from Applegate Park. As good luck would have it, there in the park stood the log cabin Boy Scout hut. Bert quickly joined the Scouts and legalized his flashlight. Bert was twelve; his Scout troop was #101; the leader was Scotty Langley. Langley became Bert's mentor and guided him along the journey to the coveted Eagle Scout Award. His first merit badge was for Horsemanship; his second badge was for Steer Production, and he could tie more knots than the Scout handbook. Three years running Bert won the Merced-Mariposa Trail Ride, Junior Division.

Bert was a member of Rancheros Visitadores and enjoyed going on the week long trail ride with friends and politicians in the Santa Ynez Valley. One of his friends was the late Governor of California and United States President, Ronald Reagan. Bert was visiting with the then past Governor and seized the opportunity to take a rope off of a saddle and "lasso" Reagan in the outhouse. Reagan thought that Bert was going to flip over the outhouse. Reagan opened the door a couple of inches and worked the knot out of the rope and undid the knot. Reagan came out laughing, stating "You know Bert, I've been in tighter places than that."

The following is a list of his service and awards:

Member of Central Presbyterian Church
Bank of America Advisory Board 1957–1969
Bank of America Plan to Prosper Comm. 1967–1968
Bank of America Livestock Symposium 1969–1970
Merced Land Bank Assoc. 1980–1988
Merced County Land Bank Assoc. 1984–1988

Diamond Walnuts Top Twenty Service Walnut Grower 1983

Speaker at U. C. Davis 1973, Livestock
Speaker at Fresno 1985, Livestock
Speaker at U.C. Davis 1987, Livestock
U.C. Davis Alumni Achievement Award 1986

Merced City-County Chamber of Commerce
Outstanding Livestock Produced for the year 1976

California Farm Bureau Member
California Cattlemen's Assoc. 1954–1988
Research Comm. 1968–1970

California Cattlemen's Assoc. Farm Credit
Policy Comm. 1984–1988

California Cattlemen's Assoc. Land Use
Comm. 1984–1988

Merced-Mariposa Cattlemen's Assoc. 1954–1988, Director 1964

American Quarter Horse Assoc. 1954–1988
American Simmental Assoc. 1969–1970

National American Cattlemen's Assoc. 1970–1988

Beef Health Conference Comm. Davis, California 1968

Livestock Research Advisory Board, Davis, California 1970

Pacific Slope Red Angus Association
California Beef Cattle Improvement Assoc. 1965–1988, President 1978–1980, Director 1966–1970

Rancheros Visitadores Member 1978–1988
Beef Improvement Federation

Commendation for Excellence for Feed
Stock Breeder 1974

Cattlemen's Expo Member of Formation
Comm. Representing Red Angus 1968

Red Angus Association 1951–1988:
Registration Comm. Chairman 1964–1968

Board of Directors 1962–1971
President of Assoc. 1969–1971

Top Hand Award 1972
Red Angus Assoc. of America Pioneer

Breeder Award 1988
Little League Baseball Coach, 1970

Weaver Union School District Board 1966–1970:

Clerk 1968
Vice President 1970

Merced County Planning Comm. 1964–1988, Chairman 1966–1967

Merced County District #1 Alternate Supervisor 1966–1970

Lone Tree Soil Conservation District:
Director 1957–1986

President 1957–1962
Secretary 1976–87

Eagle Scout Award, 1946
Boy Scouts of America Comm. Member 1969–1970

Boy Scouts Yosemite Area Council Century
Club 1978–1988

Central Presbyterian Church 1945–1988
Usher Comm.

Merced Hospital Lay Advisory Board 1969–1984

Merced Hospital Foundation Board 1984–1987, Vice Chairman 1985

Merced Hospital Governing Board 1987–2005
Merced Hospital Charriada Fiesta Benefit 1985 Host & Co-Chairman

Distinguished Eagle Scout Award 1988

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Bert Stephen Crane for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contribution. Bert serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.