

IN HONOR OF MAJOR ANDRE
MCCOY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MAJ Andre C. McCoy of Bala Cynwyd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on his 25 years of military service and to honor him on his outstanding career of accomplishment.

Major McCoy joined the Marines in August of 1985. After completing basic training at Paris Island, South Carolina, he became an Artillery Fire Direction Control man through Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served with Golf Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines (Reserve) based in Trenton, New Jersey. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Major McCoy was on active duty with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. He left the Marine Corps as a Corporal in 1991 to join the Bloomsburg University ROTC.

Major McCoy's training as a ROTC cadet included Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Benning, Georgia, where he also completed Airborne School and received his silver jump wings. He was commissioned as an Army Armor officer in 1993 and stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Major McCoy transferred to 3rd Battalion, 103rd Armor, 55th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard. As part of the United States' global war on terror, he was sent to Hohenfels, Germany as the Executive Officer for Force Protection. Major McCoy transferred to 56th Stryker Brigade headquarters in Philadelphia. There, he participated in a number of state emergency responses as well as the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Major McCoy served in Operation Iraqi Freedom with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division in Diyala Province, and later in Operation Enduring Freedom with 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan. Throughout his exemplary career, Major McCoy has served 5 tours of duty. He was selected and approved for the rank of Major on June 3rd, 2010 and has received over 20 awards and medals for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing MAJ Andre C. McCoy for his invaluable contributions to his country in his quarter century of military service.

IN HONOR OF MR. ALEX A.
BOUDREAUX

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday March 3, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and achievements of the late Mr. Alex A. Boudreaux.

A member of World War II's illustrious Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Boudreaux was also believed to be the nation's first black civilian air-traffic controller, dedicating three decades of his life to Port Columbus.

Alex Boudreaux first fell in love with aviation while growing up in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He left college after two years during World War II to join the Army Air Corps training program. After the Tuskegee program ended, Mr. Boudreaux received training in air-traffic controlling. Although he never flew with the Air Corps, he continued to pursue his passion for flying and earned his civilian pilot's license. Following the war he commenced working as an air-traffic controller at Rickenbacker Air Force Base and went on to serve Port Columbus for 30 years before retiring in 1977.

Mr. Boudreaux acquired many distinct honors and accolades throughout his impressive time on this planet and always remained active in his community. He was a great supporter of numerous veteran organizations such as the Tuskegee Airmen Association and Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio. He also devoted much of his time to the Columbus Urban League, YMCA and Knights of Columbus. In 2007, he was among 330 Tuskegee Airmen presented with the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

The story of the famed Tuskegee Airmen is one worthy of immense respect. The many tales of courage and patriotism exhibited by men such as Alex Boudreaux during America's efforts to defeat the Axis powers make up a truly remarkable contribution to U.S. history. Alex Boudreaux's commitment to his country, the famed Tuskegee Airman, and central Ohio was eclipsed only by his passion and dedication for his family. He left behind a loving family spanning three generations including four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

After 90 years of life, Alex Boudreaux recently passed away leaving a legacy of unwavering service to his country and to central Ohio. In light of his contributions and service, I believe he deserves great respect and admiration. He will be a sorely missed member of the central Ohio community and his influence will be felt for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. JAMES RUBINO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Rubino, a dedicated member of our community who was known to the hundreds of people whose lives he touched simply as "Papa."

Jim was born in San Francisco on January 31st, 1913. He was a first-generation American, born to immigrant parents, Sebastiano and Maria Rubino. He met his wife, Ebe Rubino, in 1938 and they were married in 1940.

During WWII, Jim worked for Matson, refinishing the inside of war planes and selling vegetables out of his truck that he called "Jim's Market on Wheels." After a few years he wanted a healthier life for his children, so he moved his family to a ranch in San Martin. He raised "layers" and "fryers" (chickens) along with his two children, Mike and Lynne.

Jim's son Mike became the band director of Live Oak High School and started the Emerald

Regime Marching Band and Color Guard in 1970. Jim, with the help of his wife Ebe, cooked and catered each year for the band members and their families for band retreats, competitions, and fundraisers. He often fed a few hundred students and parents at once. Jim was one of the first chefs of the Gilroy Garlic Festival's Gourmet Alley creating his now famous Stuffed Mushrooms which are still a festival favorite and fundraiser for the band.

For nearly three decades, Jim fed our young musicians on trips all over the country, and even on three trips abroad. He was there when the students won the Bands of America Championship in with the highest overall point score ever recorded in that competition, a record which was held for 30 years. He was there again when his son led the Emerald Regime as they played "Stars and Stripes Forever" across the Great Wall of China.

Last year, Jim and Ebe celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Jim passed away on February 7th of this year at the age of 98. He lived at his ranch in San Martin until the day he died, and Ebe still lives there now.

I want to commend the life of a true American—the son of immigrants, the father of a teacher, the grandfather of musicians, a farmer, and a friend to everyone he met.

REMEMBERING SHAWN WEBB

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Shawn Webb of Meadow Valley, California.

Shawn was born on May 7, 1973 in San Diego, California and was raised in Descanso. He grew up in the beauty of the California wilderness. Shawn rode his dirt bike in the desert and learned to work on hotrods and tractors.

Shawn's lifelong dream was to serve as a police officer and after graduating from Mountain Empire High school he entered the police academy. Shawn graduated from the academy in 1995 and began his lengthy service, first as a Reserve Officer and then as a Sworn Officer, to the residents of El Cajon, California as a member of the El Cajon Police Department. It was also in 1995 that Shawn married the love of his life, Chrissy, with whom he had grown up in Descanso. The couple were blessed with their first daughter Courtney that same year, followed two years later by the birth of their second daughter, Samantha.

In 2008 the family relocated to Plumas County, California, where Shawn joined the Sheriff's Department as a deputy and serving with a kindness, compassion and purpose that affected so many on a level that is impossible to quantify, and hard to even imagine. In the course of providing this outstanding service, Shawn earned multiple citations and awards including the Life Saving Award, the Meritorious Unit Citation, nine commendations for work with vehicle theft and twice being named the Officer of the Month. Shawn not only fulfilled his dream to become a police officer, but distinguished himself as one of the finest to bear that title.

In 2009, Shawn was diagnosed with highly-aggressive brain cancer and he began what would be a long, hard battle with that disease.

Mr. Speaker, Shawn was a dedicated public servant, but he was first-and-foremost a loving father and husband and a fierce friend. Those who knew Shawn adored him for his generous, considerate nature and robust sense of humor. It was impossible not to take notice of his stature as we watched the community rally behind him and his family, doing all they could to help the man they had come to love. Sadly, last week Shawn's long battle with cancer came to a close. He leaves behind his wife of almost sixteen years, his two teenage daughters and too many friends to count.

William Faulkner once said he refused to accept the concept of death "because [man] has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance." Faulkner continued, saying that it is our duty to ensure this endurance by reminding men of "the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past." Mr. Speaker, it is doubtless that Shawn Webb's story is one that is filled with all of the virtues that Faulkner described. It is my honor to rise today in his remembrance, and to commit to the record of history Shawn's legacy of love, service and honor.

HONORING LAURIE ANN MELROOD FOR HER LIFETIME OF SOCIAL SERVICE AS AN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATOR FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN LATIN AMERICA

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurie Ann Melrood. For more than 40 years, Laurie Melrood has dedicated her life to social justice, speaking as a voice for people with no voice in the United States and other countries. Her initiative and persistence have changed the lives of countless individuals and communities.

The oldest of three children of Paul Melrood and Gitel Kastrul, Laurie Melrood is a second generation American. Her Jewish relatives survived pogroms in the Ukraine from which her father fled as an infant. Her life has been characterized by service since her earliest days.

As a young person in the 1960's, she advocated with African American and Jewish youth for desegregation of Milwaukee Public Schools.

She lived, worked, and studied in Israel during the late 1960's.

She was a member of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs.

In 1971, for her undergraduate internship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she started Pathfinders, a shelter for runaway teens.

In 1972–1973, Laurie served as a community mental health worker in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood in South Chicago.

In 1975, she graduated with a Master's Degree in Community Social Work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. For her graduate internship she started a community service project for high school seniors who received credit for their service.

In 1974–1982, Laurie served as the Program Director of Jewish Social Services in

Madison, Wisconsin. She established the culturally-based and ground breaking model L'Chaim Program for seniors at Madison Jewish Social Services, breaking the social isolation of Jewish and non-Jewish seniors.

From 1981–1982, Laurie was the Director for Community Action on Latin America in Madison, WI.

From 1982–1986, she was a principle organizer in South Texas and Wisconsin for the Underground Railroad and Public Sanctuary of the National Sanctuary Movement helping refugees from Central America to find shelter in the United States. She also assisted numerous refugees immigrate from Russia and Iran to the United States through HIAS, a Jewish Refugee Aid Agency.

From 1986–1990, Ms. Melrood assisted Central American refugee minor children who were detained in Texas by placing them with sponsoring families.

In 1992, Laurie became a staff member for the Pima County Juvenile Court's Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, she recruited volunteers to accompany and advocate for youth in the juvenile justice system. At Pima County Juvenile Court she also served as the Adoptions Examiner, specializing in foreign adoptions.

In 1994, she was one of three co-founders of a health training project in northern Guatemala, specializing in acupuncture and medical aid. The program is unique in training rural health promoters in acupuncture for curative medicine.

In 2000, Laurie was a principle program organizer and collaborator; starting the Kinship and Adoptions Resource Center KA.R.E. Family Center (KARE) in Tucson, Arizona in 2002. KARE is a full service family program helping grandparents and relatives who are raising grandchildren. This center has become a model of social services of its kind for the nation. Laurie has presented this model at child welfare conferences, written about the unmet need of this growing national population of Americans, and strongly advocated for their empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, Laurie Ann Melrood is a true leader of social justice. Her lifetime work of social service and advocacy in the United States and Latin America profoundly affected the lives of innumerable individuals. I want to thank her for her service to this country and to the international community.

IN HONOR OF ALFIE TEWFICK KHALIL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend and great American who passed away tragically on November 18, 2006. The Defense Language Institute is dedicating its newest classroom building for Middle Eastern languages in honor of Alfie Tawfick Khalil.

Alfie, who was a native of Egypt, came to this country in the late 1960s. In 1979, Alfie joined the faculty of the Monterey, CA Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he taught Arabic to U.S. military personnel. He soon stood out as a leader among the DLI

faculty. In 1980, he became a shop steward with AFGE Local 1263, the union representing the DLI faculty. By 1987 he was elected president of Local 1263.

In the post 9–11 world, foreign language capacity is a national security tool. In 2005, General John Abizaid, former Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, that the "ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing." As the world's largest foreign language school, DLI plays an indispensable role in moving this defense strategy forward. But DLI can't do it without its faculty. They are native speakers of their mother languages who, like Alfie, come from the distant places of the globe to help our nation better defend itself.

Alfie understood this and made the advocacy for DLI faculty and staff his life's work. After my first election to Congress, I learned quickly that there were two people I needed to know at DLI: the commandant, a Colonel who would move on or retire after a two year stint, and Alfie, who would always be there representing the best interests of the faculty. Alfie made his presence felt in so many ways.

One of the best examples of this was his hard work on behalf of "locality pay"—the small salary boost for federal workers based in particularly high cost areas. Alfie pointed out that Monterey County was, indeed, one of those areas, but that the federal government still considered it rural so paid DLI faculty at much lower rates. Alfie and I worked together for more than three years to secure a decision by the Office of Personnel Management that Monterey County based civil service workers deserved locality pay. This hard work on Alfie's part has helped DLI attract and retain the best language teachers in the world.

However, Alfie was about more than just pay at DLI. He was about professionalism. That became clear in the most recent fight to keep DLI off the base closure list. Alfie was a never-ending resource to my office and the BRAC Commission. He provided information and statistics on the level of expertise and depth of training of the DLI faculty. With this information it was easy to make the case that DLI could not be recreated anywhere else—that it was dependent on and unique to the talent of the Monterey area. Alfie was a key player in keeping DLI open and in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House of Representatives in sharing our sincere condolences to Alfie Khalil's family both here in the United States and in Egypt and to his extended family of students and colleagues throughout the DLI community.

TO HONOR THE CHINESE EXPULSION REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer special recognition to my constituents and friends at the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project as they commemorate the