

A graduate of Alameda High School, SSG Fogarty entered the military in 2003 and his first deployment was in January of 2005. His tragic and untimely death occurred after eight years and three months of service to his country, and only a month after his arrival in Afghanistan. He had served two previous tours in Iraq. Before being deployed, SSG Fogarty was a military recruiter. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

SSG Fogarty was an accomplished soldier. His military awards include: 3 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, 2 Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qual Badge—Bar, Weapon: Rifle (Inscription: Rifle), Expert, Parachutist Badge, Basic, U.S. Army Recruiter Identification Badge, Gold, and Overseas Service Bar.

It is because of the commitment of truly brave individuals like SSG Fogarty that our Nation can enjoy the freedoms that we are all afforded. It takes an exceptional man to give his life for the betterment of his country, and SSG Fogarty was a truly exceptional man.

HUNTER FRITZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hunter Fritz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hunter Fritz is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hunter Fritz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hunter Fritz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his inaugu-

ration to his second term as the leader of The Republic of China (Taiwan).

Back in January of this year, the people of Taiwan reelected President Ma Ying-jeou and on May 20th he will have his second inauguration. President Ma has worked hard to maintain a peaceful relationship with China and his efforts must be recognized. The United States deeply appreciates his efforts to keep the peace, promoting stability in an important region.

Over his first term, President Ma worked with the United States to continue Taiwan's longstanding security partnership with the United States, requesting to purchase and U.S. defense systems. I and my colleagues in Congress remain strong supporters of The Taiwan Relations Act, which spells out the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and is critical to the peace and prosperity of the region.

President Ma achieved acceptance from the World Health Organization for Taiwan to observe at the World Health Assembly, a significant step forward for Taiwan's international standing, and for the health of the people of the East-Asian and Pacific region. We should work to encourage Taiwan's participation in participate in other international organizations such as the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

I would also like to note that this also marks the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, of which I have been a proud member for years.

President Ma has diligently maintained peace and stability and we look forward to his future term as it provides an opportunity to achieve even greater accomplishments for the people of Taiwan and further strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNION BAPTIST CHURCH IN ALTON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Union Baptist Church in Alton, Illinois.

In the first half of the 19th Century, Alton, Illinois had developed as a major stop on the Underground Railroad as slaves came north in search of their freedom. It was a small group of these former slaves, some having arrived via the Underground Railroad and some having previously been freed, that gathered to form a Baptist Church in Alton.

The group organized as the African Mission Freedmen. In 1837, the same year that the City of Alton was incorporated and also the same year that the famed abolitionist journalist, Elijah Lovejoy, was killed, the Union Baptist Church was founded. The first pastor was Rev. John Livingston and one of the founding members, John Anderson, had worked as a pressman for Elijah Lovejoy at The Alton Observer.

As the church congregation grew, a two-story building was constructed in 1854, with

Union Baptist Church meeting on the second floor and the first African-American school in Alton using the first floor.

The church was forced to sell the building in the later years of the 19th Century and went back to meeting in congregation homes. In the early 1900's a new church was built.

The 175 year history of Union Baptist Church has seen its membership go through periods of decline, followed by resurgence. Throughout those years, however, the spirit of its founders, who came searching for freedom and a better life, has sustained the church and kept it thriving as a place of worship up to today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 175th Anniversary of the Union Baptist Church and to wish the congregation the best for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KAYLA DE WEERD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Kayla De Weerd, a 14-year-old 4-H'er of Hull, Iowa, who has been named the state's top high school youth volunteer for 2012 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is our country's largest youth recognition program based entirely on volunteer community service. Since 1995, 345,000 American youths have participated in this program, with only 102 state honorees chosen each year. Kayla's path to this prestigious award began with her efforts through Reach Out Iowa, a federally funded grant that supports young people who benefit their local communities through service.

To accomplish this goal, Kayla started a nutrition and physical activity program at her junior high school. Kayla gave presentations to her fellow classmates warning of the dangers of obesity and how to live a responsible, healthy lifestyle to avoid the long-term consequences of inactivity. In addition to arming her peers in the fight against obesity, Kayla also educated others to effectively implement similar programs in more schools across her community. Kayla and her mother, Deb, traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this week to accept this great honor.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miss De Weerd for her sincere dedication to positively impact the lives of others in her community and beyond. Kayla's commitment to a cause greater than herself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans both young and old. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Congress in congratulating Kayla, thanking her supportive family, and thanking all of those involved in this wonderful project for their life-changing efforts. Thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I unintentionally voted "aye" on rollcall No. 215 when I intended to vote "no" on the Huizenga amendment to H.R. 5326. I reiterate my strong support for public sector employees.

HONORING THE WEST ESSEX FIRST AID SQUAD'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Essex First Aid Squad, located in the Township of West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

The West Essex First Aid Squad formed in November of 1937, when a group of local citizens joined together to solve the problem of obtaining a prompt and efficient "First Aid and Ambulance" service to meet the needs of the sick and injured. Two months later, the group had completed training, and on January 7, 1938 the West Essex First Aid Squad answered its first call for help.

During its early years, from 1937 to 1941, the Squad answered 543 calls for assistance and contributed 2,402 man-hours answering those calls, additional hours were logged for training and practicing. During its second 5 years from 1942 to 1947, the number of calls more than tripled to 1,759.

The West Essex First Aid Squad now includes 85 volunteer members who serve Caldwell, West Caldwell, North Caldwell, Essex Fells, and Fairfield. The Squad's four ambulances and one rescue truck provide 24-hour emergency medical service to the community, as well as rescue with the Jaws of Life, all at no cost to the public they serve. In 2007 and 2008, the Squad received more than 2,500 calls each year.

Men and women of the West Essex First Aid Squad have demonstrated a marked commitment to the public by dedicating their time and resources to providing lifesaving services to the community. The Squad is always available to provide aid to local fire departments. The Squad also provides support during hazardous material incidents, structure fires, and natural disasters.

The West Essex First Aid Squad has exhibited dedication to serving the community by answering a full spectrum of calls for help, ranging from complaints of chest pain or difficulty breathing, to motor vehicle collisions. The volunteers further serve the community by standing by at community events such as football games, parades, concerts, and 4th of July fireworks. Members have not only volunteered their time to the Squad and to public events, but have also sponsored blood drives and donated their time and talents in offering first aid and CPR instruction to members of the community.

The West Essex First Aid Squad is truly a selfless group of individuals, devoted to pro-

viding basic life support services, emergency medical services, and heavy rescue to the public. Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the needs of area families and businesses, the West Essex First Aid Squad has proved itself to be a pillar of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the West Essex First Aid Squad as they celebrate their Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,674,047,733,490.96. We've added \$5,047,170,684,577.88 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as National Cancer Research Month. This month we recognize the critical importance of cancer research and the contributions of researchers, clinicians, and patients across the country.

Before I was a Congresswoman, I was a survivor of ovarian cancer. I was lucky—my cancer was found by chance in its earliest stage, and I have now been cancer-free for 25 years now. So I arrived in this body knowing firsthand the crucial importance of medical research.

I am glad to say that our progress in fighting cancer since the National Cancer Act of 1971 has been nothing short of amazing. Nearly 12 million Americans are cancer survivors. There is a vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer. The overall five-year survival rate has increased from 52 percent in 1975 to 80 percent today.

And biomedical research is growing our economy. The National Institutes of Health support over 300,000 researchers at more than 3,000 universities, institutions, and businesses across the country. Every single dollar of National Institutes of Health funding is estimated to result in an additional two dollars of business activity and economic impact. Keeping it simple, this means that research supports jobs, and has a nearly two-fold return on our federal investment.

But, there is more to be done. Some cancers, including ovarian cancer, still have an extraordinarily high mortality rate and are typically caught far too late in the disease. This year, more than 1.6 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed with cancer. More

than 570,000 Americans will pass away this year because of cancer; meaning more than 1,500 Americans each day, or one person a minute, will die because of this disease.

This is why our continued investments in cancer research are so important. Medical research creates investment opportunities for private industry. It strengthens our university medical system. It creates jobs, makes America more competitive, and drastically improves the quality of life for so many Americans. And it has the potential to save lives.

And it is why this month we join to thank scientists and clinicians for their work on cancer research. And we thank the patients who support that research by participating in clinical trials.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote numbers 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, and 243. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote numbers 224, 225, 227, 237, 238, 239, and 240. I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote numbers 226, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 241, 242 and 243.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S TOP COPS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six members of the Des Moines Police Department, Sergeant Michael McTaggart, Reserve Officer John Carter, and Senior Police Officers Colin Boone, Aaron Cawthorn, Jeremy Sprague, and Robin Swank, for being named Iowa's TOP COPS for 2012.

In the early morning of August 28th, 2011, these officers responded to a report of a car accident in Des Moines to find a vehicle on its side completely engulfed in flames. Inside the car, the cries for help of three teenage girls could be heard. Fighting jagged metal and fire hot enough to melt glass, Des Moines' finest didn't hesitate in risking their own lives to save the lives of the three trapped young girls. The quick action of these officers embodies the professionalism the Des Moines Police Department instills in its officers, but it's the selfless courage displayed immediately by these law enforcement professionals that truly makes this story inspiring. All six officers involved in the rescue were awarded the DMPD's highest honor, the Medal of Valor.

For their display of courage, the National Association of Police Organizations bestowed these officers with Iowa's 2012 TOP COP Honorable Mention award. This award is a tribute to outstanding law enforcement officers who display actions above and beyond the call of duty. Each year, TOP COPS are nominated nationwide by their fellow police officers, but only one case from each state is selected to