

CONNIE TYSDAL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Connie Tysdal for receiving the Charlie O'Brien Award from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

This award goes to members who are well respected within the organization and are motivated by an unselfish desire to contribute to the community for the betterment of greater Golden.

When Connie moved to unincorporated Jefferson County in 1979 she hit the ground running. Among her many accomplishments Connie served on the Colorado PTA Leadership Commission, was elected President of the Leadership Golden Alumni Association, Chair of the Visitors and Convention Council and worked as a philanthropic researcher for the Colorado School of Mines.

I extend my deepest congratulations and gratitude to Connie Tysdal for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. Your commitment has made our community a better place for all of us to live.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NEGLIGENCE OF FORT HOOD VICTIMS**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a report that will air on ABC News tonight about the Obama Administration's negligence of the Fort Hood survivors and their families.

This was clearly a terrorist attack and while the administration has designated this attack as "workplace violence," the survivors cannot access assistance. We are not treating these people fairly.

[From ABC News, Feb. 12, 2013]

FORT HOOD HERO SAYS OBAMA 'BETRAYED' HER, OTHER VICTIMS

(By Ned Berkowitz and Brian Ross)

Three years after the White House arranged a hero's welcome at the State of the Union address for the Fort Hood police sergeant and her partner who stopped the deadly shooting there, Kimberly Munley says President Obama broke the promise he made to her that the victims would be well taken care of.

"Betrayed is a good word," former Sgt. Munley told ABC News in a tearful interview to be broadcast tonight on "World News with Diane Sawyer" and "Nightline."

"Not to the least little bit have the victims been taken care of," she said. "In fact they've been neglected."

There was no immediate comment from the White House about Munley's allegations.

Thirteen people were killed, including a pregnant soldier, and 32 others shot in the November 2009 rampage by the accused shooter, Major Nidal Hasan, who now awaits a military trial on charges of premeditated murder and attempted murder.

Tonight's broadcast report also includes dramatic new video, obtained by ABC News,

taken in the immediate aftermath of the shooting, capturing the chaos and terror of the day.

Munley, since laid off from her job with the base's civilian police force, was shot three times as she and her partner, Sgt. Mark Todd, confronted Hasan, who witnesses said had shouted "Allahu Akbar" as he opened fire on soldiers being processed for deployment to Afghanistan.

As Munley lay wounded, Todd fired the five bullets credited with bringing Hasan down.

Despite extensive evidence that Hasan was in communication with al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki prior to the attack, the military has denied the victims a Purple Heart and is treating the incident as "workplace violence" instead of "combat related" or terrorism.

Al-Awlaki has since been killed in a U.S. drone attack in Yemen, in what was termed a major victory in the U.S. efforts against al Qaeda.

Munley and dozens of other victims have now filed a lawsuit against the military alleging the "workplace violence" designation means the Fort Hood victims are receiving lower priority access to medical care as veterans, and a loss of financial benefits available to those who injuries are classified as "combat related."

Some of the victims "had to find civilian doctors to get proper medical treatment" and the military has not assigned liaison officers to help them coordinate their recovery, said the group's lawyer, Reed Rubenstein. "There's a substantial number of very serious, crippling cases of post-traumatic stress disorder exacerbated, frankly, by what the Army and the Defense Department did in this case," said Rubenstein. "We have a couple of cases in which the soldiers' command accused the soldiers of malingering, and would say things to them that Fort Hood really wasn't so bad, it wasn't combat."

A spokesperson for the Army said its policy is not to comment on pending litigation, but that it is "not true" any of the military victims have been neglected and that it has no control over the guidelines of the Veterans Administration. Secretary of the Army John McHugh told ABC News he was unaware of any specific complaints from the Fort Hood victims, even though he is a named defendant in the lawsuit filed last November which specifically details the plight of many of them.

"If a soldier feels ignored, then we need to know about it on a case by case basis," McHugh told ABC News. "It is not our intent to have two levels of care for people who are wounded by whatever means in uniform."

Some of the victims in the lawsuit believe the Army Secretary and others are purposely ignoring their cases out of political correctness.

"These guys play stupid every time they're asked a question about it, they pretend like they have no clue," said Shawn Manning, who was shot six times that day at Fort Hood. Two of the bullets remain in his leg and spine, he said.

"It was no different than an insurgent in Iraq or Afghanistan trying to kill us," said Manning, who was twice deployed to Iraq and had to retire from the military because of his injuries.

An Army review board initially classified Manning's injuries as "combat related," but that finding was later overruled by higher-ups in the Army.

Manning says the "workplace violence" designation has cost him almost \$70,000 in benefits that would have been available if his injuries were classified as "combat related."

"Basically, they're treating us like I was downtown and I got hit by a car," he told ABC News.

For Alonzo Lunsford, who was shot seven times at Fort Hood and blinded in one eye, the military's treatment is deeply hurtful.

"It's a slap in the face, not only for me but for all of the 32 that wore the uniform that day," he told ABC News.

Lunsford's medical records show his injuries were determined to be "in the line of duty" but neither he nor any of the other soldiers shot or killed at Fort Hood is eligible for the Purple Heart under the Department of Defense's current policy for decorations and awards.

Army Secretary McHugh says awarding Purple Hearts could adversely affect the trial of Major Hasan.

"To award a Purple Heart, it has to be done by a foreign terrorist element," said McHugh. "So to declare that soldier a foreign terrorist, we are told, I'm not an attorney and I don't run the Justice Department, but we're told would have a profound effect on the ability to conduct the trial."

Members of Congress, including the chairman of the House Homeland Security committee, Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, say they will introduce legislation to force the military and the Obama administration to give the wounded and dead the recognition and honors they deserve.

"It was clearly an act of terrorism that occurred that day, there's no question in my mind," McCaul told ABC News. "I think the victims should be treated as such."

Former Sgt. Munley says she now believes the White House used her for political advantage in arranging for her to sit next to Michelle Obama during the President's State of the Union address in 2010.

Munley says she has no hesitation now speaking out against the President or taking part in the lawsuit, because she wants to help the others who were shot that day and continue to suffer.

"We got tired of being neglected. So this was our last resort and I'm not ashamed of it a bit," she said.

THE LARIAT LOOP**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor The Lariat Loop for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Civic Award.

This award is given each year to an organization or individual that has contributed greatly to the quality of life in Golden.

The Lariat Loop website captures the spirit of this 40-mile route connecting the cities of Golden, Morrison and Evergreen. "You can retrace the motoring adventures of the early 1920s and experience the thrill of foothills exploration at the dawn of the Age of Motorcars. Colorado's first gateways to the mountains still have sharp curves, winding roads, spectacular views, and waysides to refresh and delight the traveler." This byway is a combination of two historic routes: the Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive ascending Lookout Mountain and the Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Mountain Drive. In combination, these routes were part of several of the "scenic circles" developed and promoted by Denver in 1915 to help Coloradans experience the mountains in proximity to the Denver Metropolitan area. These roadways were designated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976."

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Lariat Loop for this well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I am proud to have this historic byway in my community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DANNIE G.
HOLLIS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in rural Georgia on October 24, 1922; and

Whereas, Mrs. Dannie G. Hollis was born to inspire and motivate, she was educated in the local school system in Georgia, obtained secondary educational degrees from West Georgia College, Georgia State University, Piedmont Hospital/Emory University and the University of Georgia; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Medical Technologist, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hollis has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to helping others through her service in her community and profession; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hollis along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Hollis on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 24th, 2012 as Mrs. Dannie G. Hollis Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of October, 2012.

ERA, A WATERS COMPANY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor ERA, A Waters Company, for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award.

ERA moved into their new facilities in Golden from another metro community in December of 2011, but it didn't take ERA long to get involved in Golden. In addition to contributing a great deal to the overall economic vitality of the Greater Golden Area, ERA has a real passion to help others, and Soles4Souls became a project Carl Craig, ERA President, stepped forward to assist. He offered Soles4Souls, a

charity that collects and distributes shoes to people in need, room in their warehouse at ERA to store shoes. Well, 110,000 pairs of shoes later, the offer still stands with great gratitude.

I extend my deepest congratulations to ERA, A Waters Company, for their well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same integrity and dedication in all future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO TONI CHILDRESS

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Toni Childress, a compassionate advocate for children and families in northeast Georgia. For seven years, Ms. Childress has served as executive director for Family Connection and Communities In Schools of Stephens County, Incorporated. The mission of the organization is simple—to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Under her leadership, Family Connection and Community In Schools, FCCIS, has encouraged children to accomplish more than they ever thought possible through effective literacy and tutoring programs, as well as a powerful mentoring program. Of the latter, one student shared, "My mentor has helped me to follow my dreams and keep my goals high." This sincere expression of one student is reason enough to honor Ms. Childress. However, she is one who goes above and beyond the required assignment.

Where Ms. Childress sees a need, she will rise to the occasion to find a solution. When a social worker approached her about the lack of warm winter clothing for several students, Ms. Childress organized a successful coat drive. Now, in its fourth year, FCCIS distributes more than seven hundred coats to children and adults throughout Stephens County. Similarly, when Ms. Childress learned that there is an alarming rate of child abuse and neglect in her community, she quickly organized monthly workshops with the acknowledgment that change begins with awareness.

For this reason, it is my honor to acknowledge Ms. Toni Childress for the significant contributions she has made to her community. Whether it is providing gift certificates for student vision exams or welcome bags for newborn babies, Ms. Childress is passionate about making a difference. On behalf of the United States Congress, I applaud her great work and wish continued success for Family Connection and Communities In Schools of Stephens County, Incorporated.

CHRIS QUOYESER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Chris Quoyeser

for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year Award.

This award is given each year to an individual who is a member of the Chamber Ambassadors. This individual has been very active in promoting the Chamber in several ways such as attending ribbon cuttings, grand openings, ground breakings, mentoring new Chamber members, attending Chamber functions, helping at the Chamber Back Yard BBQ, and the list goes on. Chris has been a Chamber Ambassador for several years and accepts all challenges with a positive attitude and a can do spirit.

In addition to running a very successful business, Chris is always available when called upon. His dedication to the Golden makes him a real asset to the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chris Quoyeser for his well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER:
MRS. BARBARA JEAN LEVETT

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

One of God's greatest gifts is to know your mother

For she loves you, guides you and molds you like no other

Her wisdom that she bestows on you is that from Heaven above

The serenity you have by being in her presence is that of a dove

Our mother has that joy that touches everyone she meets

Her kindness is so precious and her love is oh so sweet

To hear her voice in a time of need seems to make everything alright

It's nice to know that she has your best interest by sending up prayers at night

Being a mother, grandmother and a great grandmother

Our family was blessed to receive a love like no other

A Proverbs 31 woman best describes our mother to us

Always so giving, always cheerful and never making a fuss

The quality times that she shared with us are priceless moments in time

She will always be in our hearts, near us in spirit and in our thoughts when we reminisce in our mind

The bond that she has with her family is that like no other

We pray for God to comfort us in understanding and peace during the home going of our dear Mother

For the Family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett.

For Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett.

Sunrise: January 1, 1933-Sunset: November 3, 2012.

Penned November 4, 2012 by Eric Charles.