

their lives in harm's way so that we may live free.

Fort Benning is home to about 1,500 Rangers of the entire 75th Ranger Regiment. They are an elite group of soldiers who perform specialized operations for the Army. Currently, the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, as well as Rangers of the Regimental Headquarters and the Regimental Special Troop Battalion are deployed. I have a deep commitment to Ft. Benning, and once these Rangers pass through Ft. Benning, Georgia, they become part of our state's family.

On October 6th, 5 of these brave Rangers were part of a mission gone wrong. Sargent Patrick Hawkins, Private First Class Cody Patterson, 1st Lieutenant Jennifer Moreno, and Special Agent Joseph Peters were killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, and Corporal Joshua Hargis was seriously injured.

These soldiers came to Fort Benning from across the nation. They are sons and daughters, parents, and spouses, and loved by many. Their loss is felt across our nation and we thank them for paying the ultimate sacrifice.

As we mourn the loss of these four soldiers, I also want to give thanks for the life of Corporal Joshua Hargis. Cpl. Hargis was injured in the same mission on October 6th, and is pictured here beside me. This photo has been nicknamed "The Salute Seen Around the World" because it shows the strong character of an American soldier.

After hours of surgery, Cpl. Hargis' Commander held a small ceremony in the hospital to honor Cpl. Hargis with the Purple Heart Award. Doctors, nurses, fellow Rangers crowded the room to watch him receive the award. Despite his injuries, tubes, and intense pain, Cpl. Hargis still saluted his Commander when his Purple Heart Award was pinned on his hospital blanket. This act of determination despite pain embodies all that is a Ranger.

I want to thank these 5 brave Rangers—Sgt. Patrick Hawkins, PFC. Cody Patterson, 1st LT. Jennifer Moreno, Special Agent Joseph Peters, and Cpl. Joshua Hargis—for their service and sacrifice. Joan and I send our prayers to their families and friends.

God Bless America and God Bless our troops.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND W.H. FOSTER, SR. PASTOR OF THE PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest Dr. W.H. Foster Sr.; and

Whereas, Reverend Foster was born and grew up in the State of Mississippi and migrated to Chicago like many of his contemporaries; and

Whereas, in 1957 he and his mate for life Ms. Louise Marshall were married and became the parents of nine children and a host of grand and great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, Dr. Foster was ordained a Minister at the age of 28, by Reverend Milton

Brunson and preached the gospel and thrilled thousands of people with his messages and great singing voice from that time on; and

Whereas, Reverend Foster was a great preacher, a wonderful moderator and a devoted member of the National Baptist Convention; and

Whereas, in concert with his religious work Dr. Foster was actively involved with community and the world of politics. I was pleased to enjoy the support and encouragement of Dr. Foster during my entire political career. He was a friend, a comrade and a spiritual advisor. I loved him for what he meant to our community and what he has personally meant to me. I extend condolences to his family, his church, his friends and associates, and may his soul rest in peace.

TEXAN VICTOR LOVELADY DIED PROTECTING OTHERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the world is in trouble, they look to Americans for help. One of my constituents, Mr. Victor Lovelady, heard this cry while working in Algeria and sacrificed his life to answer it.

Victor embodied the very best of the American spirit. He was brave, compassionate, and in the face of great danger made the decision to help and protect others instead of himself. Courage like this should be applauded. That is why this week I nominated Mr. Lovelady for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This is our nation's highest civilian honor and recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution" to our society. It is clear to me that Victor Lovelady not only meets, but exceeds this standard.

Like many Americans, Victor Lovelady was a hard worker who put in long hours to provide for his family of four. As an industrial engineer and master electrician, he worked most of his life in his hometown of Nederland, Texas. Later he moved down the street from me in Atascocita, Texas. However, when work in his area slowed, he traveled back and forth to Houston daily for almost three years so that his children would not have to change schools. Victor never had a pension plan and always had to pay his family's insurance by himself. He never had more than two weeks off in a year. He longed to be able to retire and spend more time with his wife and children.

When the opportunity to work overseas for British Petroleum arose, Victor weighed the pros and cons. He knew that if he did this job for a few years, he would be able to make enough money to retire and be with his family. He was also assured that it would be a safe place to work.

On January 9, 2013, Victor arrived in In Amenas, Algeria to begin his new job at the BP Gas facility. On the morning of January 16, Victor and several other workers were in the cantina having tea when a colleague walked in with a gunshot wound to his stomach. Mokhtar Belmokhtar's al Qaeda linked terrorists had stormed their facility and were indiscriminately killing innocent employees.

Thinking quickly, Victor began to clean and dress the man's wound as the sound of gun-

shots grew louder and louder. After he bandaged the man and hid him in a food container, Victor began helping the other men with him hide in the cantina's false ceiling, lifting them up so they could climb in. In total, Victor propelled three men into the hiding spot. Only when it sounded like the terrorists had entered the cantina did Victor try to save himself. Unfortunately, when attempting to climb into the ceiling, he fell and injured his ankle. Moments later, the terrorists found him and led him away.

Victor's selfless and heroic actions saved four lives that day. This entire ordeal was witnessed and recounted to me by one of the men he helped protect. Sadly, Victor was killed the next day when Algerian, military forces attacked the convoy in which he was being held hostage.

Victor Lovelady may not be a household name, but there is no doubt that his contribution meets the Presidential Medal of Freedom's high standards. He worked hard to provide an honest living for his family and when in danger, thought first to protect others instead of himself. When his brother Michael testified about Victor's heroics before my subcommittee in July, there was not a dry eye in the house. Everyone who hears Victor's story is inspired to act with courage, conviction, and compassion—in other words, to act as a true American.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you and all of our colleagues are as touched by Victor's story as I am. He was a great man and his legacy will continue through his wife, Maureen, and his two children, Erin and Grant. I am honored to call this man and his family my constituents and will continue to fight to honor the legacy of their courageous husband and father.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, doing the right thing is a core principle for our American soldiers. Doing the right thing for the right reason and with the right goal is even better. People of character must possess the desire to act ethically in all situations. One of our military's primary responsibilities is to maintain an ethical climate that supports development of such character. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "No nation can safely trust its martial honor to leaders who do not maintain the universal code which distinguishes between those things that are right and those things that are wrong."

Organizations often reinforce its belief system to its members. In the United States, our founding documents reflect the fundamental principles of our nation.

The Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion. The military, which swears to protect the Constitution, places high value on the rights of its personnel to observe tenets of their religious faiths. It also demands respect for all individual differences in moral background and personal conviction. While religious beliefs and practices remain a decision of individual conscience, military commanders

are responsible for ensuring that their subordinates have the opportunity to practice their religion. Under no circumstances can they deny military personnel the freedom of religion.

Military Chaplains are staff officers with specialized training and specific responsibilities for ensuring the free exercise of religion. They advise and assist leaders and individual personnel on matters of faith and conscience, especially in a hostile environment. We must support our chaplain corps to help military personnel who desire it to achieve a proper faith based mindset.

The Honorable Representative Sam Johnson of Texas is a former Vietnam prisoner of war. He recently mentioned his faith helped him through the hardships of his years of captivity. In Vietnam, as a young infantryman, I witnessed countless soldiers saying prayers before missions. In Iraq, I heard many of our National Guardsman praying before performing our Convoy Combat missions. The importance of a faith cannot be understated.

Our country's distinguished military history gives ample testimony to the need for a faith-based character. Every combat veteran understands the basic requirements for readiness are not only their training and their equipment, but also a prepared mind, heart, and soul to face the enemy. An individual's beliefs assist our military personnel on the battlefield. Faith helps us face the horror and challenges of battle.

In combat, ethical choices are not always easy. The right thing may not only be unpopular, but dangerous as well. Complex and frightening situations often reveal a person's character. Faith-based ethical behavior helps prevent atrocities during battle and soldiers and Marines have demonstrated a duty-consciousness that ultimately enforces a standard of moral decency. The moral courage to do the right thing in the midst of chaos and violence stems from the belief in a higher power.

Mr. Speaker, living a faith and ethics go hand in hand. Ethical decisions are made every day in military organizations throughout the world. They include decisions that directly affect the lives of military personnel in the field, innocent noncombatants, military civilians, and contractors in the theatre of war. I encourage my fellow colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to make value and faith-based ethical choices for the good of the Nation. As members of Congress it is our duty to have the strength of character to make the right choices that ensure the protection of individual natural rights rather than taking them away.

RECOGNIZING DAVE ROSS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Ross of Muncie, Indiana. Dave is the Chairman and CEO of National Catastrophe Adjusters, Inc., doing business as NCA Group, which is a leading provider of insurance management services. Incorporated in 1984, the company originally specialized in catastrophe claims management, handling claims throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. NCA Group currently serv-

ices both daily and catastrophe claims for 5 of the top 10 carriers in the United States and the second largest insurer in Canada. NCA Group has since expanded its service offering well beyond that of a traditional catastrophe firm, providing a complete suite of claims service solutions.

As a veteran, Mr. Ross knows the importance of service to his community and country. He employs over 300 people in Indiana's 6th Congressional District and all over the country, including a large number of veterans. Mr. Ross has developed a very unique and beneficial program for veterans returning back home that helps them translate their military experiences and traits into private sector skills. He then employs many of those veterans at NCA Group or recommends them highly to positions elsewhere.

I recognize Mr. Ross' exemplary conduct as both a soldier and citizen. He truly has used his time and talents for the betterment of his fellow Hoosier and American.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT AT THE ERIE-OTTAWA COUNTY INTER- NATION AIRPORT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the dedication of the new Erie-Ottawa International Airport in Port Clinton, Ohio. This new facility has been made possible through the Port Authority's leadership and the sacrifices and dedication of local citizens who understand what it takes to build a strong community and nation. Their contributions, along with a \$1.7 million federal Airport Improvement Grant, have resulted in adding an important new facility along our precious Lake Erie coast for economic growth.

To celebrate this event, citizens gathered during Veteran's Day weekend to mark this historic occasion at the new hanger. At the invitation of the airport's dedicated and visionary Director Stan Gebhardt, all gathered witnessed the first flight from Pelee Island, Canada. The plane was piloted by Griffing Flying Service president Tom Griffing, with passengers Erie County Commissioner Tom Farrell and Ottawa County Commissioner Jim Sass who worked across county lines to bring new growth potential to our coast. Upon landing, they were greeted by numerous local, state and federal officials as well as members of the public who marked the occasion with a special ceremony.

In honor of the occasion, a new US flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol for presentation to the Airport Authority. Let me offer warmest congratulations to all those who piloted this significant project to completion. The new facility and adjacent buildings will allow for improved air service, more hanger storage, expanding commercial development around the airport's perimeter, and enhanced opportunities for tourism and commercial development. May the years ahead bring new opportunity as well as adventure to those who recognize Ohio as America's state where air flight began. Onward and upward!

BOOTS AND HOOVES—HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM'S AIRPORT RANGERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if a person is traveling down Farm to Market Road 1960 in Houston, Texas and glances over toward the massive airport grounds, it will not be uncommon to see men and women on horseback providing security for the airport perimeter. These are the Houston Airport Rangers. They will be celebrating their 10th anniversary on December 7, 2013.

In 2003, the Houston Airport System and Texas horse riding enthusiasts embraced the concept of a citizen-based crime prevention program designed to add an extra layer of security at the fence-line securing George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and in return, horse enthusiasts would have exclusive access to thousands of acres of riding trails. Kind of like border patrol, just with boots and hats and on horseback!

IAH Airport is the only airport in our country with a dedicated volunteer rangers program. It's Houston's largest airport and the eighth busiest airport in North America. In 2012, nearly 40 million passengers traveled through the airport. More than 13,000 acres surround the airport, so it makes sense to have the right folks saddle up and patrol the trails on a regular basis.

The number of rangers has increased every year, and nearly 100 members have qualified for an Airport Ranger badge. Rangers share a passion for patrolling the range and keeping the peace—this passion has created a spirit of camaraderie amongst members. As Rangers ride their horses along the airport perimeter, they alert TAH security personnel of any suspicious or dangerous activity in their patrol area. Rangers keep track of their patrol hours—thousands of volunteer hours have been recorded since the program launched ten years ago. These Rangers are a special breed. But, would we really expect anything less from Texans?

Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring the Airport Rangers program for its 10 years of dedicated service and commitment to make Harris County, Texas a safer place to live. I do not know of another crime prevention program of this caliber that is completely run by volunteers. Next month, they will celebrate their 10th anniversary with a Texas style celebration: Texas country music, barbeque and horseback riding—sounds like heaven.

Happy Trails, y'all.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding program for young