

here wanting and demanding a plan. As the President said in his State of the Union address, these victims deserve a vote.

However, I do not, I repeat, I do not believe in taking away any American's Second Amendment right. Just as you cannot yell "fire" in a movie theater, I believe you cannot own weapons capable of killing 20 school children in a matter of seconds. The United States Supreme Court ruling on *Heller v. DC* clearly stated that there are, indeed, limitations to the Second Amendment, and I stand with that ruling. *Heller v. DC* was not meant to strip gun owners of the rights, it was meant to instill a greater sense of responsibility that comes with owning a gun.

I am in favor of protecting an individual's right to own a gun; I also want to help create a more accountable gun culture—one that upholds Americans' constitutional right to bear arms, and keeps us safe from harm. The constitutional right to own a gun and the God-given human right to feel safe from gun violence is not mutually exclusive.

I want to conclude by saying that we must all continue to listen to the victims, the survivors, and even those who speak out against gun law reforms; we will not be able to reach common ground on this issue unless we keep an open mind to all of the voices of the American people.

Thank you.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the gentleman from California for his thoughtful remarks. And I want to thank each and every one of you who has participated in this Special Order. It's something that we must do week after week so that our message gets out to the American people and so that they truly understand what has happened in this country over the last 20 years that has taken away so many commonsense laws that were on the books to provide the kind of safe and sane laws to make sure that everyone who owns a gun has it appropriately and everyone who shouldn't own a gun, doesn't have a gun.

This is our to-do list:

Pass the universal background check, pass a ban on large magazines, pass an assault weapon ban, crack down on gun trafficking, remove the handcuffs on law enforcement, remove the gag order on gun safety research, keep illegal and unwanted guns off the street, invest in gun safety technology R&D, close the holes in our mental health system, and take steps to enhance school safety.

Someone said:

Too many children are dying. Too many children. We must do something. It will be hard, but the time is now. You must act. Be bold. Be courageous. Americans are counting on you.

These are the words of our own Gabby Giffords in the Senate just a couple of weeks ago. It still sends shivers up and down my spine. Gabby almost lost her life. We owe it to Gabby, we owe it to the 26 people who lost their lives in Newtown, the countless people who lost their lives in Aurora and Columbine, and the 32 people each and every day in this country who lose their lives to gun violence. We owe it to the American people. Let's act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great passion and urgency to talk about our need, as Members of Congress, to strengthen our Nation's gun violence prevention laws. Last night at the State of the Union, President Obama said it best—gun violence victims deserve a vote. From Newtown to Aurora, Oak Creek to Tucson and Blacksburg—these victims deserve a vote. Every day in this country, men, women and children die from gun violence. It doesn't have to be this way. We don't have to live in fear when we send our children to school.

I'm proud to be a member of the House Democratic Task Force on Reducing and Preventing Gun Violence. Last week, we issued a series of commonsense priorities that could make the difference in preventing future gun violence. One of the most basic priorities is implementing universal background checks. It is the only way to ensure that people who are legally barred from owning a gun are prevented from buying a gun. Right now, the law is voluntary—someone who fears failing a background check can simply avoid it by acquiring a gun from a private seller.

Another commonsense measure is a bill I introduced, the Fire Sale Loophole Closing Act, that prevents gun dealers whose licenses were revoked from reclassifying their inventory as personal and then selling the same guns as a private seller. We have to close these loopholes. These practices of getting around the law need to stop. I urge my colleagues to bring these commonsense gun safety laws to the floor for a vote because President Obama was right—our victims deserve a vote.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-9)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond February 25, 2013.

Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, his government, and close associates took extreme measures against the people of Libya, including by using weapons of war, mercenaries, and wanton violence against unarmed civilians. In addition, there was a serious risk that Libyan state assets would be misappropriated by Qadhafi, members of his government, members of his family, or his close associates if those assets were not protected. The foregoing circumstances, the prolonged attacks, and the increased numbers of Libyans seeking refuge in other countries caused a deterioration in the security of Libya, posed a serious risk to its stability, and led me to declare a national emergency to deal with this threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

We are in the process of winding down the sanctions in response to developments in Libya, including the fall of Qadhafi and his government and the establishment of a democratically elected government. We are working closely with the new Libyan government and with the international community to effectively and appropriately ease restrictions on sanctioned entities, including by taking actions consistent with the U.N. Security Council's decision to lift sanctions against the Central Bank of Libya and two other entities on December 16, 2011. The situation in Libya, however, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States and we need to protect against this threat and the diversion of assets or other abuse by certain members of Qadhafi's family and other former regime officials. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Libya.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 13, 2013.

HONORING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CHRIS KYLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American hero, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, who, unfortunately, was killed on February 2. Normally, you would think that this would be honoring a soldier who was killed in action. Unfortunately, Chris Kyle gave his life while trying to help a fellow soldier who was dealing with some big issues.

□ 1500

And so today my colleagues and I want to spend the next hour honoring the life and the sacrifice that Chris Kyle did and gave for his country.

This is a difficult time for me, not only to honor Chris like this, but Chris

Kyle was not only a Navy SEAL hero, but he was also a personal friend of myself and my family. And our warmest wishes and prayers and thoughts go out to Taya and the family in this difficult time.

Now, this will be a time today where we're going to reflect on Chris' life. And we had a tremendous outpouring of people who wanted to share stories about Chris, and we're going to share some of those.

I know Chris would have wanted this also not to be necessarily about him, but for the country that he fought for and believed in and loved so dearly. Chris was all American. Everything he did, his service to his country, was about his love for the country.

Not only did Chris love his country, he loved his family. He loved his friends and he loved his wife and children. So I wanted to talk just a little bit about Chris' career.

Chris spent 11 years as a member of SEAL Team 3, and of course his record is nothing but superb. He retired in 2009, and when he retired he had 255 kills, with 160 of those confirmed by the Pentagon, making him the most lethal sniper in American history. And one thing about that is that Chris was very unassuming.

I remember knowing a little bit about his background, but then meeting Chris for the first time and how humble he was and how down to earth he was, and he really didn't talk about records. He talked about people, and he talked about what his job was to protect his fellow soldiers.

His ability in the battlefield was unmatched. His longest shot came in 2008 when he identified an enemy insurgent that was about to launch a rocket near an Army convoy. From 1.2 miles away, he fired his .338 Lapua Magnum rifle and killed the insurgent, potentially saving the lives of countless Americans.

Chris was awarded countless honors for his service. He earned two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation.

He was admired by people all over the country. And on this Monday, about 7,000 or 8,000 people gathered in the Dallas Cowboy Stadium in Dallas, Texas, to come and pay their respects for Chris Kyle. It was a great loss for our country. It was a great loss for his friends and family. They weren't just honoring an American hero. They were also honoring a husband, a father, a son, a team member, a comrade.

Chris was a born-and-bred Texas son and a devout Christian. He is survived by his wife, Taya, and two children, whom he loved and cared for deeply. In fact, he made the decision to leave the Navy in 2009 just so he could spend more time with his family at home.

After retiring from the Navy, Chris founded Craft International, a military and law enforcement training company. He also was intricately involved

in numerous charities, including co-founding FITCO Cares Foundation, and other charitable events benefiting wounded and disabled servicemen and -women returning from combat.

He also wrote *The New York Times* bestseller, entitled, "American Sniper," which chronicled his time as a SEAL sniper. Chris donated the proceeds to the families of some of the comrades that died with him in combat.

These examples really show that his sense of service was genuine and deep. He lived by the motto, "It is our duty to serve those who serve us." It is our duty now as American citizens to remember this young man who served so bravely, to pray for his family in a time of mourning. America lost one of its finest sons and a true patriot. We keep Chris and his family in our thoughts and prayers, and we ask God to look after them.

We also pray for his friend, Chad Littlefield, who was killed alongside Chris, and for his family.

I am honored to have known Chris, and while he left this Earth at a young age, we know that God is watching over him.

Before I yield, I wanted to just make one point about the book that Chris wrote, "American Sniper." It was a great book, and it really chronicled the sacrifice and the conditions that a lot of our men and women are under while they serve.

But what was also an important part of that book was that Taya would chronicle, from time to time, what it was like to be serving alongside Chris in a different capacity, and that is the spouse of one of our deployed men and women, and the pressures and all of the things that are involved in that and the stresses and the separation. And I think it was a great tribute to Chris and Taya to share that intimacy with us so that we could come to greater appreciate his service and her service to our country.

It is now my pleasure to recognize another gentleman from Texas, who Chris lived in his congressional district, Mr. BARTON.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman from Lubbock for yielding, and I'm proud to be a part of this Special Order.

I want to say at the very beginning that, unlike Congressman NEUGEBAUER, I did not know Chris Kyle or Chad Littlefield, the other individual who was killed. They both lived in my congressional district in Midlothian, Texas, and the tragedy of both of their early deaths is equal. Although I didn't know either one, I have studied up on them, and I went to the memorial service at Cowboy Stadium and was very moved by the eulogies and the people's remembrances that did know them.

I would like to say with regards to Mr. Littlefield, he, too, was a lifelong Texan, born in Dallas, and went to high school in DeSoto. He would have turned 36 Monday, and his funeral was

at the Midlothian First Baptist Church last Friday. He is survived by his wife, Leanne, who is a middle school principal in Midlothian, and, I believe, a daughter. So our hearts go out to that family, too.

With regards to Chris, you could not have attended the service on Monday at the Cowboy Stadium and not have come away very impressed. The press reports are that there were 5,000 to 7,000 in attendance. I have done a number of events at Cowboy Stadium. I asked the head of security for the Cowboys who I know what they estimated the crowd. They said about 11,000.

As Mr. NEUGEBAUER has already pointed out, Chris was an individual who was driven by a love for his country and a love for his fellow man. I thought it was very telling at the service that the mother of one of his Navy SEALs who had been killed in combat, Chris adopted her as a second mother and asked that some of the proceeds of his book "American Sniper" go to her family. That, to me, is just amazing.

The president of Craft International also spoke at the service, and he spoke about how much Chris really cared about other people.

□ 1510

I think it is very telling that Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield were both killed trying to help another troubled veteran. They were taking the suspected murderer to a gun range over in I think near Glen Rose, Texas, and trying to help him work through some problems. The person they were trying to help turned on them. So he died trying to help another person who was in need, and that's something his family can be very proud of.

I think another thing that we need to say about Chris is when people met him, they liked him and wanted to help him. The number of people who have helped in these service arrangements runs the gamut: The Governor of Texas, Governor Perry, who helped arrange the cemetery plot at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin; Jerry Jones and his family, the owner of the Cowboys, I think donated the use of Cowboy Stadium and were personally in attendance at the funeral; all the law enforcement agencies in the DFW area helped arrange the cavalcade from Midlothian down to Austin. And I am told that at almost every overpass on Interstate 35 and U.S. 287 that there were people showing flags and in attendance. There was an outpouring of love and affection that in my knowledge in the Congress is just unheard of for somebody who was not a public figure. And Chris was not. He was a public patriot, but he was not an ostentatious, grandstand kind of person.

He loved his family. He loved his two children. He loved his wife. He loved his mother and father. And he loved those whom he served with in the military. As Mr. NEUGEBAUER has pointed out, he served a number of tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In one of the stories that is in his book, he was under orders not to fire unless fired upon. In order to get the enemy so that he could shoot them, he put up an American flag, stood up and basically dared them to take a shot at him. And I think this is correct from the book, that when they started shooting at him he got everybody to take a shot at him, and he silenced them.

So, Congressman NEUGEBAUER, you are to be commended for organizing this Special Order. I'm proud that Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield were constituents of mine. I'm very proud their families still live in my district. Myself and my staff will do everything we can to help them. We will cherish the memory of Chris and Chad for many, many years.

With that, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and I yield back.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

One of the things about Kyle is, you said he wasn't a public figure. Kyle was pretty unassuming. Sometimes people wanted to talk about these records that he had accumulated. Chris would always kind of shake that off. He said:

My service wasn't about trying to get a record. My service was trying to help my country, and my job was to make sure that the bad guys didn't get my guys.

I think that's the kind of man that he was.

One of the things that the gentleman mentioned was regarding the motorcade from Dallas yesterday to Austin, to the Texas State Cemetery. I saw some of the video of that, and it was just amazing, the patriotism all along that almost 200-mile trek of people that wanted to express their appreciation. Many of them never met Chris Kyle, but they knew what he stood for and what he meant.

As we go along, before I recognize another great patriot from Texas, I was going to read some of the emails that have been pouring in to me. This is one from Jim DeFelice, who is a coauthor of the "American Sniper" book with Chris. He sent an email, and I will read just a little of it. He said:

Of my many memories of Chris, perhaps this one sums up the kind of man he was: On the morning of Hurricane Sandy, as I was going out to check on the damage to our house in the neighborhood, I received a text message from him asking if I was okay and if we needed anything. Even though he was over 2,000 miles away, I knew that if I asked for help he would have thrown a bag in the back of his pickup and driven up within the hour. It was that kind of spirit, in everything he did, that made Chris a great warrior, a great SEAL and a great American. I am grateful to have known him.

It is now my honor to recognize Mr. GOHMERT, the gentleman from Texas, for words he might want to speak.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, and I thank my dear friend from Texas for having this time and for honoring such a great American hero.

Chris Kyle clearly loved his country. He loved his family, he loved those

with whom he served and was willing to lay down his life for his friends. Every time he was committed to hostile theater, he knew he might be laying down his life for his friends. He also knew that the ultimate authority on love, Jesus, is quoted in John 15:13 saying:

Greater love hath no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Chris had that commitment every time he was in a hostile area. He was willing to do that. And the fact that he gave up his life trying to help another servicemember who was suffering from a mental problem still is an act of laying down his life in service for others. He did it for this country, he did it for his friends, and he did it for those, including the gunman that took his own life.

Now, it was a very moving service. I don't believe it was broadcast. But for all of us who were there, we were deeply moved. The show of support, love, and affection for an American hero was deeply touching.

Chad Littlefield, the same situation, a man that was willing to lay down his life for his friends, and he did.

I think most people, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, have heard and read about this extraordinary man, Chris Kyle, his service to the country, three Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars. What an incredible, incredible service to his country. He deserves the tribute being brought and much, much more.

I would like to say a little bit about the sacrifice of some American heroes who don't always get recognized as heroes. In Chris' case, it's his wife, Taya, and their two children—sweet little notes on the bulletin at the funeral that they had written. His parents—it was an honor to meet Chris' parents. But we don't often think of the families and what they have laid down. They have lost father, husband, friend, confidante, a man who would do anything for them. They have paid an ultimate sacrifice.

I was reading some years back in—actually it's a journal basically that C.S. Lewis had written after his wife died. In one of the entries, he was talking about how much he missed his wife, how much he wished he had her back, and then he realized how selfish that was because she was in paradise, and his act of selfishness was to want a loved one to come back into a world where that loved one would only have to some day again die before they could return to paradise. I believe with all my heart that Chris, as a Christian, is in paradise. He's greatly missed, and especially by those closest to him that paid that ultimate price.

□ 1520

We wish he were back, but then he would have to go through that process again.

C.S. Lewis said, We've always heard that Stephen was the first martyr, but didn't Lazarus get the rawer deal? I never thought about it before. We're

told Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. You can't find any reference in scripture of Lazarus saying anything ever because he might have said something like, I was in paradise, and you're bringing me back here now?

Nonetheless, Chris has served honorably and well. He's greatly missed. And we should not forget the family members of those who have lost loved ones in service to this country. They have paid the ultimate price: his parents, his wife, his kids, his brother. Obviously, his brother sorely missed Chris. So let's pay tribute to Chris, to those who have sacrificed in giving their loved one Chris for our country.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman, and I think the point that you make is extremely important about our families. As Members of Congress, we get an opportunity and many occasions to travel to the theater and to thank those men and women that are deployed and for their outstanding service to their country.

I know that my colleagues also do the same thing I do; that is, when you're around their families, you understand and they understand that this is a team sport. It's those families that support our military folks back home and keep the homefront going while our men and women go and do the job we ask them to do, which is an important part of making sure America has a strong defense.

I got an anonymous email from a person that wanted to express their thoughts about Chris. He says:

When veterans asked for help or wanted to meet with him, Chris made time for them. When children needed him, he made time for them. The week before he died, his wife was marveling at how he could make time for so many different aspects of his work while making time for his family and still squeezing in time for children and veterans in need. He shrugged and let this simple reply speak volumes of his character, "Kids and vets, right, babe?"

Chris was working hard, juggling many different things to make a living for his family. He worked hard mostly because he had already made the decision to give away more money than he had earned in his lifetime in order to support the families of the fallen. I think that says a lot about Chris. Chris wasn't caught up in material things. He wasn't caught up in honors. Every day, Chris had a servant's spirit.

It is now my honor to recognize another great Texan, my neighbor to the south, Mr. CONAWAY.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman for yielding some time and allowing me to add my inadequate words and thoughts for Chris and his family.

I had purchased Chris's book a long time ago; but as things go, I just hadn't read it. After he was murdered a week or so ago, I read his book. It was a very unsettling experience.

The book is written in what appears to be Chris's voice. I never met Chris, and so I didn't know what he actually sounded like when he spoke. But the book is written in a very conversational tone, and it's almost like you're

having that conversation with Chris. You're reading, and you're caught up in the stories, and you're caught up in the action. You go, Oh, he was murdered several days ago.

Chris's style of talking about himself and the things that he did on behalf of his country were very self-deprecating, very matter of fact. I'm sure most of the instances in there where he talked about coming close to being hurt or coming close to near-death experiences are sugarcoated from what the real deal was because I know he didn't want his wife and family and many to know. He certainly wouldn't have been bragging about that anyway.

But Chris had a very matter-of-fact tone when he was with the SEALs and he was in those battles. Even when he was home, he had a very—"casual" is not the right word—but very matter-of-fact attitude toward the fact that he could be killed, that something bad could happen to him.

He also spoke in the book often about his faith and a guardian angel. There was one instance where he just moved differently than he normally would have moved, and a bullet went right where he had been. That's a Holy-Spirit-kind of thing. It just wasn't Chris's time.

So you read through that book, but you know Chris has been taken from us, he's been murdered, and America has lost one of her very best to have worn our colors and to have served.

I think the thing that comes out of the story in the book was he and his wife's struggle. What was most impressive about it was how torn he was between duty to country and duty to family. He was clear that his first duty was to God, but he was legitimately torn between the responsibilities to not only himself, but his men and the others under his watch and care, and those he protected by killing bad guys before they had a chance to kill our guys. That role he played, he relished it, he cherished it, and he wanted to do it; but he also began to recognize and see the impact it was having on his wife and kids.

So the struggle he and Taya went through of trying to come to the decision of, Do I give up something I really love to do, and I feel like my duty to do it, that I will have abandoned my friends if I go in a different direction? How difficult that decision was for him and his family, but that he ultimately decided that his role, God's direction for him, was that he be a full-time father to his two kids and a full-time husband to his wife.

The sense of loss from leaving the service, leaving the SEALs—the truth of the matter is he was in a period of our country's history that is not likely to be repeated ever again. I certainly hope not. The way he spoke about the opportunity to lay his life down for others is very matter of fact in that he was certainly willing to do that.

I agree with RANDY and LOUIE as they talked about the families. They really

are the unsung—I got a little taste of this back when Iraq was going on in a big way and Afghanistan. I've made multiple trips. My wife, Suzanne, is just a basket case while I'm in country. And they never take Members of Congress to any place scary. They're not going to do that. If anything, it would be a helicopter failure or something. For the most part, they never take us anywhere scary, but she doesn't know that. I know it. I know everything is fine. We're wearing suits and ties, and it's fine. But she doesn't know that until I get out of country. As soon as she knew that, I would sense the relief in her.

That gives me a microscopic sense of what these families have done for 12 years now across the board with their loved ones downrange. As far as the family is concerned, it's a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week risk for their loved one. The loved one knows when it's scary and when it's not and knows when things are going crazy, but the family back home doesn't. They're dreading that car pulling up out front because they know that their loved one is someplace where they could get hurt or killed. The strength of the American serviceman's and servicewoman's family is to support them throughout this timeframe, where we've asked them as a country to do far more for this country than should ever have been asked of any one individual.

Yes, it's an all-volunteer force and, yes, they continue to reenlist, re-up, and go at it. But we've asked them to do more than we should have. They've recognized that we had to ask them to do these things. So I too brag on the families because that really is where the strength of America is shown, in families being able to back Chris up and the things that he was trying to do to make sure he was able to do downrange all he needed to do without worrying about what was going on back home.

It is so difficult to lose someone like Chris. We had a wonderful organization in Midland, Texas, called Show of Support, a similar thing to what Chris was doing with his life after he got out, and that is in this instance they take wounded vets on deer hunts. They bring them into town, and they have a big banquet. They take the wives on a shopping spree and to the spa, and then they take the guys hunting. In this past year, they were in the parade heading down to the banquet. And the float that several were on was hit by a train, and four of these men were killed. These men who were killed had already had wounds of war that showed up in their lives every single day. One was killed pushing his wife out of harm's way.

So losing those four, the personal experience we think we feel with Chris—and we don't, but we do, because he's one of our best and one of those who has done far more for our country than we should have asked—does feel personal.

I ask folks around Memorial Day every year that we thank our country and we thank folks for the sacrifices made on behalf of our country, but it's generally in the generic, generally as a group. What I ask people to do is I say, Look, I want you to pick out somebody specific. I want you to think about somebody who we're memorializing today who has actually laid down their life in defense of this country. I want it to hurt a little bit. I want it to cost something for you to say the things we say very casually on Memorial Day.

□ 1530

I now have someone else I can think about on Memorial Day when we should all, as a country, recognize these collective sacrifices. Sometimes when you recognize them in the collective, it loses the impact, so I would encourage folks to recognize those sacrifices in the specific by picking out somebody you went to high school with who was killed in Vietnam, as in my case, or someone you know—a family member or whomever—about whom you can say, All right, as it ought to hurt just a little bit.

I want to thank the gentleman for giving me a chance to add, as I mentioned earlier, my inadequate thoughts on Chris and on his dedication to this country and his sacrifice. I wish God-speed to his family as they cope with Chris' absence in this life.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

If Chris were here and were standing next to me, I think one of the things he would say is, RANDY, you need to talk about my team members.

He was a Navy SEAL. If you read the book or if you talk to a Navy SEAL—and I've visited with Chris—the SEAL team members, because of the things that they do together, have to trust each other explicitly. He lost some of his team members while they were serving our country. He grieved over that, and he thought about them a lot.

One of his teammates sent me an email that reads:

Chris Kyle is an American hero who will be sorely missed by his brothers in arms, the great State of Texas, and the entire United States of America. For the last week, we have mourned his death, but I ask you today to take joy in his life, to truly appreciate the time he was with us; and may we continue Chris' legacy of service unto one another and support our wounded veterans who are battling with PTSD. Thank you to everyone for their support and prayers. God bless America.

Now it's my pleasure to recognize the gentlewoman from the Fort Worth area, Ms. GRANGER from Texas, who has spent a lot of her career in Congress helping to make sure that our soldiers have the things that they need and supporting them.

Ms. GRANGER. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to rise today to honor a true American hero, who is Chris Kyle, a retired Navy SEAL chief petty officer who was killed in Glen Rose, Texas, on February 2.

Chris Kyle heroically defended his country through four tours of duty in Iraq, where he participated in major battles throughout the country. He was the single deadliest sniper in the history of the United States military. Chief Kyle was shot twice in the fighting and was in six separate IED explosions. However, he never received the Purple Heart because he didn't want to be separated from his unit while the paperwork was being processed.

Chris Kyle fought for his country and saved the lives of many of his fellow Americans, but his accomplishments extended far beyond the battlefield. After 10 years of service as a SEAL, Chris retired from the Navy to focus on his family. He continued to train military personnel and security staff, and he wrote a book documenting his time in combat, which one of the Members talked about. Rather than keep the proceeds from the sale of the book, he donated the money to the families of two fellow SEAL members who had fallen in battle.

On February 2, Chris and his friend Chad Littlefield were tragically killed by a veteran they had sought to help. This act of violence may have taken Mr. Kyle's life, but it doesn't erase the powerful legacy he leaves behind.

Mr. Kyle is survived by his wife and two young children. He lives on through his family, through the lives he saved through his heroism in combat, and through the veterans he helped. He continues to be a source of inspiration to all who know his story.

On February 11, more than 7,000 people from around the country gathered in Cowboy Stadium for Chris Kyle's memorial service. Hundreds more braved bad weather to line roads and highways to honor Chris by watching his funeral procession on the way to the Texas State Cemetery. It was a fitting tribute to a man who touched the lives of so many and who will continue to do so even after his death.

This country owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Chris Kyle for his selfless service to his country, both on and off the battlefield. His heroism and the heroism of all his fellow veterans will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, his children, his family and friends, and especially with his teammates.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentlewoman.

As was mentioned, after Chris left the SEAL team, he went to Texas, and they formed a company called Craft International. The CEO of that company is a gentleman by the name of Steven Young, and he sent this email:

Chris was a true American hero in having devoted his adult life to serving his country in combat as a member of the U.S. Navy SEALs and in training our military and law enforcement personnel after leaving the Navy. Chris was also an extremely devoted family man, a wonderful husband and a loving father. He gave so much of his time to charitable causes that assisted military personnel and their families, and he died while trying to help a struggling servicemember.

We are all saddened by his tragic death. America lost one of its finest sons and a true patriot.

I think, again, there is a common theme here. Chris was always doing things for other people. As was mentioned, when someone was involved in a hurricane, Chris was saying, Do I need to go all the way to New York to help you? That was his motto—he was service-oriented.

It is now my pleasure to recognize another great Texan, one of our newer Members of Congress, Mr. BLAKE FARENTHOLD.

Mr. BARTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON. You keep saying "another great Texan." That's redundant. If you say "Texan," it's assumed that they're great.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. They're all great. Exactly.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Thank you very much. It's my pleasure to be up here even though it is a very solemn occasion.

I didn't have the honor or privilege of knowing Chief Chris Kyle, but as I've heard my fellow Texans speak of him and as many Americans have gotten to know him through his book, it's just a true testament to the American soldier and to the traditions of our military that Chris, after heroic and valiant service to our country, came back, and instead of just fading, he continued to help his fellow servicemen. The tragedy associated with his death, one of helping another, is heart-wrenching, but it does call to mind that the greatest traditions and values of America are manifested through our service. He was doing just that when he was killed by a fellow veteran he was trying to help.

We in this country and in Congress have worked hard to provide health care, including mental health care, for our veterans. We are growing and expanding that service through the VA now. Just last week, I toured a new VA facility in my hometown of Corpus Christi. It has a large area devoted just to treating some of the psychological problems that many of our veterans come home with after experiencing the horrors of war. It's something that we need to continue to do as a country, and it's something that we need to continue to do as Americans.

Though the result of Chief Kyle's help was tragic, it doesn't diminish our responsibility and our duty to help our fellow Americans, especially our heroes who are suffering, and we can do that in a wide variety of ways. We're doing it, obviously, in Congress in the way Congress does things—we're enacting laws; we're appropriating money; we're doing programs—but helping on a very personal level is something that we need to continue to do, and that is a legacy of Chief Kyle's.

I was reading a Dallas Morning News article this morning about the kind of

funeral that he received. There were 200 Patriot Guard Riders accompanying the funeral procession from the memorial service that was held at Cowboy Stadium in Dallas, Texas, to his burial in a place of honor—in the Texas State Cemetery, right in the center of the cemetery. This is just indicative of how we as Texans and how we as Americans feel about our servicemen. They deserve our honor and respect, and I'm proud that Texas and America have turned out for Chris Kyle.

I want to add my and my family's prayers to those of the rest of this Congress for Chris' wife and their children and for the entire Kyle family. We as a Nation have a profound sense of gratitude for our servicemen and -women, both active and retired, and it's our responsibility to care for them when they return home.

□ 1540

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman. A couple of other emails here. This is from Jeff Staubach:

He was very appreciative of his friends and family. He never hesitated to thank me for the smallest gestures. We were lucky to have him fighting for us, risking his life for us, and being our friend. About 2 months ago, I emailed him and told him that we needed to go get a beer soon. It was Thanksgiving, then Christmas, then New Year's, SHOT Show. We never pinned down a date. I wish I could grab another beer with him, just to sit back and talk about our kids, what the Cowboys will do this fall, and when we'd go shoot again together.

I imagine what Chris would tell us today, and what Chris knew, because he was putting his life on the line every day, is that every day is precious. Every day is a gift from God, and that we must be a good steward of that day that he gives us. Chris Kyle, the day that he left us, left his house, thought he'd go out and shoot, maybe help this young man, and, unfortunately, actually lost his life doing that.

Mark Spicer, another friend, said:

I once asked Chris why he chose the SEALs, and he told me it was because he had been told it was the hardest to get into, and that typified the Chris Kyle we all knew. Chris would hit any challenge head on and never flinch from hard work and his unselfish devotion to those around him.

It is now my pleasure to recognize one of our newer members from the Texas delegation, Mr. STEVE STOCKMAN.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Thank you for offering this opportunity to honor a gentleman and a Texan who has demonstrated beyond any belief that he is dedicated to his country. After he served, he could have gone, walked out and done other things. But instead, Chris took it upon himself to have compassion for his fellow soldiers. And in that process, he gave the ultimate sacrifice, his life. He's an American hero, and I offer my deepest sympathy to his wife and his two children. He served our Nation courageously, and served with multiple injuries during four tours of Iraq.

Chris retired in 2009 to spend more time with his family. On top of being a warrior, Chris was a Christian, a son, a husband, and a father. On behalf of myself and my wife, Patty, our hearts go out to Chris' wife and her family. Our Nation will never forget and forever be grateful to Chris' service and for Chris' undying belief in Christ and sharing his testimony. Chris was the kind of humble and kind man who always put the needs of others before himself. Chris continued his passion with his non-profit, FITCO Cares, which provided in-home fitness equipment to physically and emotionally wounded veterans.

I'd like to say to Chris—which I know he's upstairs listening to us with God and with his Lord—that we are so honored and deeply touched that you gave your entire life for this Nation and that you have set an example for all of us in this House on how to behave. He's an individual, and we say nowadays that we don't have many heroes, but he's a true hero. He's not a pop star. He's not something that is glitter. He did his work and his dedication in silence so that not many people knew until his passing. We all should look to him as a leader and a hero. We're blessed that we had him on the Earth, and one day we'll all see him again.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

Another friend of Chris' said:

You are the definition of a true American hero, but you are also the definition of a true friend. From the late nights to the early mornings, you could always make me laugh. You have ever changed my life and many others. You will forever be missed, but never forgotten. We miss you, brother. Kevin.

Another friend of Chris' is David Feherty. David has been very involved in the Wounded Warrior program and was a friend of Chris'. An excerpt from his email, and I think he's talking to all of us:

So think upon this tonight as you lay yourselves down to rest, and be thankful for the life and service of Chris Kyle, whose spirit lives on in the lives of those who were lucky enough to have known that sweet-hearted, straight-shooting Texas prince. May he rest in peace, and our sorrow turn quickly to happy memories. David Feherty.

It is now my pleasure to recognize a fellow Texan who also served our Nation in the Navy, Mr. OLSON.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from Lubbock, the 19th Congressional District.

I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow swabbie, a fellow squid, and a fellow sailor, Navy Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, an elite retired Navy SEAL who was much more than the sum of his parts. Chris Kyle lived his life the way he died—in defense of our country and helping his fellow man in their time of need.

Assigned to SEAL Team 3, Sniper Element Charlie platoon within the Naval Special Warfare Command, and with over four tours of duty, Chris served in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His service and

sacrifice on behalf of America is well known.

What is lesser known is his humanity as a devoted husband and a loving father. He was a decorated Navy hero with a bright future ahead of him. He was on track to become a master chief petty officer, maybe even the master chief petty officer for the whole United States Navy, the first time a SEAL would hold that title. But he stepped away from that career to devote his time to a higher priority—to his children and his wife.

He was active in helping sailors and other veterans with their transition back to civilian life. Chris also paired with FITCO Cares Foundation, a non-profit organization which created the Heroes Project.

FITCO Cares provides free in-home fitness equipment, programs, personal training, and life coaching to any veteran with disabilities, Gold Star families—those are families who lost a loved one in combat—or those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. He was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Today, Texas honors our native son, Chris Kyle. As someone who wore the same uniform, I am deeply proud of his commitment to God, family, and our country. He was an American patriot, a defender of liberty, a husband, and a father. A grateful Nation says good-bye to a man taken from this Earth much too soon.

May God bless Chris Kyle's wife, Taya, his children, his family, and all who loved him. I'm sure that in heaven, Chris Kyle is watching over his family and us.

Chris, I wish you fair winds and following seas.

If Chris were here today, I'd thank him for the gift he gave me and my wife, Nancy. When I took off in my P-3 Orion, I knew that if I were shot down and fortunate enough to survive the crash, Chris Kyle would come get me and take me home from wherever I was in the world, regardless of the challenges. We lost an American hero.

Chris Kyle, I salute you.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. One of the things that Chris liked was he liked law enforcement people. He had a great deal of respect for them, and they knew that, that he had respect for them. What Chris knew was, just like he put himself in harm's way on a daily basis, that our first responders, our policemen and our sheriffs and those State troopers, that they put their lives on the line for our country and for our citizens as well.

This is a letter from Dan Parker. He is a law enforcement officer.

□ 1550

He says:

I first met Chris in 2010, at a ranch in Texas. I was told just before I would meet him of the truly incredible deeds that he was involved in during the war in Iraq as a soldier and a sniper, and that he was a former SEAL. Being a law enforcement sniper, I was really looking forward to meeting him and was unsure of what to expect.

What I found was a great man who was truly humble, down to Earth, and was a lot of fun to be around. I also found that Chris truly loved his country and that he'd sacrificed much for it and did not consider himself any type of hero, but only doing his job with his God-given talents.

Chris also made it very clear he felt a deep sense of responsibility to help any veteran or law enforcement officer he could.

I now want to recognize Mr. BARTON again for some remarks.

Mr. BARTON. Well, thank you, Congressman NEUGEBAUER. I think we have spent a good bit of our time extolling the virtues and honors of Chris Kyle and the other gentleman who was murdered, Mr. Littlefield.

I want to take a minute to brag on you a little bit. Most people don't have a very high opinion of the U.S. Congress. Luckily, they think higher of their own Congressman.

I think we should acknowledge how hard you've worked to help the family in this time of need, since you knew the family personally. You intervened with the Pentagon if the family wanted to try to bury Kyle at Arlington Cemetery. I know you've personally interacted with the Governor and his staff down in Austin, my staff, obviously, since they're my constituents.

You've gone above and beyond the normal requirements of a Congressman to reach out and help because you feel that commitment personally and professionally, and I want to commend you.

I also want to ask a question that I think you know the answer to. I have heard and read that an education fund has been established for Kyle's children. Is that true?

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I believe that is correct. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. BARTON. So that being the case, it's certainly appropriate to honor the past. But part of his legacy are his children, and I would encourage anyone who wishes to get the address or the email and make a contribution so that the Nation shows its respect for his service by making sure that his children have the education that this country is capable of providing.

I would also encourage anybody who lives near their families to reach out and touch them personally. I plan to go by and see both the widows of the two gentlemen who were killed and see if I can be of personal assistance.

And then the last thing, obviously, we're here to honor somebody who was exceptional, in Chris Kyle. But as we speak, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of Chris Kyles on duty right now, protecting us in Afghanistan and ready to serve and ready to rescue. All of our servicemen and -women, we should thank them when we see them.

We should show their families here at home we support their service, and we should dedicate ourselves today to making sure that our Armed Forces have the best equipment, the best training, and, if necessary, the best rescue operations, and their families get the very best while they're serving

their country, because we're here in freedom because of the Chris Kyles and all that they've done and continue to do.

And, again, I just want to thank you, Congressman, for your effort in this and organizing this and all you have done to try to help the family. You are truly a gentleman and honorable in every sense of the word.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

I want to read a few more of these emails I got. And I'm reading excerpts of them. And one of the things I'm going to do is put all of these in the RECORD so that the kindness that a lot of people have shown, and their love for Chris, can be reflected in our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This is from Elizabeth Robinson, and she says:

I only knew Chris from a little under 3 years, but in that time he stood up for me in one of my most confusing moments, gave me encouragement that helped push me into one of my toughest physical trials, and entertained many a moment in the office with his fun banter and laughs. He was a hero of such a grand scale, but that heroism trickled into the everyday through his shining character that made everyday encounters with him special.

I think that's one of the things about Chris that most of us will miss is Chris's sense of humor. He had a great sense of humor. As I said, he didn't take himself seriously, and his sense of service.

This is from Nathan Kirk:

I move forward with sadness, but equally with the confidence in knowing that the path to healing is through service to others, as evident by the life of Chris Kyle.

I will never fail you, Chief.

Semper Fi.

This is from Tommy Hicks:

Chris was a good father, a husband, a friend to many. But through his service to our country in the Navy and after, impacted many others, more than he would ever imagine. He is the man everyone strived to be, a man who every American should want their son to be, a man to whom everyone owes a debt. May his memory be served for generations as a role model to the youth of America.

I'm going to close out our time by reading something that I think exemplifies Chris, and it was a big part of his life, and I think it also says what Chris's code in life was, and that is the Navy SEAL creed. It goes like this:

In times of war or uncertainty, there is a special breed of warrior ready to answer our Nation's call. A common man with uncommon desire to succeed.

Forged by adversity, he stands alongside America's finest special operation forces to serve his country, the American people, and to protect their way of life.

I am that man.

My Trident is a symbol of honor and heritage. Bestowed upon me by the heroes that have gone before, it embodies the trust of those who I have sworn to protect. By wearing the Trident, I accept the responsibility of my chosen profession and way of life. It is a privilege that I must earn every day.

My loyalty to country and team is beyond reproach. I humbly serve as the guardian of

my fellow Americans, always ready to defend those who are unable to defend themselves. I do not advertise the nature of my work, nor do I seek recognition in my acts. I voluntarily accept the inherent hazards of my profession, placing the welfare and the security of others before my own.

I serve with honor on and off the battlefield. The ability to control my emotions and my actions, regardless of circumstance, sets me apart from other men.

Uncompromising integrity is my standard. My character and my honor are my steadfast. My word is my bond.

We expect to lead and to be led. In the absence of orders I will take charge, lead my teammates and accomplish the mission. I will lead by example in all situations.

I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. My Nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down, I will get back up every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight.

We demand discipline. We expect innovation. The lives of my teammates and the success of our mission depend on me, my technical skill, my tactical proficiency, and my attention to detail. My training is never complete.

We train for war and we fight to win. I stand ready to bring the full spectrum of combat power to bear in order to achieve my mission and the goals established by my country. The execution of my duties will be swift and violent when required, yet guided by the very principles that I serve to defend.

Brave men have fought and died building the proud tradition and feared reputation that I'm bound to uphold. In the worst of conditions, the legacy of my teammates steadies my resolve and silently guides my every deed.

I will not fail.

I think that sums up the life of Chris Kyle.

□ 1600

I will personally miss him, and my thoughts and prayers go out to Taya and the family. We're going to miss Chris. But I think what Chris' friends would say and what Chris would say is: If I made an impact in your life, go out and impact somebody else's life.

May God bless Chris Kyle, may God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Throughout his life, Chris Kyle struggled to put his responsibilities to God, Country, and Family into the proper order. God was always first, but he often debated where Country and Family belonged. But through all of his life, he never once put himself ahead of any of those three things. He personified the best traditions not just of the American military and the SEAL community, but of American citizenship. He was truly a warrior in every facet of life.

There are many ways you can describe Chris—hero, SEAL, father, husband—but I think for most who knew him the most powerful way would be the simplest: Friend.

My friendship with Chris began when I was privileged to work with him on American Sniper, the story of his life and (some) of his heroic exploits. Though perhaps unlikely, the professional relationship between a Texas good ol' boy and a hard-bitten New York native quickly blossomed into a true friendship.

Of my many memories of Chris, perhaps this one sums up the kind of man he was: on the morning of Hurricane Sandy, as I was going out to check on the damage to our house the neighbors, I received a text message from him asking if I was OK and if needed anything. Even though he was over two thousand miles away, I knew that if I asked for help he would have thrown a bag in the back of his pickup and driven up within the hour.

It was that kind of spirit, in everything he did, that made Chris a great warrior, a great SEAL, and a great American. I am grateful to have known him.

—Jim DeFelice

Chris Kyle was a man who set his own standards. He believed in hard work and he believed in generosity. He did not believe in a free ride and he did not believe in taking credit for the work of others. He was gracious in his dealings with the public and expected nothing in return.

Chris Kyle was humble and determined to be the best at whatever he set his heart to do. He clearly set his heart to being the best Navy SEAL he could be. As a warrior, he allowed his heart to harden in the face of adversity in order to do the work necessary to protect his brothers in arms. As a warrior he also made a choice to be a man whose children and wife would know him more as a man than a warrior. He chose to be available for ball games, nighttime prayers and dropping the kids off for school. He tirelessly devoted his time to his community and would not accept payment for anything he did in support of his hometown.

When veterans asked for help, or wanted to meet him, Chris made time for them. When children needed him, he made time for them. The week before he died, his wife was marveling at how he could make time for so many different aspects of his work while making time for his family and still squeezing in time for children and veterans in need. He shrugged and let his simple reply speak volumes about his character, "Kid and vets, right babe?". Chris was working hard juggling many different things to make a living for his family. He worked hard mostly because he had already made the decision to give away more money than he had earned in his lifetime in order to support the fallen. "Kids and vets, right babe?"

Chris Kyle was a man like no other. If we can take away anything from his life it would be: live your dreams, make your family a priority even when you are working hard, be patriotic, and take care of kids and vets.

—Anonymous

Chris Kyle is an America Hero that will be sorely missed by his brothers in arms, the great state of Texas and the entire United States of America. For the last week we have mourned his death but I ask you to take joy in his life. To truly appreciate the time he was here with us. And may we continue Chris's legacy of service unto others and support our wounded veterans and those battling with PTSD. Thank you to everyone for their support and prayers. God bless America.

—Anonymous

Chris was a true American hero having devoted his adult life to serving his country in

combat as a member of the U.S. Navy SEALs and in training our military and law enforcement personnel after leaving the Navy. Chris was also an extremely devoted family man—a wonderful husband and loving father. He gave so much of his time to charitable causes that assisted military personnel and their families and died while trying to help struggling service member. We are all saddened by his tragic death. America lost one of its finest sons and a true patriot.

—Steven Young, Craft International's CEO

I met Chris just a couple weeks after he arrived in Dallas from San Diego in 2009. I remember hearing stories about him and not knowing what to expect. I found him to be a genuine person. He could kick the tar out of just about anyone but that's not what impressed me. It wasn't the stories from Ramadi that impressed me, it was seeing him with his family and his friends. He was very appreciative of his friends and family. He never hesitated to thank me for the smallest of gestures. We were lucky to have him fighting for us, risking his life for us, and being our friend. About two months ago I emailed him and told him we've got to get a beer soon. It was Thanksgiving, then Christmas, then New Years, Shot Show...etc. We never could pin down a date. I wish I could grab another beer with him and just sit back to talk about our kids, what the Cowboys will do this fall, and when we were going to shoot together again. I'll miss times like you see in the attached photo, throwing my arm around him with a joking threat to choke him out, jeans, boots, and cold beer.

—Jeff Staubach

Chris Kyle was a normal Texas boy, had a normal education and entered into ranching, considered to me a normal Texas profession, but he was to go on to become anything but normal.

I once asked Chris why he chose the SEALs and he told me it was because he had been told it was the hardest to get into and that typified the Chris Kyle we all knew. Chris would hit any challenge head on and never flinched from hard work and his unselfish devotion to those around him. It was an inspiration to see.

Chris always had a mischievous twinkle in his eye and loved to play pranks, laugh and enjoyed life as I have rarely seen but there was another side to Chris that few saw. Chris never truly cared about how successful he was at his chosen profession, he cared deeply about this country, what it stands for and mostly for the fellow soldiers he believes he couldn't save. Chris agonized over this subject many times and it was never far from his thoughts as he settled back into being a husband, loving father and came to terms with not being the tip of the spear anymore, a subject all professionals struggle over. Chris's answer was to join a fellow sniper and form a company designed to pass on their wealth of experience to those who follow and who now stand in harms way.

—Mark Spicer

Chris, you are the definition of a True American Hero, but you are also the definition of a True friend! From the late nights to the early morning you could always make us laugh! You have for ever changed my life and many others. You will be forever missed but never forgotten!

We miss you Brother!!!!

—Kevin

Everyone fortunate enough to call themselves Americans should mourn the passing of one of our country's greatest sons, Chris Kyle, for he represented everything that is

good about our nation and for that matter, our species. The single greatest threat to mankind's survival on this planet is now and always has been the violent intolerance of those whose religious beliefs differ from those of others. Chris Kyle put himself in harms's way in order to defend our basic human right to evolve as a species, from those who consider teaching their children to commit suicide to be part of the same process.

Every time Chris Kyle squeezed his trigger, he served to create a safer environment in which we who choose to be tolerant of others, to be kind to others, and to simply try to do the next right thing can co-exist in peace. Sadly mankind finds itself now at a tipping point which most seem to have chosen to ignore, presumably in the hope that it will just sort itself out without the help of men like Chris Kyle. Well people, go luck to all of us with that one, for without such help and the strength of the armed forces of the United States and her allies our children are surely destined to fall victims to the vilest cruelties of our enemies, who would keep their own people so ignorant that they fear for their own lives daily.

So think upon this tonight as you lay yourselves down to rest, and be thankful for the life and service of Chris Kyle, whose spirit lives on in the lives of those who were lucky enough to have known that sweet-hearted, straight-shooting Texan prince. May he rest in peace, and our sorrow turn quickly to happy memories.

—David Feherty

A tribute to a true American Hero that I call a friend.

I first met Chris in 2010, at a ranch in Texas. I was told just before I meet him of the truly incredible deeds that he was involved in during the Iraq War as a soldier and sniper and that he was a former SEAL. Being a law enforcement sniper I was really looking forward to the meeting but was unsure of what to expect. What I found was a great man that was very humble, down to earth and a lot of fun to be around. I also found that Chris truly loved this country and had sacrificed much for it and did not consider himself any type of hero but was only doing his job with his God given talents. Chris also made it very clear he felt a deep sense responsibility to help any veteran or law enforcement officer he could.

Chris is gone now due to doing what he felt he had a duty to do. I would like to encourage everyone to keep the memory of Chris Kyle alive and do anything you can to honor him by doing whatever you can to help this countries honored veterans that have given so much and received so little in return. Our veterans are hero's in my eyes and I know Chris felt the same way.

Chris, I will miss you brother and only wish we could have had more time together before the Lord took you home.

—Dan Parker, Texas Law Enforcement Officer

I only knew Chris for a little under 3 years, but in that time he stood up for me in one of my most confusing moments, gave me encouragement that helped push in one of my toughest physical trials, and entertained many a moment in the office with his fun banter and laughs. He was a hero on such a grand scale, but that heroism trickled into the everyday through his shining character that made everyday encounters with him special. Whether he was cranking up the treadmill as I ran, telling me he'd beat up my ex boyfriend for being mean, or telling hilarious stories in the Craft conference room I'll never forget how Chris knew a million different ways to elicit a smile. You'd

think meeting such a man as Chris with his reputation and history would make people nervous, but within minutes someone who just met him would be smiling and at ease. Even the times of frustration were colored in such a memorable light by his personality. In a world full of double standards, muddled meaning and confusion, his direct manner was refreshing. I loved being in his presence not because he was a hero or a celebrity, but because he was as genuine a person as you can find today.

—Elizabeth Robinson

After having attended the services yesterday for Chris, I owe him yet another "thank you."

The first "thank you" is the obvious one that we all owe to him; his military service to the nation in his unrelenting determination to his duties as a SEAL.

The second "thank you" is more personal, and that is the "thank you" I owe Chris for giving me a chance when he brought me on-board to his company. To me this is very important, as after having not one, but two "medical discharges" from the military, both non-combat related and not allowed to carry on with my brothers; I felt like a failure as a man at the resultant outcome of both of my enlistments. Chris looked beyond this and never made me feel less for my limited service versus his own extraordinary accomplishments and provided an opportunity to serve along side of him in a new and noble mission in the service to our military and law enforcement men and women, and treated me with nothing but equality and respect at all times along the way.

The third "thank you" is in the honor it was to stand with his family, brother SEALs and friends, and salute this man goodbye. As I walked within the line that followed him off the field, I was overwhelmed by grief with more than just the fact that we all had lost an American Hero, but that we had lost a bright shining example of a truly great human being in terms of compassion, generosity, and selfless service to his family, friends, fellow veterans and a nation.

I move forward with sadness, but equally with the confidence in knowing that the path to healing is through the service to others, as evident by the life of Chris Kyle.

"I will not fail you Chief."

Semper Fi

—Nathan Kirk Merithew—USMC

I was fortunate to have met Chris when he moved back to Texas in 2009 Chris was immediately a presence in my life. His character and sense of loyalty and duty was something I admired and appreciated. He was great to my family, and role model for me and my brother.

Chris was a good father, husband and friend to many. But through his service to our country in the Navy and after, impacted many others—more than he would ever imagine.

He is the man everyone should strive to be. A man who every American should want their son to be. A man to whom everyone owes a debt. May his memory be served for generations as a role model to the youth of America.

Chief Kyle, thank you for your friendship, your service, and the impact you did have on so many of us. You made Texas, the United States, and the world a better place. We will make sure your legacy lives longer than the rest of us.

—Tommy Hicks

Randy, thank you for pushing this in Congress. As you know, when Chris retired from an 11-yr career on Seal Team 3, he was the most lethal sniper in US military history with 255 confirmed kills (DOD made him take the number down to 150 as the prior US

record holder was Carlos Hathcock or White Feather in Vietnam with 90). You may wish to include these numbers or not but this is for your information. Chris lived with me and my family for 6 months while his wife and kids prepared and sold their home in Coronado California before they moved to Texas. Chris was born in Hamilton, Texas and was essentially back home when this tragedy took place. He became a best-selling author and decided early to donate the proceeds of the book to the 3 families of team members he had lost while on Seal Team 3. Little did he know that it would be his family needing it the most.

On Saturday, February 2, 2013, Chief Chris Kyle (USN), Craft International LLC's President and the author of the best-selling book, *American Sniper*, and a friend were killed on a gun range in Glen Rose, Texas. Chief Kyle, a former Navy SEAL, served four Combat tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom and elsewhere. For his bravery in battle, he was awarded two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation. After retiring from the Navy, Chief Kyle founded Craft International LLC, a military and law enforcement training company, and was involved in numerous charities, including co-founding FITCO Cares Foundation, and other charitable events benefiting wounded and disabled servicemen and women returning from combat.

—J. Kyle Bass

Yesterday, I had the privilege of witnessing the outpouring of support for Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle as he was escorted to his final resting place in Austin, Texas. 200 miles of support. Patriot Guard Riders leading the way. Thousands of people standing in the cold and rain. Flags flying at every turn. Banners and signs with heart-wrenching messages of love and support lining the streets and being hung from freeway overpasses. Veterans raising their arms to salute a hero, their eyes filled with tears, as the procession passed.

The outpouring of support online was no different. Thousands of people from all over the country who wanted to be there, whose hearts ached to be there, gathered as well. Pictures and videos poured in from all along the 200-mile route. As items were posted, people commented and shared and talked about how they were feeling, how they were touched, how they were watching and listening through tears. It was both a heart-breaking and heartwarming journey.

I never knew Chris, but his life affected me in profound ways; ways I almost hesitate to share because they are so deeply personal. Chris was a patriot. Not a fair-weather patriot, a standing up and speaking out for what he believed in, knocked down and dragged through the mud, "I am never out of the fight" patriot. His passion for his country and his belief in what he stood for were unshakeable.

I admire Chris, not just for being the warrior he was, but for the man he was. The way he believed in his wife, Taya, when she did not yet believe in herself, and honor his greatest honor was being a father to his two children, is a tribute to the rare, beautiful gift that love is, and the joy it brings to our lives. I love the way he teased his family and friends. The way he reached out to others who were in pain. The way he not just shared, but *lived*, his faith.

I believe Chris represents the best in all of us. He exuded the highest ideals. He believed in his country and in his fellow man. He showed us what we are capable of as individuals, and more importantly, what we are capable of as a nation. What overwhelmed me

most yesterday is still what overwhelms me today, and that is how We Stood Together. We stood together for Chris, but more importantly, we stood together for what he believed in. We stood together for our country and for one another. I will carry that moment with me all the days of my life.

May God bless Chris Kyle, his family, and the United States of America

Thank you.

—Anne M. Stratford, Michigan

With the untimely and unfortunate death of Chris Kyle the world witnessed the coming together of a cross section our Country's people that one never would have placed on the same stage. Military hero's honoring one of their own; family mourning the loss of their rock; a beautiful, smart and strong wife holding it together and providing the stability and comfort for her adoring two young children.

The world has just begun to hear from Chris Kyle. He has made a difference.

God rest his soul and bless his wife Taya and the children.

—Ron Lusk

I want to note how profoundly sad and sorry I am at the passing of a great American, Chris Kyle, just a few days ago. So many of you on my personal list knew him well. For those who didn't, Chris Kyle was many things: America's most accomplished military sniper, a Navy SEAL, and a selfless servant of our nation at war. You may have heard he was murdered in a terrible fashion in my own hometown of Glen Rose, Texas. It was a sad end for a good man, and it recalls to mind the epitaph given by Thucydides:

"The whole earth is the tomb of heroic men: and their story is not graven on their clay, but abides everywhere without visible symbol—woven into the stuff of other men's lives."

The work of Chris Kyle is indeed "woven into the stuff of [our] lives," as we prosper, live, and love, in the liberty he defended. It is in his memory, and so many others who fought and died before him, that this work, the work of defending freedom, must continue.

Our prayers are with his family and friends.

—Brooke L. Rollins, President and CEO, Texas Public Policy Foundation

It is not often you see the very best of the United States on display: too often, a problem postponed is considered a problem solved. Yet from time to time the citizens of that nation will do something to remind you of its greatness.

This past Monday afternoon, in Dallas, I can confidently say I did indeed see the very best of the United States on display as I joined seven thousand others to pay tribute to an extraordinary person. As a friend who was also there observed:

I don't think an assemblage of so many bronze and silver stars has ever honour one of their own and while we think of Chris as our friend and our hero, he was truly a hero's hero.

The thing that resonated most with us on Monday afternoon at Cowboys Stadium was not his heroism nor his decorations, it was his personality and his selflessness for his teammates and especially for his children. While I sent out several copies of Chris book, *American Sniper*, in my November 2012 booklist I did not realize that 100% of the proceeds were going to the families of team members who did not make it back from Iraq.

—James Aitken

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS KYLE

(By Kevin "Dauber" Lacz)

Of what is a legend forged?

Is a legend born of a practiced skill or a cold lethality?

Is it bred by tests of physical strength, overcome and surmounted?

Does it exist because of records broken, distances conquered, or kills accumulated?

Is a legend made by numbers in a desert, a tally kept neatly on a papers in an office?

Can a legend be worn like a trident?

No. This is not the stuff of legends.

A legend is made by a man with immeasurable courage and uncommon valor.

It lives in the heart of the bravest of men—a heart the size of Texas.

A legend is forged by a man who would lead when others would follow, would risk gladly his safety if only to serve God, country, and family.

A legend becomes, through the blood of a man shed generously and willingly in defense of the greatest nation on Earth.

A legend grows through a man's unfathomable love for his wife, his son, and his daughter.

A legend spreads as a man's generosity, warmth, and infallible friendship reach out and engulf all those he touches.

A legend endures.

A legend is forever so long as a man's memory lives on in the hearts of his Brothers, his family, and all those who loved him.

A legend lives on.

Chris Kyle's legend lives on in my own heart—the heart of his SEAL Brother, his pupil, and his friend. His legend survives in the memory I keep and pass to my son, as Chris joins the ranks of our nation's finest heroes and warriors. So long as there are men willing to defend the helpless, to hunt down and destroy evil, and to love their God, families, neighbors, and country, Chris Kyle can never die.

Chris, it was an honor to serve with you. It was a greater honor that you called me friend. Your legend lives on in me.

—Kevin "Dauber" Lacz

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, on February 2 America lost Naval Chief Petty Officer Christopher Scott Kyle in a tragic shooting.

Chief Kyle was a true Texan who grew up learning the cowboy ways in central Texas. After a riding injury to his arm, his future in the rodeo was lost. Kyle went on to pursue his other dream and joined the military. He served in the Navy for 10 years most notably as a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy SEAL's. Assigned to SEAL team 3 as a sniper, he served 4 tours in "Operation Iraqi Freedom." At the time of his tragic death, he was helping two fellow veterans cope with post-military life as he did with many other veterans.

During his 10 years of service to our country, Chief Kyle earned many awards and decorations. He earned two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation. Kyle's achievements and ferocity earned not only the respect of his fellow service men and women, but the enemy as well.

On February 12, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle was laid to rest at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas. Thousands lined the streets and highways to pay their respects and honor the service and sacrifice of Chief Kyle as his funeral procession traveled 200 miles from Midlothian to Austin.

On that day, we laid this American hero to rest. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and the many friends of Chief Kyle. He

will forever be remembered as an outstanding sailor, husband, and father. We thank him and his family for their service and sacrifice for our country.

His sacrifice reflects the words of Jesus in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

God bless our military men and women, and God bless America.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle.

Eleven days ago, Chief Kyle was taken away from all of us while doing what he did best—helping others, especially fellow veterans.

During his four tours in Iraq, Chief Kyle served in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His skill as a sniper became legendary among Americans and insurgents alike. He was given the nickname "the devil of Ramadi" by the insurgents and a \$20,000 bounty was placed on his head.

By the time Chief Kyle left the Navy in 2009, he had made 160 confirmed kills, more than any other U.S. military sniper in history.

Chief Kyle returned home to Midlothian, Texas in 2009 to be with his wife, Taya Kyle, and their two young children.

Chief Kyle continued protecting his fellow warriors through the creation of the Fitco Cares Foundation, which raised awareness and money to help veterans overcome post-traumatic stress disorder.

In 2012, Chief Kyle's, *American Sniper*, was published. Though his book became a best seller, he never received money from it. Instead, he used the proceeds for the families of two friends and fellow SEALs.

Most notable of all, Chief Kyle was a man who loved his family deeply, watched over his friends, and did all he could to protect and help those close to him.

I offer my condolences to the family and friends of Chris Kyle and offer the thanks of a grateful nation.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart after the loss of an American hero. I was saddened last week to learn about the tragic death of Chris Kyle, a former Navy SEAL, decorated Iraq war veteran and valuable member of the North Texas community. Mr. Kyle was a native Texan and received numerous awards and decorations throughout his four tours of duty in Iraq, including two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Upon his honorable discharge in 2009, Mr. Kyle returned home to North Texas and began focusing his attention on helping other veterans cope with the physical and emotional struggles of life after deployment. Whether he was in combat or in the community, Mr. Kyle was always dedicated to providing support for his fellow service members. His death is truly a significant loss, not only for North Texas, but for the country as a whole. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of this selfless American hero and to continue to send thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of native Texan, Chief Petty Officer Christopher Scott Kyle, a Navy SEAL and a true American hero.

Chris Kyle grew up in Odessa, Texas and as a young child, was taught to shoot by his

father. He went on to use those skills in defense of our nation as a SEAL in the U.S. Navy. Chief Kyle served in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom during his four tours in Iraq. During his time in Iraq, he was shot twice and involved in several IED explosions, and was awarded for his distinguished service both the Bronze and Silver Star medals several times.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy in 2009, this devoted family man to wife, Taya, and their two children, settled in Midlothian, Texas to run Craft International, a firm that provides law enforcement training and security protection. Determined to help his fellow soldiers, Chris helped create the Fitco Cares Foundation, which provides support and encouragement to veterans in need.

The untimely death of this American patriot and military hero is a devastating loss—not just for his precious family, but for his fellow veterans, his community and the entire nation. We grieve for his wife, and children, who must go on without his presence. We lament that his good works are left unfinished. And we mourn for the lives who have been robbed of ever knowing him and benefitting from his faith, encouragement, and tenacity.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, my prayers today are with the family and loved ones of Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle. I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic shooting of two men, including Chief Petty Officer Kyle, that took place in Erath County, Texas on February 2nd. A Navy SEAL, Chief Petty Officer Kyle earned distinction for his actions in battle during several tours of duty in Iraq, and is renowned as the most lethal sniper in American military history. Chief Petty Officer Kyle—by all accounts, a devoted father and husband—committed his life after serving to assisting his fellow veterans.

I join the citizens of a grateful nation in honoring Chief Petty Officer Kyle and all of our current and former military personnel for their valiant service. As the son, grandson, and brother of veterans, I deeply appreciate the brave men and women who have sacrificed to make our country and the world a better, safer place to live. President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." I agree, and will do my utmost to make sure that our defenders, such as Chief Petty Officer Kyle, are remembered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in honor and in memory of former U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle. Chris was senselessly killed on Saturday, February 2, 2013, along with a fellow veteran at a gun range 50 miles southwest of Fort Worth, Texas.

Chris was a true patriot who served our country with distinction and honor. Born in Odessa, Texas, Chris joined the United States Navy in 1999, after being initially rejected due to an arm injury sustained during his time as a professional bronco rodeo rider. Following his initial training, Kyle was assigned to the illustrious SEAL Team 3, where he participated in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his bravery, he was awarded two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation. Additionally, Kyle is credited with sniping more than 160 insurgents throughout his four deployments, making him one of the most lethal snipers in the history of the United States military.

After completing his combat duty in 2009, Chris continued to serve not only his country but also the unit he loved so much—the Navy SEALs—as well as fellow veterans of all branches struggling to cope with the effects of serving their country in wartime. Chris authored the Naval Special Warfare Sniper Doctrine—the first Navy SEAL sniper manual—and became chief instructor training Naval Special Warfare Sniper and Counter-Sniper teams. In 2011, Chris paired with FITCO Fitness to establish the FITCO Cares Foundation Heroes Project to help disabled or struggling veterans improve their lives. Chris knew that his experiences as a SEAL and the challenges he faced upon returning home could best be channeled into helping fellow veterans and their families who have given so much to ensure our safety and our freedom.

Sadly, Chris, along with his friend and fellow veteran, Chad Littlefield, died senselessly Saturday while trying to help another fellow veteran. While we may never be able to make sense of this terrible tragedy, today, we remember the sacrifice of these two brave men, who were not only heroic in their defense of this nation, but were also heroic here at home as they attempted to better the lives of their returning comrades.

Chris Kyle was deeply committed to serving both his country and his fellow veterans and will always be remembered as one who placed honor and duty above his own personal interest and safety. I am humbled by his service and dedication to not just the SEALs, but to his country, his fellow veterans, his community, his friends and his family. His sacrifice exemplifies that set forth in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

May the peace of God be with those they loved and those who loved them and sustain them through this time of sorrow.

□ 1610

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces, without objection, that the Speaker's appointment of members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on February 8, 2013, is made notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(4)(A) of rule X; and the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, and notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(1)(C) of rule X, of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. THOMPSON, California
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Illinois
Mr. LANGEVIN, Rhode Island
Mr. SCHIFF, California
Mr. GUTERREZ, Illinois
Mr. PASTOR, Arizona
Mr. HIMES, Connecticut

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.