

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST (SPC) JAMES ANDERSON CHANCE, III

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Mississippi Army National Guard Specialist (SPC) James Anderson Chance, III, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on November 6, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Chance was killed when his vehicle struck a landmine in Husaybah, Iraq. SPC Chance was assigned to C Company, 890th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, based in Columbia, Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press, SPC Chance volunteered to lead his convoy. He did not want his comrades to risk their lives if they had spouses or children. SPC Chance, a Kokomo, Mississippi native, was close to his parents, James and Patricia Ann Chance. Allen Chance, SPC Chance's brother, said he always lived close to his parents so he could look after them. "He was worried and he was trying to get it where he could come home for a few days to see her," Allen said. Mrs. Chance recently said her son was a good man who always made her laugh.

SPC Chance was remembered in a post on a memorial website. "SPC Chance, a true soldier, never complained, and moved out at a moment's notice," First Lieutenant (ILT) Robert Enochs of Saucier, Mississippi wrote. "Thanks for your love, dedication, and sacrifice for our country. I wish there were many more like you. We love and miss you dearly. We will never forget you."

SPC Chance joined the U.S. Army in 1997 after he graduated from Kokomo High School. He served one tour of duty in the Army. In 2002, he joined the Mississippi Army National Guard to pursue higher education opportunities.

A memorial service was held for SPC Chance at the Kokomo United Methodist Church which is located across the street from his childhood home. He was laid to rest at the Kokomo Community Cemetery.

SPC Chance is survived by his mother, Patricia Ann Chance; his brother, John Allen Chance; and his nephew, Samuel Chance.

SPC Chance will always be remembered for the sacrifice he made to protect America. He made his family and our nation proud.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT THOMPSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Thompson, of Afton, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 East Union's Military Service Recognition Award.

The Afton Star Enterprise reported that "Robert Thompson was a 1957 Afton High School graduate who enlisted in the U.S.

Army, serving from 1957 to 1979. He had two assignment periods in Viet Nam during the Viet Nam War, and while there received two Bronze Star Awards and a Silver Star for his action in combat and a Purple Heart for a combat-related injury." In addition to his service in Vietnam, Robert was stationed in other locations, like Iceland and Panama, before returning home to Afton with his family. He retired from the Army in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent Iowans like Robert in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Robert for receiving this outstanding designation and in wishing him nothing but the best.

RECOGNIZING BILL STANLEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend Mr. Bill Stanley on being named this year's William Crawford Distinguished Service Award winner by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

A native of Norwich, CT, Bill began his outstanding public service career in journalism, writing for local publications like the Norwich Bulletin and the New London Day. He then transitioned to government, working briefly as a campaign press secretary for Governor O'Neill before spending the next six years at Rome, Frankel & Kennelly. In 1996, Bill became Director of Corporate Communications for the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, where he worked until 1999. He currently serves as vice president of Development and Community Relations at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital. On a personal note, I have known Bill since my days as a rookie state legislator at the Connecticut General Assembly. He is deeply involved in the politics and community of his beloved Southeastern Connecticut, willing to throw himself into any cause that improves the region. Although passionate in his beliefs, he is a true gentleman and respectful of any and all people he interacts with, which is a lot.

Throughout his full and prestigious career, Bill has always found time to volunteer for numerous causes across Eastern CT. Currently he is Board Chairman of his alma mater's foundation, the Three Rivers Community College Foundation. He also sits on the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut's board of directors. Bill served nearly 20 years on the board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, including two terms as chairman. He previously served as chairman of the New London Redevelopment Agency and was a board member at St. Jude Common and the USS Connecticut Commissioning Committee. From 1996 to 1999, he was Chairman of the American Heart Association's Southeastern Connecticut Heart Walk and continues to serve on its Executive Leadership Team.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my dear friend Bill on receiving this noble recognition. May others always look to

him for a great example of leadership and service.

TRIBUTE TO DIWALI

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the India Association of Indianapolis (IAI). The IAI is a non-profit organization that unites Indian-Americans located in the central Indiana area. It has become a vital cultural bridge between Indian-Hoosiers and the community.

The IAI was founded in 1968 by fifteen families living in the Indianapolis area. Today, the IAI has a membership that exceeds 2,000 families and continues to climb. There are over 30,000 Indian-Americans living in the Indiana. The IAI has been a valuable voice for all Indian-Hoosiers and has increased understanding of India, Indian people, and Indian culture in central Indiana.

The mission of the IAI is to promote the cultural activities of India, to foster cultural exchange between people of India and the USA, and to carry out educational and charitable activities. Over the course of the last 50 years, the IAI has performed its mission admirably and has enriched the community immeasurably. It has played a crucial role to protecting, preserving, and promoting Indian traditions and has showcased the beauty of India to the Indianapolis community.

Whether it's the annual Diwali celebration, the Holi Festival, the yearly marking of India's independence, or a cricket game meant to foster friendship between the Indian and Pakistani-American community, the IAI has been a constant force of goodwill in Central Indiana. The IAI has grown exponentially since it was founded and is destined to do bigger and better things in the future. Indiana is lucky to have such an organization in its midst and I acknowledge the IAI, its leadership, and all its members.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I would like to salute the India Association of Indianapolis.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT (SGT) COURTLAND ANSHUN KENNARD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army (SGT) Sergeant Courtland Anshun Kennard who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on November 9, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Kennard was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. Also killed was Staff Sergeant (SSG) Gregory W.G. McCoy of Webberville, Michigan. SGT Kennard was assigned to the 410th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Retired Army Sergeant (SGT) Douglas Kennard, SGT Kennard's father, recently said his son grew up living on military bases in the United States and Germany. SGT Kennard graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School in Weisbaden, Germany in 2002. SGT Kennard followed in his father's footsteps when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003. "He wanted to join the Army," Mr. Kennard said. "I am extremely proud of him. I was always proud of him."

Pamela Pleasant, SGT Kennard's aunt, said she was always proud of her nephew. "He was an awesome kid," Mrs. Pleasant said. "He had a smile that would light up a room. He was so humble. I miss him terribly."

SGT Kennard was remembered by a fellow soldier on a memorial website. "I will always remember your smile, Kennard," Sergeant (SGT) Michele Martin wrote. "He is a very special person and a soldier. He was always there for his fellow comrades. When you were down, his smile always cheered you up. I will always cherish Kennard in my heart and always remember the great sacrifice he took for this great nation and his family to be free."

A funeral was held for SGT Kennard at Mount Pelier Missionary Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. SGT Kennard was laid to rest at Memorial Garden Park, which is located near Mississippi State University in Starkville.

SGT Kennard is survived by his parents, Douglas and Darlene Kennard; his brother, Jamahl Kennard; and his aunt, Pamela Pleasant.

SGT Kennard gave his life to protect our nation. His service will always be remembered.

HONORING RONALD JOHNSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the longstanding career of Ronald Johnson, a fearless leader for more than three decades in the fight against HIV/AIDS. His leadership spans numerous esteemed organizations and agencies including the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Minority Task Force on AIDS, City of New York, Presidential Advisory Council, AIDS Action, and United AIDS from which he is now retiring.

Following the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, the gay community of New York City witnessed the rising swell of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Throughout the 1980's, the number of AIDS-related deaths climbed higher each year. In 1981, amidst widespread fear and uncertainty, Dr. Lawrence Mass and Larry Kramer founded the first New York City nonprofit devoted to HIV and AIDS awareness, testing, education, advocacy, and prevention. They called it the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC).

Mr. Johnson began volunteering with GMHC in 1984, while continuing his service as the Assistant Executive Director of the University Settlement, a nonprofit social service program that assisted immigrants and low-income families with fulfilling their health, education, and housing needs. After volunteering for a few years, Mr. Johnson was invited to join the GMHC's Board of Directors.

Mr. Johnson served as Executive Director of the Minority Task Force on AIDS and in 1992

was appointed the Citywide Coordinator for AIDS Policy for the City of New York. Known for being both forceful and persuasive yet guided by facts, Mr. Johnson helped the city develop a comprehensive strategy for stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic through proactive education, prevention, and treatment. He strengthened the city's AIDS hotline and testing programs, needle-exchange program, and housing and medical care services for AIDS patients.

By 1996, Mr. Johnson was rewarded for his efforts as he witnessed a sharp decline in New York City's HIV and AIDS-related deaths. His programs were working and he had the data to prove it. He later joined the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, where he helped design the policy thinking and best practices for the President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I am honored to commend Ronald Johnson for his long career advocating for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS. His service and devotion has saved lives, inspired hope, and made this world a remarkably safer and better place.

HONOR THE LIFE OF GREG WOOD

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of my constituents, Greg Wood, who passed away on October 14, 2017, at the age of 70.

In tribute to Greg, who served in the United States Marine Corps and was wounded in action during the Vietnam War, my office arranged for an American flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol. I am so glad that our country raised the flag in Greg's honor, because Greg did so much to support and defend this country. Greg fought to protect the fundamental freedoms that our flag represents.

This Saturday is Veterans Day, when our nation pauses to express gratitude to all those who honorably served, both living and departed. The day before, I will attend a ceremony at the Park Maitland School in Orlando, where we will formally present the flag to Greg's widow, Donna. Donna was kind enough to talk to my office about her late husband, about what mattered most to him, and about how he lived his life.

Greg was many things—a Texan at heart despite spending most of his life in the Sunshine State; a well-educated man who earned a master's degree in finance; an adventure-seeker who once rode his motorcycle from the United States all the way down to Panama; a respected commercial real estate broker; a sports lover; a fisherman and a hunter; and a pillar of our central Florida community.

But, as Donna made crystal clear, Greg was—above all—a U.S. Marine and a family man. These two roles defined him. They were the core of who he was. They gave his life purpose and meaning.

In a speech that he delivered many years ago to members of the Marine Corps, President Ronald Reagan said: "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem."

Greg volunteered to serve in the Marine Corps in March 1966, when he was only 18 years old. After basic training, Greg was sent to Vietnam, where he served as a forward observer—directing artillery fire onto enemy targets. Working as a forward observer, especially in Vietnam, was an exceptionally dangerous job.

The Marines are famous for their bravery, discipline and toughness. Greg was a Marine's Marine—respected and even revered by his brothers in arms for his courage and commitment. Despite his youth, Greg was a natural leader of men. They followed him, and they trusted him. Some even thought he might be invincible, and did not want to go out on patrols unless Greg was going with them.

Friendships forged in war are uniquely deep and intense. Greg lost many good friends in Vietnam—and, as Donna tells us, he carried these losses with him for the remainder of his life. On some days, the memories haunted Greg, and he struggled with feelings of sadness and guilt. Like any warrior who has seen his fellow warriors fall, Greg naturally asked himself: "Why them and not me?"

Physically, as well as psychologically, Greg did not leave Vietnam unscathed. One fateful day, while out on a mission, he was shot and critically wounded—earning a Purple Heart. When Greg awoke hours later in a military hospital, a priest was administering his last rites. Although he survived, doctors told him he was unlikely to live past age 35. In a sense, then, Greg's entire life was one big case of beating the odds.

After being honorably discharged from the Marines, Greg was determined to become successful professionally and personally—in part to honor his fallen comrades who never had the chance to build a career or a family of their own. As Donna told us, nearly everything that Greg did later in life was shaped by his formative experience in Vietnam, whether for better or for worse.

One of Greg's daughters, Kristina, told me that her father loved war movies, but they always made him cry. It is clear that Greg had complex feelings about war itself, but that he cherished the American soldiers, sailors, airmen and—of course—Marines who fought these wars. It didn't matter whether they served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, or Iraq. He felt a sacred bond with all of them.

In addition to his military family, of course, Greg treasured his own family—which includes Donna, four children, and eight grandchildren. By all accounts, he was a loving husband and father, who coached Little League, served as a Boy Scout leader, and did all the big things and little things that great dads do.

So, I hope Greg has been reunited with the friends he lost in Vietnam. I hope he is happy and at peace. And I hope he knows how much his life mattered to his family and to the country he so nobly served.

TRIBUTE TO MCGWIRE MIDKIFF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate McGwire