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"In 2005, there were no greater Americans than our fallen patriots, Charlie Company infantrymen and their families. None greater. This, I believe, America needs to know," LTC Robertson said.

SFC Parker's daughter, Sheliah Parker, shared that her father's service made the family proud. "I'm very proud," Sheliah said. "He is the reason why I pushed myself so hard to become the first college graduate in the family. He is the reason I wanted to succeed. I think about him every day."

SFC Parker is survived by his wife, Kitza, daughters, Merissa and Sheliah, stepson, Ramsey Cumpton, mother, Ora Lee Hayes, brother, Mark Parker, and sister, Sable Parker.

SFC Parker's sacrifice to protect our nation will always be remembered.

LUBIN WALTER HUNTER

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 26, 2017*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lubin Walter Hunter on his 100th birthday, and to thank him for his years of dedicated service to our community, state and nation.

Lubin Walter Hunter, the oldest living member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and oldest living veteran in the Town of Southampton, was born and raised on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, NY.

Mr. Hunter proudly served our country during World War II as a B17 Navigator Gunner with the Army's Air Forces in the Pacific Arena. Just prior to enlisting in a cadet program, Mr. Hunter was employed as a "shipper and corker" on both the USS *Iowa* and *Missouri* battleships in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. After the war, he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Brooklyn College while working as a social worker.

In his retirement, Mr. Hunter returned to serve his tribal community by becoming an Elder at the Shinnecock Presbyterian Church, serving as Director of the Senior Nutrition Program. Mr. Hunter was also elected as a member of the Shinnecock Tribal Council, and served as a Health Committee Advisory Board member of the Shinnecock Family Preservation Center. Additionally, Mr. Hunter was a founder of the Shinnecock Golfers Association.

Today, I would like to wish Mr. Hunter happy birthday, and thank him for his service to our nation and the Shinnecock people.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST (SPC) BRYAN EDWARD BARRON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 26, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Mississippi Army Na-

tional Guard Specialist (SPC) Bryan Edward Barron who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on May 23, 2005, when his military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in Haswa, Iraq. Also killed were Sergeant (SGT) Audrey Daron Lunsford, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Saburant Parker, and Sergeant (SGT) Daniel Ryan Varnado.

SPC Barron was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 1-155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, Biloxi, Mississippi.

SPC Barron, a Biloxi native, was hoping to be home from Iraq in time for his daughter's first birthday when he was killed. A relative told the Associated Press that SPC Barron left behind two daughters.

"I can say this. He died a hero," his brother-in-law, Ken Daniels, said in 2005. "He was a true American. He found it worthwhile. He found it worth the risk to put his life in danger."

SPC Barron was memorialized with the naming of the Natchez Army National Guard Readiness Center in his honor. Many family members, soldiers, and friends were on hand for the dedication of the building.

Mississippi Army National Guard Brigadier General (BG) John Rhodes served as the 1-155th infantry battalion commander in 2005. BG Rhodes recently said SPC Barron will be remembered along with the others who died with him.

"SPC Bryan Edward Barron, SGT Audrey Daron Lunsford, SFC Saburant Parker, and SGT Daniel Ryan Varnado are remembered in many ways, but we knew them as warriors who represented something larger than themselves," BG Rhodes said. "They operated in a hostile environment and faced the dangers of combat on a regular basis. Yet, if given the choice, they would not have wanted it any other way. They sacrificed their lives trying to provide a better life for people who they did not even know. This is who they were and what they represented. They exemplified the modern day Mississippi Riflemen. Stand Fast, Mississippians! Stand Fast!"

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Andrew Robertson served as company commander of Charlie Company, 1-155th, Infantry Regiment, MS Army National Guard, Biloxi, Mississippi, serving operational control under 2-11 Armed Cavalry Regiment (ACR), U.S. Army. He says there were no greater people than the Charlie Company soldiers who endured being in the most dangerous and highest casualty area of operation as part of OIF III under Task Force 155 Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

"In 2005, there were no greater Americans than our fallen patriots, Charlie Company infantrymen and their families. None greater. This, I believe America needs to know," LTC Robertson said.

SPC Barron's daughter, Hayley Barron, shared how proud she is of her father's service. "I am tremendously proud," Hayley said. "What he has done, laid the foundation for my sister and me for years to come. He went to Iraq for a very good purpose."

SPC Barron is survived by his wife, Amanda, daughters, Hayley Barron, Jaden Barron, mother, Cynthia Barron, sisters, Sandy Barron, Jodie Barron, Susie Barron, and brother, Cory Barron.

SPC Barron's sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE LONG CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF BEVERLY ROWE

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 26, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Beverly Rowe of Rolla, Missouri, as she retires after more than forty-nine years of public service. Her longstanding career at Fort Leonard Wood was dedicated to assisting military service members and their families in many capacities.

Ms. Rowe began her career on October 30, 1967, as a military personnel clerk, preparing reassignment orders for prior-service and medically evacuated soldiers returning to active duty, and soldiers assigned to the Special Processing Detachment. She managed the Hometown Recruiting Assistance Program, Junior Enlisted Travel, and United States Military Academy Preparatory School candidates. She also served as the basic training assignment lead clerk and with the AG Trainee/Student Personnel Section.

Beverly was promoted to the position of supervisory travel assistant with the Central Port Call Office in February 1984.

In September 1993, Ms. Rowe began working in the Retirement Services Office as a contact representative, a survivor benefit counselor, and processed enlisted and officer retirement applications. She was later selected as the Retirement Services Officer.

Most recently, Ms. Rowe became the Transition Services Manager in June 2012, working with the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program.

Ms. Rowe completed college courses at Central Texas College, Drury University, and the University of Colorado-Denver while working at Fort Leonard Wood. Upon retirement, she plans to continue living in Rolla and volunteering at Leach Theater.

She has a lifetime of service at Fort Leonard Wood, providing expertise, stability, continuity of operations, and critical support on a daily basis. I celebrate with Beverly Rowe as she enters retirement after more than forty-nine years.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI U.S. MARINE CORPS SERGEANT (SGT) JONATHAN WYATT LAMBERT

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 26, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant (Sgt) Jonathan Wyatt Lambert who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on May 26, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt Lambert died on June 1, 2003, at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, from injuries he sustained when the Humvee he was riding in rolled over.

Sgt Lambert was assigned to the Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. The 1993 Booneville High School graduate enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1995. Sgt Lambert served in the

Marine Corps for four years. After working in wireless data communications, Sgt Lambert reenlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in November 2000.

A proud Eagle Scout, Sgt Lambert was inspired to join the Marines by his uncle, Carroll Brown, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam. He liked to listen to his stories.

Shortly before his death, Sgt Lambert wrote an article that appeared on Memorial Day in his hometown newspaper, *The Banner-Independent*. "I am a Marine," he wrote. "It has always been a dream for me to be in the Marines. I love the challenge. I continuously work and sweat for it. I feel that I need to give back to my nation what so many have gave before me."

Sgt Lambert left behind a wife, Betty Oswald Lambert, and daughter, Kinsey Jade Lambert, of Rienzi. Though he died the day before her second birthday, Kinsey Jade recently said how much she enjoys hearing the stories about her father. She is proud of his service. "I'm proud of him for being in the military," Kinsey Jade said. "I respect that. He did it for our country."

"I have always been proud. He was my hero," Mrs. Lambert said. "He was the one who was going to keep the evil from coming to America. He was loved."

In 2013, Sgt Lambert was memorialized with the renaming of a portion of Highway 4 in Prentiss County in his honor.

Sgt Lambert's funeral was held at Little Brown Freewill Baptist Church. Mrs. Lambert says more than one hundred cars were in the funeral procession which followed the route where her son grew up in New Site.

Sgt. Lambert was the recipient of the following awards: Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Meritorious Mast (2), Army Achievement Medal, Rifle Expert Badge, Pistol Expert Badge, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award), Letter of Appreciation (2nd AWD).

In addition to his wife and daughter, Sgt Lambert is survived by his parents, Johnny and Becky Lambert, sister, Misty Terry, and niece Allie Eaton.

Sgt Lambert's sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten.

#### WHY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE CRITICAL TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 26, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, over the past forty-two years, much has changed in Vietnam. The Vietnamese people are a little richer, but still have few rights.

The Vietnamese Communist Party has opened up a bit to the outside world, but remains closed to democratic reforms and the rule of law.

U.S.-Vietnamese relations have warmed because Vietnam fears China's increasing economic power and its incursions in the South China Sea, but we see few human rights improvements emerge from better relations.

Over the past two years, Human Rights Watch has used the words "dismal" and

"abysmal" to describe Vietnam's human rights record. Vietnam scored a 7, the lowest score, on Freedom House's "Freedom in the World" index.

From sex and labor trafficking to the censorship of the press and Internet; from restrictions on independent labor unions to severe repression of faith communities, the Vietnamese Government and Communist Party is one of the world's worst abusers of human rights.

For too long Vietnam has gotten a free pass on human rights. Diplomats are so focused on the fact that Vietnam is "not China" that this oppressive police state is granted trade and security benefits without condition. There is a silent human rights crisis going on in Vietnam that must be addressed.

Human rights should be a top talking point when President Trump meets next week with Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc. Doing so will advance U.S. economic and security interests and it will be warmly welcomed by the Vietnamese people.

The President has a real opportunity to bring about tangible reforms in Vietnam if he links better U.S.-Vietnam relations to tangible human rights improvements.

I have been to Vietnam. I have met with its rights advocates and young activists for decades now, like imprisoned rights activist Nguyen Van Dai. I know there is a younger generation in Vietnam—66% of Vietnam is under the age of 40—that looks to the U.S. as a land of opportunity and freedom. They want the same liberties enjoyed by their relatives in California, Texas, Virginia, Louisiana and so many other places where former Vietnamese refugees have flourished.

The Vietnamese people want the U.S. to be a voice for freedom—because their voice is silenced.

No government that represses its own people or restricts fundamental freedoms can be a trusted ally of the United States. No government that censors the Internet, tortures and jails dissidents, and crushes civil society should be given generous trade or security benefits without conditions.

The President will face pressure from his advisors and the business community to look at Vietnam through the lens of trade deals and the containment of China. Hopefully, he will be able to see the situation more clearly than past Administrations.

Failing to press for real and concrete human rights improvements underestimates U.S. leverage and will disappoint the young generation in Vietnam who are that country's dynamic future.

It should be clear by now that Vietnam needs the U.S. markets and security commitments much more than the U.S. needs Vietnam's markets and security cooperation.

If history is any guide, the President's, championing of individual rights will meet with some success. If his interest in human rights is sustained, those successes could be tangible and far-reaching.

The Vietnamese government has responded to concerns expressed by the last two Administrations when they linked human rights improvements to better U.S.-Vietnam relations. Whether to gain entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) or to address U.S. concerns over religious freedom abuses, the Vietnamese government took steps toward reform when pressed by past American Presidents.

It is when the U.S. loses interest in human rights that conditions regress.

The Communist leaders in Hanoi take our trade benefits and security commitments and continue repressing those seeking political reform and universal freedoms.

The business of the Communist Party is staying in power and repressing those they believe will challenge their power. They will not embrace human rights improvements or the rule of law unless it is a firm condition of better relations with the U.S.

I am circulating a letter for the signatures of other Members of Congress detailing the strategic opportunities available for the United States and the Vietnamese people if the President pursues a robust human rights agenda.

The letter urges the President to pursue Internet freedom, religious freedom, independent labor unions, and the release of prisoners of conscience—as a condition of U.S. assistance.

These fundamental freedoms are directly related to U.S. interests in a better business climate, less corruption, investor confidence, expansion of economic freedom, and civil society development.

I also wrote to Secretary Rex Tillerson to urge more robust human rights diplomacy in Vietnam, particularly on the issue of religious freedom.

I urged the Secretary to use the authorities given him by the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and the Global Magnitsky Act, legislation I introduced, that was passed into law last year to hold individual government officials accountable for human rights abuses and restrictions on religious freedom.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended that Vietnam be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern" for severe and egregious religious freedom restrictions. That report provides compelling evidence of egregious and ongoing religious freedom violations in Vietnam.

The President should follow USCIRF's recommendation and immediately designate Vietnam as a CPC for its religious freedom violations. This designation carries with it potential sanctions and visa denials for Vietnamese government officials complicit in religious freedom abuses.

No Vietnamese government official who tortures political dissidents or restricts the activities of religious communities should profit from access to the U.S. or our financial system.

Let me say that the violence and intimidation faced by Hmong and Montagard Christians, by Khmer Krom Buddhists, by the independent Hoa Hao and Cao Dai groups is outrageous. The torture faced by Ms. Tran Thi Hong is shocking. She was on her way to meet religious freedom Ambassador David Saperstein to advocate for the release of her husband Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh.

If there are religious prisoners, if forced renunciations of faith are happening, if pagodas and churches and places of worship are forcibly closed—how does Vietnam not meet the criteria for CPC? We know it does. Politics should not play a part in designations.

I will be working closely with the State Department to make sure international religious freedom is a diplomatic priority. This fundamental freedom is not merely a humanitarian issue with little strategic value—it is critical to our security and prosperity.