

Research shows that countries that embrace and protect religious freedom are more economically successful, protect women's rights, and experience less terrorism and political instability. There is not a single country that respects religious freedom that poses a security threat to the U.S. In fact, just the opposite is true—countries who are the worst violators of religious freedom are often those who seek to do Americans the most harm and seek to tear down democratic values and institutions. These facts alone should give us pause in expanding relations with Vietnam.

President Trump should not prop up Vietnam's Communist old guard because they are not Vietnam's future. That future lies with Nguyen Van Dai and the many bloggers and advocates of political reform and human rights who seek our freedoms more than our trade.

U.S. policy must send the unmistakable message to the Government of Vietnam that human rights improvements are fundamental to better relations, critically linked to our mutual economic and security interests, and will not be ignored or bargained away.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NA-
TIONAL GUARD SERGEANT (SGT)
AUDREY DARON LUNSFORD

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

SGT Lunsford, a Sardis native, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 1–155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb Mississippi.

SGT Lunsford enlisted in the Army after he graduated from high school in 1993. He served as a U.S. Army Ranger. After completing four years of service in the Army, SGT Lunsford became an officer with the Sardis Police Department and a firefighter for the Tunica Fire Department.

In January 2005, SGT Lunsford enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard. His wife, Vangi, says he reenlisted because he wanted to provide for his family, including his daughter, Paris Audrey, should something happen to him. Vangi says her husband was committed to fighting for freedom.

"Daron wanted to fight for our family's freedom," Vangi said. "He also wanted to fight for others who couldn't go to the battlefield."

Brigadier General (BG) John Rhodes served as the 1–155th infantry battalion commander in 2005. He recently praised SGT Lunsford and the soldiers who died with him on that day.

"SGT Audrey Daron Lunsford, SPC Bryan Edward Barron, 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 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.

SGT Daron is survived by his wife Vangi, daughter, Paris Audrey, mother Martha Sue Lunsford, and siblings; Donna Miller, Danny Lunsford, David Lunsford, Kim Lunsford Diffree, Michael Lunsford, and Alton Lunsford.

SGT Lunsford's devotion to America and the sacrifice he made will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR
JEFFREY FAHRENWALD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 26, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Jeffrey Fahrenwald who is retiring from Rockford University. Professor Fahrenwald has become a pillar in the Rockford community, and he will be greatly missed.

Professor Fahrenwald is the Director of the MBA program at Rockford University, where he has taught in areas of human relations, management, leadership and international studies. He has enriched our community through his leadership in small business development, in addition to serving on numerous not-for-profit boards. Professor Fahrenwald's contributions to our community have not gone unnoticed, and he was named one of our region's "People You Should Know" in 2011, and "Citizen of the Year" in 2014 by the Rockford Chamber of Commerce for all his tireless work to empower those living in the Rockford community.

It is because of dedicated and selfless leaders such as Professor Fahrenwald that I am especially proud to serve Illinois 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Professor Jeffrey Fahrenwald on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SER-
GEANT (SSG) DAVID DWAYNE
SELF

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 fallen soldier Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) David Dwayne Self who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 16, 2011, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SSG Self died from wounds sustained after his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device in Spin Ghbarga, Zabul province, Afghanistan, during his fourth tour of duty. SSG Self was one of four American soldiers killed in the insurgent attack.

SSG Self was assigned to the Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany. SSG Self graduated from Pearl High School in 2000 before enlisting in the U.S. Army. According to an article written by Nate Rawlings, SSG Self was a, "quiet, steady non-commissioned officer who knew his job well." Rawlings also shared, "we never heard him complain about anything" and praised SSG Self's ability to work calmly under pressure. As an example of SSG Self's calmness under pressure, Rawlings said SSG Self once evacuated his wounded gunner after an artillery shell exploded underneath their vehicle.

He is survived by his father and step mother, Eddie F. Self and Kathleen Self; his mother, Linda Rhodes; his sister, Kimela Shull; and his step sisters, Lorene Thomas and Sherry Wilmouth.

The sacrifice of this brave soldier will always be remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 26, 2017

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that crimes against children are particularly egregious. It is our duty as members of Congress to do everything we can to prevent these crimes and hold offenders accountable. However, I felt compelled to vote against H.R. 1842, H.R. 1862, and H.R. 1761, as each of these flawed bills would increase the application of mandatory minimum sentences in the U.S. criminal justice system. Judges already have the ability to impose harsh sentences in these cases as they see fit. Mandatory minimum sentences make it impossible for judges to take context or circumstance into consideration, which eliminates judicial discretion and compromises the futures of those at the hands of our justice system. Mandatory minimums create a glaring disproportionality between crime and according punishment and subsequently expand prison populations, strain resources and structures of support, and disproportionately impact communities of color. Because of my stance on this issue and my steadfast resolve to fight any expansion of mandatory minimum sentences, I have voted against each of these bills. I remain committed

to protecting our children and doing everything in my power to prevent crimes against children from happening, but expanding mandatory minimums is not the answer. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle as we continue to pursue critical reforms to the criminal justice system.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI MARINE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (PFC) STEPHEN PHILLIP BALDWIN

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 Marine Private First Class (PFC) Stephen Phillip Baldwin who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on May 5, 2005. PFC Baldwin was killed in an explosion, while he was conducting combat operations in Nasser Wa Salaam, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

During his military service, he received the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment, and Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon. He was also awarded the Rifle Marksman badge.

PFC Baldwin was born on May 7, 1986, in Saltillo, MS. He earned his Eagle Scout badge before graduating from high school in 2004 and leaving for boot camp. He was 19 years old at the time of his death.

PFC Baldwin is survived by his parents, Danny and Stephanie Baldwin.

The sacrifice of this brave Marine will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING GREG GARRISON

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 26, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute the distinguished "Voice

of the Heartland", Greg Garrison, who has announced that he will retire from his radio program on June 9, 2017. I wish to express my admiration and appreciation for Mr. Garrison and his constant dedication to his conservative Hoosier values.

Greg's commitment to the rule of law and justice began before he took to the airwaves, serving the community through his law firm Garrison Law, which focuses on personal injury, business, and commercial law. It was through his diligent work in his practice that he gained fame during the high profile prosecution of boxer Mike Tyson in 1992. That case lead to opportunities to offer legal analysis nationwide for major trials such as O.J. Simpson and Timothy McVeigh, and on various media platforms such as 60 Minutes, the Today Show, 48 Hours, the FOX News Channel, Rivera Live and ESPN.

Greg became a Hoosier treasure through his radio program that began twenty years ago. His program, Garrison, became an institution of measured thought and Hoosier values. He connected with his listeners through his warm demeanor that sounded more like a friend than a commentator. He was a positive influence on the lives of the countless Hoosiers that spent their mornings listening to him.

I have known Greg for almost as long as he has been on the air. As Secretary of State, I was a guest on his show on several occasions, speaking about the need to improve election integrity with the adoption of the state's photo ID law. We also discussed investigations into voter fraud and redistricting reform. As a member of Congress, my appearances were more frequent as a regular on his program until he cut back his hours and moved to a later timeslot. I will always remember he asked tough, but fair questions teeming with Hoosier common sense.

While it will be sad to not hear his voice over Indianapolis' airwaves every day, he will not be disappearing from the scene completely. He plans to be on the radio every now and again and he plans to stay active in his law practice. But his daily presence will be missed.

Congratulations to Greg on twenty years of service to the Hoosier state and a happy and well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) MARK ALLEN MAIDA

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 fallen soldier Army Sergeant (SGT) Mark Allen Maida who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 27, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Maida died of wounds he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Diyarrah, Iraq.

SGT Maida was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, attached to Mississippi's 155th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Fort Irwin, California. SGT Maida chose to join the Army shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He joined the Army on October 31, 2001, and was assigned to Fort Irwin, California, where he assisted in training soldiers in preparation for deployment to Iraq. Fallen Heroes Project writes that SGT Maida was originally scheduled for discharge in October of 2004, and he was planning to attend Madison Area Technical College. Instead, his service was extended, and he was deployed to Iraq in January of 2005.

SGT Maida was born in Madison, Wisconsin on November 15, 1982 to parents Ray and Diane Maida. He graduated from Memorial High School in 2001. According to Fallen Heroes Project, Chris Maida, a veteran, attempted to talk his brother out of enlisting. Chris said, "He just laughed. He loved life and he wasn't afraid of anything." The Chicago Tribune writes that SGT Maida was "known for a great sense of humor and loved hunting, fishing and the outdoors; but most of all he loved his family and friends."

SGT Maida's survivors include his parents, Ray and Diane Maida; a sister, Juliann Mutch; two brothers, Aaron Maida and Christopher Maida; one grandmother, Olga Herman; two nieces and two nephews.

The sacrifice of this brave soldier will always be remembered.