

IN HONOR OF KIRSTEN C. COTY

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Lieutenant Kirsten C. Coty, a courageous American hero, who recently returned from serving her country honorably in Iraq. First Lt. Coty's military service first began in March 2007, when she joined the Security Forces of the U.S. Air Force. She went on to complete her Air Force Officer Training in San Antonio, Texas before being assigned to the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In August 2009, 1st Lt. Coty was deployed to Joint Base Balad in Iraq as part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. In January 2010, she was reassigned to the United States Air Forces Central and extended her commitment of service through August 2010. Upon returning from Iraq, 1st Lt. Coty has been assigned again to the 90th Security Forces Squadron at the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Characteristic to her distinguished service, 1st Lt. Coty continues to exemplify the strong character and bravery of the men and women who have put their lives at risk to fight to keep our country safe and free.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing 1st Lt. Kirsten C. Coty for her bravery, dedication and achievements. The American people owe her a great debt of gratitude for her selfless service to our great nation.

HONORING ST. JOHN OF THE  
CROSS PARISH IN WESTERN  
SPRINGS ON THEIR 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross Parish, a Catholic community in Western Springs, Illinois. This Saturday, September 18th, the parish is beginning a year-long celebration of 50 years as a faith community. My wife, Judy, and I will be participating in the first anniversary event which is a Mass celebrated by Francis Cardinal George followed by a parish family dinner reception.

Responding to a growing Catholic population in Western Springs in the 1950s, the Archbishop of Chicago, Albert Cardinal Meyer, authorized the founding of St. John of the Cross Parish in 1960. The original parish included 650 families. The church flourished under its first pastor, Reverend William J. Bennett, and opened a K-8 school of 595 students one year later.

Over the last 50 years, St. John of the Cross has been a pillar of the community in Western Springs. Its primary mission is feeding the spiritual needs of its 13,000 Catholic parishioners in 3,875 families. It is also one of the most generous faith communities in Chicagoland, including providing financial help

and cultivating personal relationships with five churches around the U.S. and one in Uganda, along with helping to serve the basic needs of countless people in the area and around the world. St. John of the Cross Parish also supports a school that currently enrolls 700 students and is one of the top schools in Chicagoland.

As a parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish, I have been able to witness first-hand the dedication and hard work of current pastor, Reverend David P. Dowdle, and the previous pastor, Reverend Richard Hines. All of the priests and staff members of St. John of the Cross cultivate a culture of charity and community among the parish.

I ask you to join me in honoring the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross on the parish's 50th anniversary. May they enjoy this year-long celebration and may they provide many more years of commitment and service to the community.

ESTABLISHING ARMY CORPS OF  
ENGINEERS  
CURATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5282, a bill that would create a Veterans' Curation Program at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, Mr. BARROW, for his work on this legislation. H.R. 5282 again shows the necessary commitment from the federal government to assist our veterans and military personnel through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While I am supportive of H.R. 5282, I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to discuss perhaps the biggest issue for the Corps of Engineers in the State of Georgia—updating the current manuals that affect both the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basins. Over the next 18 months before the court ordered deadline for negotiations to be completed, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida must develop a workable water sharing plan with the resources within these two basins.

Madam Speaker, one of the critical aspects of these negotiations will be how Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier are treated. I firmly believe that both of these lakes should be considered water supply lakes for the purposes of serving the local communities. Knowing that the negotiations are ongoing, it is my hope that common ground on the treatment of these lakes will be reached.

To that end, I applaud the leadership of both of Georgia Senators—SAXBY CHAMBLISS and JOHNNY ISAKSON—on these water issues. Specifically, both Senators have championed the notion of authorizing Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona to be used for water supply and reallocation of storage to meet the current and future needs of the surrounding towns and cities.

As for the governors of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, I hope that a compromise including the use of these lakes for water storage and further, that allows them to be part of the water supply for the State of Georgia is on the horizon.

Madam Speaker, I am supportive of the efforts of the bill that we have before us and believe that it is another way in which we can help those who have so bravely served our country through the Armed Forces. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5282.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
U.S. MARINE CPL. JOE  
WRIGHTSMAN

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman for his selfless and valiant service to our nation.

On July 18, 2010, our country lost a Marine, and Jackson Parish lost a native son. However, as long as the American flag continues to fly over the sands of Afghanistan and the piney hills of Jackson Parish, Wrightsman's contributions to protecting the freedoms we hold so dear will never be forgotten.

A 2005 graduate of Jonesboro Hodge High School, Wrightsman was serving his third tour overseas—an exemplary achievement of a young man of 23 years old. In a generation where so many men and women have answered freedom's call to duty, his example of heroism and devotion embody what has truly made America a great nation for over two centuries.

Today, our words seem futile in comparison to Wrightsman's service, but as written in 2 Corinthians 1:3, our prayer is "that the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, may be able to comfort those in troubling times."

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman and extending thanks on behalf of a grateful nation.

**KYLE VANOCKER****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Sheriff Kyle Christine VanOcker. Ms. VanOcker passed away August 19, 2010 after a heroic battle with lung cancer.

Kyle's career in law enforcement began in 1986 as a police dispatcher for the Wheat Ridge Colorado Police Department. In 1989 Kyle joined the Jefferson County Sheriffs Department. During her years of service to the community, which spanned 24 years, Kyle received many awards and touched several lives by seeing the good in everyone.

Kyle was a model for outstanding service to her community and in honor of her memory, her family sponsored a K-9 dog for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The Department is naming the dog Kyle.