

reverence of all those who have the privilege to live in this great nation.

We live in the most diverse nation in the world, and the City of Fresno is a microcosm of that diversity with people of every language, culture and religion living in its borders. Yet despite that diversity, the City of Fresno and all its citizens unanimously support and stand behind protecting our flag. For our flag reminds us of our shared history and freedom, both of which transcend our diversity.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Fresno City Council's unanimous support of H.J. Resolution 54. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their support and reminding us of the vast and diverse support for protecting our great flag.

#### TRIBUTE TO KENNETH A. WALSH

### HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 3, 1998*

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, when he talked about Medal of Honor recipients like Kenneth A. Walsh, President Reagan asked "Where did we find such men?" He answered: "We found them where we always did—in our villages and towns, on our city streets, in our shops and on our farms." We found Kenneth A. Walsh in Brooklyn, and, more recently, I am proud to say, in Orange County, California. His presence alone—for he never boasted, or bragged, or even talked much about his service—reminded us of the cost of freedom, and the bravery inspired by the American ideal. The nation lost another hero last week. I submit to the RECORD an article from Friday's Orange County Register, so that we will always remember him:

[From the Orange County Register, July 31, 1998]

#### ONE ENEMY HE COULD NOT DEFEAT

(Military: Kenneth A. Walsh, a Medal of Honor recipient, dies at 81)

(By Tom Berg)

SANTA ANA—His bags were packed by the front door when he died. His ride to the airport was idling outside. Another air show and another honor were awaiting Kenneth A. Walsh, American hero.

He died Thursday doing what he'd done for decades—promoting patriotism as a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Here was a Marine who shot down 21 Japanese planes in World War II. A pilot who crashed or was shot down five times. A man who earned the highest military distinction given in this nation.

His death, at age 81, leaves just two other living Medal of Honor recipients in Orange County.

"He was a natural-born fighter pilot, with guts you wouldn't believe," recalled historian, friend and veteran George Grupe, 76, of Newport Beach. "To fly in when he's outnumbered 50 to one . . . he was a real tiger."

A pilot must shoot down five enemy planes before he is called an ace. Walsh had earned that title twice—downing 10 Japanese planes—before fate would usher him into the thick of two firefights in 1943 that would result in his meeting the president of the United States.

On August 15, Walsh led a squadron of five Corsairs into 30 Japanese Val bombers and Zero fighters massing to attack U.S. troops.

Walsh shot down two Vals and a Zero before 20mm cannon fire blew holes in the wing and fuel tank of his Corsair. He landed, but his plane never flew again.

Two weeks later, he spotted 50 Japanese planes while he was flying alone, away from his squadron. He dove into the fray against incredible odds and shot down two Zeros before rejoining his squadron. He then shot down two more Zeros before his Corsair took enemy fire and crashed.

"Everyone knew about Ken Walsh," said Medal of Honor recipient William Barber 78, of Irvine. "He was one of those few Marines who gained the day in competition with the Japanese air forces in the Solomon Islands in 1943."

After the war, Walsh and his wife, Beulah, walked timidly into the Oval Office, where Franklin Roosevelt handed him the Medal of Honor for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.

Walsh uttered few words.

"Scared, young man?" FDR asked.

"Yessir!"

"Lieutenant Walsh, will you shake my hand?" Roosevelt asked.

"Yessir!" Walsh said again.

Quite a moment for a young man from Brooklyn who joined the Marines as a skinny teen-ager. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and settled in Santa Ana in 1962.

The Medal of Honor has hung on the chests of only 3,412 soldiers since the days of the Civil War. Only 163 survive today—11 in California and two in Orange County: Barber and Walter Ehlers, 76, of Buena Park.

All three men appeared often at patriotic events. They were among eight Medal of Honor recipients from Orange County who were honored with monuments last Memorial Day at the War Memorial Plaza in Santa Ana's Civic Center.

"He was very proud of that," said Sid Goldstein, 78, of Westminster, past national Commander of the Legion of Valor. "He took pictures. He wanted to make sure all his family back in Brooklyn got a picture of that concrete. He used to say, 'Here I was a poor Irish kid from Brooklyn when I got the Medal of Honor. I never could foresee being so honored and respected in society.'"

For all his bravery, Walsh rarely talked about his heroics.

"He was always asked by different people about what he did, and he would tell them," said Beulah, his wife of 57 years, "but he never talked to me much about it."

Walsh, who died of a possible heart attack, was on his way to Oshkosh, Wis., for an air show where he was to be among four Medal of Honor recipients honored (one for each branch of service).

"All I can say is he'll be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, I hope," Beulah Walsh said. "That was his wish."

Besides his wife, Walsh is survived by a son, Thomas. Funeral arrangements are pending.

#### IN HONOR OF THE SPONSORS OF PROJECT CHILDREN 1998

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 3, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of people, the sponsors of Project Children '98 who have distinguished themselves with selfless dedication to the promotion and ultimate accomplishment of peace in Northern Ireland. Project Children

is an organization that provides young people from the north of Ireland a respite from the violence which for too long has been a part of their lives. Through their generosity of spirit, the children's sponsors serve as a vivid illustration of the best we, as Americans, have to offer: respect for individual freedom.

This year, the 52 families from my home state that have been kindhearted enough to open their lives to these young people include George and Victoria Amaratis, Rodney and Linda Bialko, Matthew and Mary Beth Bigley, Garry and Janet Baker, Gary and Linda Bardzell, Charles and June Bray, Edward and Carol Blakeslee, Kevin and Patricia Comer, Robert and Barbara Comito, James and Aljean Brennan, Philip and Kathleen DiCicco, Donald and Irene Diverio, Robert and Brianna Donohue, Al and Ellen Dorso, Peter and Robin DuHaine, Thomas and Cynthia Evison, Sr., Rick and Arlene Faustini, Ken and Arleen Ferguson, Robert and Elizabeth Gamble, Margaret Gilsenan, Michael and Pat Goodwin, Brian and Elizabeth Burdzy, Diane Capizzi, George and Margaret Hughes, Steven and Annette Carbone, Nicholas and Patricia Kaminski, Keith and Karen Kirby, Jeffrey and Carol Carlisle, John and Linda Camey, John and Louise McGlinchey, Raymond and Donna Flannery, Robert and Dyan Moore, Thomas and Michele Flynn, Anson and Patricia Grover, David and Cathleen Quinn, Raymond and Isabell Kayal, Kevin and Linda Kearney, James and Mary Ellen Ruitenbeg, Andrew and Lynne Klosowki, Gilbert and Sharon Mai, Robert and Linda McGee, Stephen and Catherine Simpson, Michael and Laura Sims, Cheryl Stone, Douglas and Susanna Stroud, Dan and Debbie McGovern, Robert and Denise Thompson, Jr., Elliot and Jean Scheps, Hoby and Joyce Stager, Keith and Barbara Stiehler, Kenneth and Makala Zollo/McQuiston, and Joseph and Barbara Wells.

The 57 Children we are privileged to have visit New Jersey are Darren Stirling, Michelle Donnelly, James Scullion, Gerald O'Reilly, Lesley Black, Steven Orr, Oriath McKenna, Ryan Corbett, Kevin Nellins, Michaela Doyle, Charlene McWilliams, Lindsey Todd, Louise McVeigh, Natalie Porter, Claire McKinley, Joseph Doak, Ryan Groves, Tanya Hughes, David Butler, Leonna O'Neill, Shauna O'Toole, James Adley, Seamus Nellins, Michael Duffy, Sean McKee, Karin Larkin, Daniel Lynch, Louise McConville, Leeanne Cahill, Hugh McKibbin, Robert Watson, Seamus McDermott Gemma Johnston, Jason Curran, Joanne Kerrigan, Emma Campbell, Mark Kennedy, Danielle Gorman, Richard Cunningham, Luke McKibbin, Christopher McCrory, Gillian Millen, Lisa McCloskey, Michael Rankin Hannah Ganley, Jennifer Dixon, Nicola McCabe, and Kenneth Murphy.

I would also like to pay special tribute to John and Joan Hughes, Area Coordinators, Liam Neeson of O'Donoghues on First for hosting our annual luncheon, and Committee Members Carolyn Malizia, Patti Morreale, Mary Ann McAdams, Joseph Masterson, Edward Phillips, and Dennis Collins.

It is an honor to applaud the outstanding benevolence of the Project Children '98 sponsors. Their efforts to further the cause of peace have served as a beacon of hope for the countless others throughout Northern Ireland and the world. These compassionate individuals are truly local ambassadors of peace.