

HONORING ROMAN, DON AND GLORIA REED FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO FUND SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues the achievements of a remarkable family in my district.

Roman Reed was a star college football player until he was paralyzed by a game injury that broke his neck. Such an injury would devastate most families, but not the Reeds. Roman's father, Don, began tirelessly searching for cures for his son's injuries. Don learned that, while research is moving closer and closer to a cure, insufficient funding is slowing our chances for success.

Roman's parents, Don and Gloria Reed, have become tireless advocates for spinal cord research. They gathered other concerned citizens and founded "Californians for a Cure," a campaign to raise funds for spinal cord injury research. Car accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injury. Recognizing that, they sought state legislation to dedicate a portion of the state revenues collected from speeding tickets to spinal cord research.

The Reed's State Assemblyman, John Dutra, took up their cause for spinal cord research in the State Legislature. In September 2000, after three years of tremendous work, Governor Gray Davis signed the Roman Reed bill into law. For five years, this law will provide \$1 million annually for spinal cord research in California.

Last Friday, March 1, the Roman Reed Laboratory for Spinal Cord Injury Research was dedicated at the University of California, Irvine. This laboratory was created through some of the funds made possible by the Roman Reed Bill. The Roman Reed Laboratory has a simple, important vision: to create a setting where scientists can rapidly translate ideas into research. Furthermore, the laboratory hopes to make it possible for any scientist with a compelling idea to immediately undertake research and experiments. The new core laboratory will help fast-track spinal cord injury research and speed up our chances of finding successful treatments to these devastating injuries.

Today, Roman has regained the use of his arms and is a proud father himself. His parents still tirelessly push for greater strides in spinal cord injury research. Most recently, I've heard from Don Reed regarding his fight to oppose new federal limitations on stem cell research. Stem cells may well be one of the answers to fighting paralysis. Don is taking his fight from California to Washington to make sure that roadblocks are not put in the way of vitally needed research.

I commend the entire Reed family for their dedication to finding a cure for spinal cord injuries—not only for their son—but for everyone who suffers from these devastating injuries. I am honored to know the Reeds, am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress, and I am pleased to help them in this important cause.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WILLIAM L. JORDAN

**HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Bishop William L. Jordan, Pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church in Harvey, Illinois. Since 1976, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives. Under his leadership and vision, St. Mark's membership has grown to over seven thousand. He preaches two Sunday services each week. St. Mark operates several community based programs, a medical center and a community center. Over twenty-six years of untiring service, faithful dedication to the community and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Bishop Jordan has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state and country. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Bishop William Jordan and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BULAGA, JR., JEREMY GLICK, DEEPA PAKKALA, BRUCE REYNOLDS, JOSEPH VILARDO

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals who were killed in the attacks on our nation on September 11th. For the past four months, we have heard and read the stories of countless family members, neighbors and friends who went to work on September 11th and never came home. I ask that the names of five of these men and women be kept in our nation's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—commemorating them as true American heroes.

Our northern New Jersey communities have been particularly hard-hit. We all know someone who was lost. Their stories are heart-wrenching, nearly unbearable in their sadness. Today, in northern New Jersey, families will gather to celebrate the strong and proud American spirits of five individuals taken from our community. ClearChannel Communications will also be present with the United Way to present the families of the victims with a donation. I thank everyone who will be taking part in this for their support and compassion for those who have lost a loved one.

I have spoken to many families in my own attempt to bring them some consolation. Even though there are no words to relieve their an-

guish, I told each family that they should take comfort in the knowledge they are in the hearts and prayers of an entire nation. They are truly American heroes.

Just as I have come to know the nearly 100 residents of my Congressional District who never came home on September 11, I have come to know John Bulaga, Jr., Jeremy Glick, Bruce Reynolds, Deepa Pakkala, and Joseph Vilardo.

John Bulaga, Jr. was a man who loved planning for the future. John and his wife Michelle were within days of closing on a house for a future in Haskell when he was killed while working for eSpeed, with Cantor Fitzgerald. John focused a career on preparing for the future of technology and the internet. His wife finished some of the family's plans for the future, as she recently finished the closing of the house and will move there shortly with their two children, Rhiannon and Alannah.

Jeremy Glick was one of the heroes aboard the fated United Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania. Before Jeremy and other passengers decided to attack the hijackers, Jeremy was able to call his wife, Lizbeth, providing important details about the terrorists' actions over his cell phone and telling Lizbeth how much he loved her. Jeremy's newborn daughter Emerson will grow up hearing of her father's brave actions.

Deepa Pakkala never wanted to call it a day. Determined to not only succeed but excel, Deepa worked long hours in order to provide for her family. A young mother who had just begun working for Oracle Corporation, Deepa was with a client in the World Trade Center on September 11th. Last January, Deepa gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Trisha. The two months she took to spend with her daughter was the only time she has ever slowed down, according to her husband of ten years.

Bruce Reynolds was last seen helping a woman with burns in the south World Trade Center tower. Bruce's father recalls that ever since Bruce was young, he knew he wanted to be a police officer to help people. He became a Port Authority Police Officer in June of 1986. Through his service and bravery, not only did his dream come true, but he has also saved people's lives and therefore made others' dreams possible. From the way people talk about Officer Bruce Reynolds, you can tell he was a truly special husband, father, son and fellow officer. Bruce's children, Brianna and Michael, can be very proud of their father.

Joseph Vilardo loved his family more than anything. Joseph, a Senior Vice President with Cantor Fitzgerald, lived with his wife and children in Stanhope, nearby his parents and three sisters. According to his many friends, Joseph was a well-loved and well-respected individual. Regardless of how much work was required of him, Joseph always made time for his wife Patricia and their two children, Nicole and Matthew. Nicole and Matthew will have many memories of their father's love for them.

These individuals have the admiration and thanks of an entire nation. Their families can be assured that this nation will never forget the atrocities of September 11th or the values for which they died. Out of this tragedy, our nation has emerged stronger and prouder than ever. And we now come together to tell these families they are not alone. America stands with them—now in their hour of grief, and in the days and years to come.