

RECOGNITION OF NANCY
GERMANN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Nancy Germann of Jefferson County, Illinois. Nancy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Nancy received this honor for her lifelong service to others. For thirty-three years she made a positive difference in the lives of students. She loves teaching so much she returned to the classroom after her retirement as a special education aide. Nancy is extremely involved in her church and community. Some of her activities include singing in the church choir, assisting with the soup kitchen and Thanksgiving dinner for the needy, and serving as a director for Cedarhurst Chamber Music along with helping with other Cedarhurst activities.

I want to congratulate and thank Nancy for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

HONORING CHARLES MIXSON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an outstanding constituent of mine from the Fifth Congressional District of Florida who has, because of his extraordinary achievement, been named by the Florida Professional Engineers in Government as the 2003 Government Engineer of the Year.

Charles Mixson is the County Engineer and Public Works Director in my home town of Brooksville. He is a published author, his work having appeared in American Public Works Magazine in 2002. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1977 with a civil engineering degree and has since completed several continuing education courses.

He is a member of the Florida and National Engineering Societies, the Florida and National Association of County Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and the Florida Department of Transportation Greenbook Advisory Committee. He has served in leadership roles in several of these organizations.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Mixson is an upstanding community leader, as he is an active supporter of the Boy Scouts and is the immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Brooksville.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see why the Florida Professional Engineers in Government chose Mr. Mixson as their Government Engineer of the Year. Mr. Mixson has certainly worked hard to earn this honor and he is deserving of every accolade I or his peers could bestow on him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating and honoring a fine American and

a man whom I am proud to represent in this chamber.

RECOGNITION OF ALFRED
"MUGSY" BEAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Alfred "Mugsy" Bean of Jefferson County, Illinois. Mugsy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Mugsy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. On the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mugsy immediately volunteered for service to his country. He was embroiled in World War II for close to four years. For the past 25 years Mugsy has served as a member of American Legion Post 141 Funeral Detail and has worked on the Jefferson County Veteran's Memorial Committee. He is known to treat all with the same respect and to reach out to those in need. Mugsy has been married to Louise for 58 years and has raised four children.

I want to congratulate and thank Mugsy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

ARMY SPECIALIST BRANDON
JACOB ROWE

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of attending the memorial service for a heroic young man from Roscoe, Illinois, who selfishly gave his life to protect our families and our freedoms in the United States and to give the Iraqi people a future without terror and oppression.

Brandon Jacob Rowe would have turned 21 years old on April 14, 2003. But on March 31, the Army Specialist from the 101st Airborne Division was killed in an ambush near Najaf, Iraq. Brandon, who earned a waiver and was promoted to Specialist early, was one of two machine gunners in his infantry rifle platoon. According to Major Gen. Robert T. Clark, who presented Brandon's mother with her son's Purple Heart at the memorial service, machine gunners are the most important soldiers in a rifle platoon because they provide the firepower that protects the rest of the men. As Brandon's older brother, Brent, so aptly put it, "He was my short little brother, but he was one hell of a man."

I never met Brandon Rowe. But I learned of his character and his love for his country after meeting his courageous family. Brandon's mother, his father, his brothers, his sister, and his aunts, uncles and cousins are obviously in tremendous pain right now after losing him. Even amid that anguish, their pride for Brandon and their support of his mission shines through. Brandon made a tremendous impression on his family and all who knew him. I wish I had known him, Mr. Speaker.

I have enclosed a tribute to Brandon written by his Aunt Cecile shortly after his death. Brandon's sister, Leah, read the tribute at his memorial service on April 12 at Hononegah High School in Rockton, Illinois:

UNNAMED SOLDIER, ROSCOE, ILLINOIS

Now we can tell his name. His name is Brandon Jacob Rowe. He had other names—our son, our stepson, our grandson, our brother and brother-in-law, our nephew, our cousin, our boyfriend, our dear friend, our co-worker, our comrade-in-arms, our buddy, our neighbor and more. For what seemed to us a long, long while, though it was only a few days, he was known through media reports only as the first combat casualty from the 101st Airborne in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His name is Brandon Jacob Rowe and he died in Iraq because he was committed to a cause. His death is not senseless, but full of purpose and meaning. He appreciated his freedom, and felt that everyone deserved to be free. He was proud of the job he was doing to serve his country.

He died trying to make life better for others, trying to do his part to rid the world of those who oppress the innocent. Brandon put his life, his heart, on the line so others he didn't even know wouldn't have to continue to live in terror. He had great admiration for his grandfather, who fought for our country's freedom and earned a Purple Heart as an Army paratrooper during the Second World War. Brandon wanted to do something with his life that had real value and merit. Brandon's life certainly had both.

Brandon was known for his sense of humor and fun, but he had a quiet, deep spirituality that others did not always see. They did know he was strong, and kind, and always looking out for others' welfare before his own. He sensed when others were lacking, or hurting, or needing a friend; he became that friend. Brandon always put others before himself, concerned about the welfare of his buddies, his teammates, his family and friends.

From his first smile to his last, the kindness and sweetness in his face shone out of him. His goodness drew people to him for all of his nearly 21 years. One could not see his smile without feeling happier, without feeling glad to know him.

We in his family love and honor Brandon, and thank all those who have shown love and support at this difficult time. We are grateful to his hometown friends and the members of the 101st Airborne he was so proud to be associated with, and with whom he served his country. He offered up the ultimate sacrifice. It was not in vain, Brandon, and we will not ever forget.

RECOGNITION OF WILMA KIMMEL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wilma Kimmel of Jefferson County, Illinois. Wilma was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Wilma received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is known as a dedicated wife and mother. She and her husband, Ardell, raised three children. In order to help send her children to college she began work as a secretary for the Mt. Vernon School System where she worked for twenty years.

Wilma has been involved with the 4-H Club, Rend Lake Piecemakers Quilt Guild, and Herbs for Health and Fun. No one can say that Wilma is not devoted to her church. At Central Christian Church she is known as a ready and willing hand for wherever there is a need. She is described as one who gets the job done and one who never complains.

I want to congratulate and thank Wilma for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION ACT AND THE POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and grant the Secretary of Agriculture the power to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe. I am pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation by CAROLYN MCCARTHY (NY), EARL BLUMENAUER (OR), TIM RYAN (OH) and GEORGE MILLER (CA).

The announcement of the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, also known as "mad cow disease," in Canada this week, further highlights the importance of this legislation. Let me be clear that there is no evidence that our domestic meat products are compromised in any way. However, if they were ever found to be tainted, the Secretary currently has no authority to mandate the recall of these products. This is unacceptable today, more than ever.

I cannot overstate the importance of the nature of this legislation. It is imperative to the health and welfare of the American public that we bolster the regulation of the meat and poultry industry. The number of people affected annually from ingesting tainted meat and poultry products illuminates this proposition: 5,000 people die from food-borne illnesses each year. Furthermore, nearly 76 million people get sick annually from eating tainted food, of which 325,000 require hospitalization.

The Jack in the Box E. coli outbreak of 1993 prompted the imposition of a new regulatory system on the meat and poultry industry designed to help eliminate future deadly food-borne illness outbreaks. The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program shifted the responsibility for ensuring meat safety from USDA inspectors to the meat companies themselves and instituted microbial tests for harmful bacteria. Since the implementation of the HACCP regulations, however, controversy has erupted over whether the new rules place too much power in the hands of the meat industry to regulate itself.

Due to the huge political clout of the meatpacking industry, USDA does not have, nor seem to want, the power to issue mandatory recalls of tainted meat and poultry products. Complying with agency recalls, therefore,

is at the industry's discretion. The meat industry says that it has never failed to cooperate with a recall request from the USDA, thus mandatory recalls of tainted meat are not needed. I disagree.

Whenever there is a recall, press releases issued by these companies make very clear that the recall is voluntary. However, when USDA asks for a recall, a negotiation process ensues between the agency and the industry. Meanwhile, thousands of people would continue to eat potentially harmful meat. This is not a trivial matter. This is meat that is potentially contaminated and could result in death.

This is a question of accountability. Somebody must be held responsible for the quality and safety of the meat we consume. The government must ensure that the meatpacking industry produces only safe meat products. My bill will facilitate this need by amending the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. My bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe or tainted from the market. The time has come for this necessary step.

HONORING THE USS "PLATTE"

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the USS *Platte* (AO-24) Navy Ship. On this day, the bell from the ship will be permanently loaned to the Platte County-KCI Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Platte County commission for display. Platte County has worked very hard to honor the service and the memory of the ship and those who served on board.

The USS *Platte* was built by the Bethlehem Steel Company in Baltimore, Maryland and commissioned at Norfolk, Virginia on December 1, 1939. On March 27, 1940, the ship was sent out to support the Panama Canal Zone fleet. After its service to this fleet, the USS *Platte* was reassigned to the base at San Pedro, California and carried liquid cargo, passengers and freight to and from Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS *Platte* was fortunately stationed in San Pedro. The USS *Platte* continued its service and on January 11, 1942 was assigned as a fueling ship for the Carrier Task Force Eight, which comprised of ships including the Aircraft Carrier Enterprise, flagship of Admiral William F. Halsey Jr.

Subsequently, the USS *Platte* served in World War II supporting the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the Coral Sea, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Western Aleutians, Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, Marianas Islands and the Philippine Islands. Additionally, the USS *Platte* provided logistical support during the Korean and Vietnam wars and refueled the aircraft Carrier Enterprise task force group off the Korean shore during the Pueblo crisis. For its service, the ship received eleven battle stars for World War II and 6 battle stars for Korean war service.

On May 17, 2002, the County Commission of Platte County, Missouri recognized the outstanding accomplishments and achievements

of the USS *Platte* by hosting USS *Platte* veterans, families, and friends to declare the day as USS *Platte* Day for Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the USS *Platte*, the men who served this great ship, and the Platte County Commission for their efforts in remembering this important ship and its many missions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMONS LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by a public school in my district—Commons Lane Elementary School, in the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

In April the school was named 1 of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by Commons Lane was one of three schools in my District so honored. Some 35 public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year.

Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the State, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, MO, the State Capital.

To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

Established in 1991, the Gold Star Schools program is sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the State of Missouri, with 3 in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the State achieve "Gold Star" status and we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of students.

If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decision-makers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.