

the A.M.E. Zion Church, which is comprised of five conferences, and as President of the Board of Bishops.

Bishop Johnson's record of service is impeccable. He served in the U.S. Army with 15 years experience in the Airborne Division. He has served as pastor of A.M.E. Zion Churches in three different North Carolina conferences, including seven years as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina. After serving as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, North Carolina he spent four years presiding as Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, which is comprised of six conferences.

But his reputable service extends well outside of the church walls. In 1993, Bishop Johnson delivered the Gardner C. Taylor Lecture & Preaching Series at Duke University Divinity School. He has published "A Manual for Ministerial Studies" for the A.M.E. Zion Church, in addition to several scholarly essays on Christian stewardship requisites for ministerial practice. He passed his skills and experiences to aspiring ministers when he served for ten years as professor of practical ministry at Hood Theological Seminary of Livingstone College in North Carolina.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Bishop Johnson grew up in Tampa and earned a degree from North Carolina State University. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School of Duke University.

Bishop Johnson is married to Dorothy Sharpe Johnson, who now serves as missionary supervisor and Episcopal secretary of the South Atlantic District of the A.M.E. Zion church. The couple has two sons.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Johnson has led an exceptional career dedicated to teaching and preaching the virtue of kindness. This year will be the last Palmetto Annual Conference where he would preside. He will be retiring next year, and deservedly so, as he has already contributed more to the betterment of our society than most people could hope for in one lifetime. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this humanitarian.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM
LEWIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Lewis, a friend and former colleague who epitomized what being a public servant is all about.

Tom devoted his life to serving his country and his countrymen. He fought for America in the Air Force, serving tours of duty in both World War II and Korea during his eleven-year military career. Tom used the knowledge he gained in the Air Force later in life as a jet and rocket-testing chief for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, eventually supervising work on sensitive and sophisticated military and commercial aircraft systems.

Tom came to Congress the same year I did, in 1983, after serving as both Mayor and city councilman of North Palm Beach from 1964 to 1971. He then went on to represent that area in the Florida House of Representatives until 1980, when he was elected to the Florida Senate.

During his time in these hallowed halls, Tom zealously fought for the people of his district, whom he considered more than just constituents. He was largely responsible for saving the Hurricane Hunter Plane Program, the aircraft which fly into hurricanes to collect data so meteorologists can predict when and where these storms will hit. He also led the effort to build a much-needed VA medical center in his district, as well as to save the Big Cypress Natural Preserve, a unique part of Florida's environment.

After his retirement from Congress in 1994, he worked to protect Florida's agricultural interests during trade negotiations and led a campaign which raised \$66 million to improve a stretch of U.S. Highway 27 on which more than 100 people died between 1982 and 1997. That portion of highway in Palm Beach County now bears Tom's name.

My colleague from Florida, the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said it best when he noted a decade ago that there was "not a corner of his vast district that you can go without seeing the fruit of Tom's work."

Mr. Speaker, Tom was much more than a dedicated public servant. He was a loving husband to his wife, Marian. He was a devoted father to his three children. He also was one of my closest confidants in Congress. It saddened me to learn that he passed away last month. I am comforted, however, in the knowledge that he will be remembered as one of the most respected, accomplished, and honorable members of this institution.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America and their inspiring mission of faith for America's youth.

LTIA originated in my home district of Northwest Arkansas and has successfully spread throughout the country and even to places as far away as Russia. Their purpose is to provide America's future leaders with a strong Christian foundation of faith in today's secular society.

The participants of the program attend weekend seminars that teach them how their faith is a logical solution for many of the world's most challenging problems. They learn how to debate their worldly colleagues in an intelligent and inviting method. Furthermore, the students may attend a weeklong seminar once a year—here in our nation's capitol. While here, they meet with leaders in the Christian movement, attend discussions with their colleagues from all over the nation, and meet with their Congressional representatives.

I believe this training is vital in preparing our future leaders to take their place in society. The youth of today face physical, emotional, and social challenges that shock the imagination. They are inundated with graphic images of sex and drugs everywhere they turn. Yet, we expect them to maintain their childhood innocence, without providing them with the tools

they need to combat the horrible examples they receive. LTIA provides America with a wonderful solution of a generation steeped in their Christian faith and trained to face a materialistic society.

As the former President Ronald Reagan said, "The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted; it belongs to the brave." I believe the students involved in the Leadership Training Institute of America are part of our brave future and I applaud their efforts to make America an even greater nation than she is today.

HONORING BRAVERY OF MARINE
STAFF SGT. BRIAN IVERS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Ivers for his bravery in the face of combat during Operation Freedom in Iraq. Mr. Ivers is a resident of Fort Collins and is a Police Officer of that fair city.

Serving his country on active duty in the Fox 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 1st Division, his company was ordered to rescue a group of Marine artillerymen who took a wrong turn in the town of Al Gaharraf. Encountering a near blinding sand and rain storm as they entered the town, no air support could be provided.

Staff Sergeant Ivers' platoon came under fire as they entered Al Gaharraf. As the first platoon dismounted, they immediately engaged with the enemy. Sergeant Jim Cawley's platoon worked to suppress the enemy long enough to allow Sergeant Ivers' platoon to enter the town.

Sergeant Cawley's platoon fought a gun battle while occupying a building. A grenade was launched into the building and leveled many of the marines because of the concussion. Enemy fire had increased all around them while they were returning fire. One of the marines was trapped inside the building.

Staff Sergeant Ivers attempted to rescue him. In his own words, Brian said, "I got up to get him as I thought I could just grab his hand and drag him out. As I moved along the wall, rounds began to punch holes out of the concrete in front of me. I turned to go back to where I had just come from and was struck in the side with a round. The force of it spun me around and at the time I thought I had been hit in the kidney."

Later, Brian would realize that the bayonet had taken the impact of the round, deflecting it to his flack jacket, thus saving his life. His platoon was in contact with the enemy for over a half hour and was running low on ammunition. They were finally told to pull out because air cover was expected. A tank showed up about 40 minutes later.

Brian's ribs were blue with bruises. Months later, Brian found out that he had broken the eleventh rib—a good reminder that their battle had saved a unit of the eleventh Marines.

Because he received a wound while in combat, Staff Sergeant Brian Ivers will receive the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed