

Every year, Congress votes on this pay raise, and every year that I have been a Member of this body, I have stood against it. It's simply not right for us to give ourselves more money when there are so many people waiting for an increase in the minimum wage.

Many of my colleagues feel the same way about the Congressional pay raise, but unfortunately the House leadership did not allow us to vote for this specific item, because it was included within a broader spending bill. Voting against this bill would mean voting against billions of dollars for our roads and other worthwhile projects. Rather, we were forced to voice our opposition in the form of a procedural vote, and I did so.

There are thousands of people in my district who hold minimum wage positions, people I was elected to serve. I would only be serving myself if I voted to raise my salary, and that is not why I'm here.

I will continue to vote against congressional pay raises until the minimum wage is increased for working families.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize the thirty years of service that Irene Martinez has dedicated to the children of the Manzanola School District. Irene is retiring after having served as both a cook and teacher's aide since 1973. As we mark her retirement, I would like to commend Irene for the devotion that she has shown to her students over the years.

Irene began her career with the Manzanola School District as a teacher's aide, though quickly switched careers and became a cook. She loved her job and says she will truly miss the students. Irene has seen three generations pass through her schools, having served the grandparents of some of today's students. Irene is looking forward to her retirement, with plans to do some gardening and spend time with her family.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions Irene Martinez has made to the health and well being of Colorado's children. Irene will certainly be missed by the children under her care and by her co-workers who have come to know and admire her remarkable dedication. Irene, I wish you all the best in your retirement. Thank you for your many years of exemplary service.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF JOSEPH CAMARA, HUSBAND, FATHER, POLICE OFFICER AND PATRIOT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 1, a good and courageous man gave his life for his country. Joseph M. Camara was tragically killed while serving his nation in Iraq, as a member of the

Rhode Island National Guard. In civilian life, as in military life, Sergeant Camara was a man dedicated to protecting his fellow citizens. He was a highly respected and deeply admired police officer in the City of New Bedford. Mr. Camara leaves behind his wife and three children, and they are joined in their grieving at the loss of this patriot by hundreds of thousands of their fellow citizens in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Of course nothing we can say will alleviate the pain that Mr. Camara's family feels at this untimely death, but we can at least demonstrate to them how deeply we sympathize with them and it is important for us to recognize here in the United States House of Representatives the terrible sacrifice Mr. Camara made in the service of his country.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of New Bedford, where Mr. Camara lived, raised his family, and served with great distinction as a police officer are especially devastated by his death. The people of the city have with one voice expressed their most profound condolences to the Camara family. And the depth of that feeling has been well conveyed by a series of articles in the New Bedford Standard Times about this terrible incident.

Mr. Speaker, to commemorate Joseph Camara, to recognize appropriately in the United States Congress the enormous debt that we owe his wife and children, and to pay tribute to the people of New Bedford, who have been so steadfast in their support of the Camara family, I ask that the articles from the New Bedford Standard Times about the death of Joseph Camara in the service of his country be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard Times, Sept. 3, 2003]

NEW BEDFORD POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN IRAQ (By Steve Urbon)

CRANSTON, R.I.—A New Bedford police officer became the first SouthCoast resident killed in action in the Iraq war when a home-made land mine exploded on a highway near Baghdad on Monday, killing two National Guardsmen.

Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Camara, 40, married and the father of three, was on patrol with two other guardsmen from Rhode Island's 115th Military Police Company when the device exploded beneath their Humvee and ignited the fuel and ammunition aboard, Lt. Col. Michael McNamara of the Rhode Island National Guard said yesterday at a press conference in Cranston announcing the deaths.

He said Sgt. Camara, a patrolman in the New Bedford Police Department when not on National Guard duty, was killed instantly as was Sgt. Charles Caldwell, 38, of North Providence, who was married with no children. Sgt. Caldwell was driving the vehicle in a convoy in the late morning on a road north of Baghdad, and Sgt. Camara was riding in the passenger seat as vehicle commander.

Spc. Edmund Aponte, 35, of Providence, who was manning the vehicle's machine gun at the time, suffered burns and shrapnel wounds and is hospitalized but expected to make a complete recovery, Lt. Col. McNamara said. Spc. Aponte is married and has three children.

National Guard officials gave details at a noon press conference at their Cranston headquarters, which followed a meeting with many of the families of the men and women in Iraq with the 115th M.P. Company. The company is in Iraq as part of the 220th Military Police Brigade, supporting combat troops performing such missions as house-to-house weapons searches and road patrols.

Flags were lowered to half-staff across southern New England as the news spread of the first casualties in the National Guard unit in 58 years. Its members come from across southeastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut. In all, 600 members of the Rhode Island National Guard are serving in hot spots overseas—360 of them in Iraq.

Rhode Island's adjutant general and National Guard commanding general Maj. Gen. Reginald Centracchio and Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri were grim-faced as they announced the news.

"All of our hearts are broken over this," Gov. Carcieri said. "Our worst fears have been realized."

Having met with the families anxious for the safety of their relatives in Iraq, Gov. Carcieri said that often "we do not appreciate the sacrifice that these men and women are undergoing."

"This is a terrible reminder that they are in harm's way," he said.

Gen. Centracchio alluded to the changed nature of the conflict and suggested that as well-prepared, trained and led as the troops are, the United States is not fully prepared for the guerrilla war that has evolved in Iraq.

"We're fighting an unconventional war," he said. "We have to devise a way of dealing with a culture that is alien to our set of values."

"Now we're dealing with the unknown," he said. "They'll shake your hand in a friendly way during the day, and at night the same individual is willing to give his life to satisfy his thoughts."

"We have to adapt to the kind of warfare we're dealing with," Gen. Centracchio said.

He said that would involve more training and more access to armored vehicles that could withstand a land mine of the kind his men encountered this week. He remarked that the makeup of the fighting forces has changed in recent years, with reserves constituting more of the primary fighting units.

National Guard units, he said, "are the Army. They are the Air Force."

Lt. Col. McNamara said the "improvised explosive device" that detonated beneath the vehicle could have been remotely controlled by wire or transmitter. The Humvee, which was configured in a "turtle" fashion for use by the military police, was entirely vulnerable to such a threat. It carried its own fuel as well as machine gun and 9 mm pistol ammunition, and was on a routine patrol to keep supply lines open.

The 115th left Rhode Island Feb. 12 for Fort Drum, N.Y., and more training. The 360 men and women arrived in Kuwait April 2 and entered Iraq in early May.

[From the Standard-Times, Sept. 4, 2003]

LOSING GUARDSMAN JOSEPH M. CAMARA

The troubling war in Iraq and even more disturbing after-war struck us on the home front this week when an exploding land mine outside Baghdad robbed this world of National Guard Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Camara.

The 40-year-old New Bedford police officer was a bulwark of the South End neighborhood where he lived with his wife, two daughters and son.

He was the essence of a community police officer so desperately needed in this city of rising violence.

Not only did he do his job with distinction during his regular shifts as a city patrol officer, but he gave his family and neighbors on McGurk Street in the South End a profound sense of security.

His solid presence allowed them to sleep easier and take greater pride in their working-class neighborhood of old three-story homes.

He was not afraid to step outside his home to ask someone to stop creating bothersome noise or even to chase a bandit down the street. Relatives recall he once burst into a burning home to save a life.

He spent his free time with his family, enjoying the kind of close relationships with his wife and children that make life rich and wonderful.

This country, this city, this neighborhood and this family are heartbroken at the loss of such a fine man to the war in Iraq.

He gave with a generosity to his country, his city and his family that cannot be replaced.

[From the Standard Times, Sept. 3, 2003]

SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD WILL FEEL VOID
LEFT BY OFFICER'S DEATH

(By Ray Henry)

NEW BEDFORD.—Two years ago, Luisa Vieira was sitting in her house when a series of quick gunshots interrupted the evening calm on McGurk Street.

Rushing to the window, she looked across the street and saw her neighbor, Officer Joseph M. Camara, run down the walkway leading from his family's second-floor apartment and chase the car while unarmed and barely dressed.

Within minutes, she said, the off-duty officer had warned others of danger, called for help and sealed off part of the street.

"He chased the car barefoot and in his boxers. He was very protective of children and the kids out there," Ms. Vieira said.

Yesterday, as word of Staff Sgt. Camara's death in Iraq spread around his South End neighborhood, his friends and family gathered at the Camara home and remembered the family man as a source of law and order in the sometimes rough neighborhood.

Sgt. Camara, who served in the 115th Military Police Company of the Rhode Island National Guard, and Sgt. Charles Caldwell of North Providence died on Monday when their Humvee truck struck an improvised land mine north of Baghdad. A third man, Spc. Edmund Aponte of Providence, was wounded in the explosion.

"His death certainly brings out the reality of war. He served in a life-and-death occupation on his regular job with the city and, like other patriots, he went to serve his country," said New Bedford Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz Jr., who ordered city flags to half-staff yesterday afternoon.

Since Sgt. Camara was a police officer for four years, Police Chief Carl K. Moniz drove to the Camaras home on McGurk Street yesterday morning with a military attache charged with telling Ana Camara that her husband had died.

"I think of all the things you go through in the course of a career, that pales when compared to something such as the circumstances today. Thank God I didn't have to say the words about the loss of their loved one. That was left to someone else. But I had to see the grief and anguish," Chief Moniz said.

Sgt. Camara was appointed to the Police Department on May 2, 1999. He patrolled city streets, at first from the South End station and then from the North End station.

"He was very unassuming and calm," said Capt. Kevin Hegarty, who supervised the North End station. "He wasn't excitable or an outspoken guy."

The "quiet and competent" officer, Capt. Hegarty said, was a reassuring presence both at work and, according to this neighbors, at home.

"We knew if there was a problem we could go right across (the street)," said neighbor Gary Cameron, 36, who said Sgt. Camara's presence figured heavily in his decision to

rent an apartment on McGurk Street. The neighborhood was usually peaceful when Sgt. Camara was around.

"He would come out and let you know if you were making too much noise, to carry along," Mr. Cameron said.

A 1981 graduate of New Bedford High School, Sgt. Camara was once a general utility worker for Cliftex Clothing before he studied to become a police officer, friends said.

He joined the National Guard at 19 and neighbors often saw him wearing his black beret and fatigues when he left for training on the weekends or during longer two-week stints.

He and his wife have three young children, two girls and a boy, and she was nervous when his unit left in February for Iraq, friends said.

"She said she wasn't crazy about him going," said Ivo Furtado, 35.

Neighbor Maria Ramos, 35, said she often spotted Sgt. Camara piling his three children into the couple's Astro before going to martial arts lessons. Other times, he could be found playing ball on the street or sidewalk with the neighborhood youths or out enjoying a walk in Hazelwood Park.

"He was always out there with the kids. He was a family-oriented man," said Ms. Ramos, who first met the Camara family when her daughter and their children were in elementary school together.

The Camara family, which gathered in yesterday's cold and mist, declined to speak with reporters. Most remained inside the family's three-story house, decorated with American flags and yellow ribbons.

"They're not taking it too good," Mr. Furtado said. His wife, Lucy, had approached Sgt. Camara's sister earlier in the morning, just after the family had been notified.

"She couldn't believe he was gone," Mrs. Furtado said.

During the afternoon, the Rev. John M. Sullivan, the city's police chaplain and pastor of St. Lawrence Martyr Church, visited the Camara family.

"One woman there, who is the wife of a police officer and whose husband is in Iraq, said that you're always waiting for your husband to come through the door, but when this happens 7,000 miles away from home, it is even more crushing," the Rev. Sullivan said.

He said there are no easy answers to explain the tragedies of war.

"We always ask why, but there is no good reason when one human being kills another whether in violence in the city or in war. There are no easy answers to questions like that," he said.

[From the Standard-Times, Sept. 4, 2003]

SOUTH COAST OFFICIALS PRAISE OFFICER'S
SERVICE

(By Ray Henry)

NEW BEDFORD.—The body of Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Camara, a New Bedford police officer killed this week in Iraq, was scheduled to be flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware last night, the first step in what officials said will be a long process of grief, ceremony and bureaucracy.

Sgt. Camara, of 13 McGurk St., and Sgt. Charles Caldwell, of North Providence, R.I., both soldiers in the 115th Military Police Company of the Rhode Island National Guard, were killed Monday when an improvised land mine exploded under their Humvee on a road north of Baghdad. A third man, Spc. Edmund Aponte of Providence, was seriously injured.

As representatives of the Delaware Army National Guard prepared to receive the bodies in a private ceremony, South Coast congressmen praised Sgt. Camara's local and global public service.

"He was a man who was willing to endanger himself to protect others, both at home as a police officer, and abroad as a soldier," said U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

"I know that words can do nothing to alleviate the pain that the Camara family feels at the death of this brave patriot," Rep. Frank said. "But they should know that they are joined by their friends, neighbors and, indeed, all other Americans in mourning the loss of a good, courageous man who gave his life for his country."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who lost a brother in World War II, had similar wishes for the Camara family.

"When Sgt. Camara wasn't serving his nation in the Army in Iraq, he proudly fought to keep the streets safe for the families of New Bedford. He dedicated his life to protecting others, and we will forever honor that service to family, community and country," Sen. Kennedy said.

Sgt. Camara's family declined to comment yesterday, but neighbors continued to add flowers and candles along the fence lining his family's three-story home in the South End.

The Rhode Island National Guard has assigned two lieutenant colonels to work as liaisons with the families of both slain men, said Lt. Col. Michael B. McNamara, a unit spokesman.

Both liaisons, known in military parlance as casualty assistance officers, will help the families make funeral arrangements and guide them through the process of claiming benefits. The officer typically are assigned to families for about 45 days, but they sometimes continue to answer family inquiries for years.

"Their primary duty is to that family. That's their only duty," Lt. Col. McNamara said. "As you can imagine, being a government program, there's a lot of paperwork."

[From the New Bedford Standard Times,
Sept. 5, 2003]

FAMILY, SERVICE WERE HIS GUIDES
(By Ray Henry)

NEW BEDFORD.—After spending more than 20 years in uniform, Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Camara turned in his retirement papers to the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

But defense officials barred the retirements of many soldiers after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, including that of Sgt. Camara and others in the 115th Military Police Company out of Cranston. In February, the unit was ordered to Iraq where an exploding land mine on Monday killed Sgt. Camara and Sgt. Charles Caldwell of North Providence on a road north of Baghdad.

"He had turned in his papers and served his time, but he didn't turn his back on his country," said his wife, Ana Camara, in an interview yesterday in front of her family's McGurk Street home.

"He loved being in the Army. He loved serving in the Police Department. I've lost my soulmate. My children have lost a wonderful father," she said.

Lt. Col. Michael B. McNamara, a spokesman for the unit, could not comment directly on Sgt. Camara's attempt to retire but noted that regulations issued after the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and the Pentagon kept many in Sgt. Camara's company from leaving.

Several family members were overcome by tears as they tried to describe Sgt. Camara, who served in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

"He was everything to me. He's my brother and now he's my guardian angel," said his sister, Michelle Camara.

Although Sgt. Camara had only been a New Bedford police officer for four years, he had decided to "serve and protect" long before he took the oath in October 1999. He ran into his neighborhood's burning house on July 21, 1995, to rescue an elderly woman and

two children trapped by a spreading kitchen fire.

Mrs. Camara also remembered how her husband stopped on Route 18 one night to guide traffic around a car that had blown two tires. Others recalled this summer night two years ago when Sgt. Camara ran out of his apartment barefoot and in boxer shorts to chase a gunman driving down McGurk Street.

"He liked the right thing to go on in the world," said his brother John Camara, explaining why Sgt. Camara became a police officer. "As long as his eyes were open, he'd be on duty."

Despite his nearly lifelong interest in law enforcement, Sgt. Camara was hesitant to apply for a job on the police force, Mrs. Camara said. He opted instead to work for a private security company, fearing the long hours and constant stress would harm his family life.

Finally, Mrs. Camara said she convinced her husband to aim higher.

"I said, 'Go, do it. You're driving me crazy. Don't worry about us,'" she said.

Although Sgt. Camara worked the mid-night to 8 a.m. shift, he remained a devoted father, she said. After a full night of work, he once took his children to the "Rugrats" movie—and only fell asleep once.

As his son Matthew grew older, the duo enjoyed watching wrestling matches and Monster Truck rallies. But he's also rent romantic dramas to watch with his wife, she said.

For Sgt. Camara, "children" were an extended concept. The couple had three of their own, but Sgt. Camara also referred to the younger soldiers in the National Guard unit as "my kids," Mrs. Camara said. He once led a pack of 20 neighborhood youths on a bike ride that ended in a round of slushies for everyone at a convenience store.

"That third shift never affected his family life," Mrs. Camara said.

The couple met through a mutual friend in New Bedford one year after Sgt. Camara joined the military, she said. They were

friends before they started dating, a development that she believed helped them to communicate directly in the years that followed.

She was away from her house on Tuesday when a National Guard liaison arrived to inform her family on Sgt. Camara's death. A telephone call from a relative urged her to quickly return home, but a television reporter confronted her before she opened her front door and saw the uniformed man waiting inside.

"I step out of my van and there's a man with a camera waiting for me. That was the most horrible thing I had ever gone through," she said. "When did my private life become a media frenzy?"

Yesterday, Mrs. Camara thanked the police officers and the family members of the National Guard servicemen and -women who have offered her support during the past week.

"It's a family and I feel like they'll never forget my children," she said.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 15

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs
Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine defined benefit pension plans and the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation, focusing on specific changes that may be required within the current pension system to help ensure the financial stability of companies with underfunded pension liabilities.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 16

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the Clean Water Act.

SD-406

Governmental Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the future of the GAO; to be immediately followed by a hearing to consider the nomination of C. Suzanne Mencer, of Colorado, to be the Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Judiciary

Rules and Administration

To hold joint hearings to examine the continuity of the United States government in relation to the Presidency.

SR-325

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Harvey S. Rosen, of New Jersey, and Kristin J. Forbes, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, Julie L. Myers, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export En-

forcement, and Peter Lichtenbaum, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

SD-538

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to receive the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
International Trade and Finance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine financial reconstruction in Iraq.

SD-538

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the importance of the H-1 visa to the American economy.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 17

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine what can be done to ensure the future viability of the U.S. Postal Service.

SD-342

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 420, to provide for the acknowledgement of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

SR-485

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Catharine Rodgers, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, Roger W. Titus, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, George W. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and David W. McKeague, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine effective federal, state and local law enforcement strategies to combat gang violence in America.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine West Africa and Latin America in relation to U.S. Energy Security.

SD-419

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine abuse of the elderly.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 23

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine health technology.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1601, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to provide for the reporting and reduction of child abuse and family violence incidences on Indian reservations.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 25

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine intellectual diversity.

SD-430

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation to reauthorize the Head Start program.

Room to be announced

SEPTEMBER 30

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the state of the securities industry.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine underage drinking.

SD-430

OCTOBER 2

2 p.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1438, to provide for equitable compensation of the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation in settlement of claims of the Tribe concerning the contribution of the Tribe to the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.

SR-485

OCTOBER 16

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Missouri River Master Manual.

SR-485

OCTOBER 21

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1565, to reauthorize the Native American Programs Act of 1974.

SR-485

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 17

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the report of the Mental Health Commission.

SD-430