

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 25, 26, and 27, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING DR. IRVIN
HAMLIN**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Irvin Hamlin, M.D. of East Millinocket, Maine who is set to retire after practicing medicine for over 48 years in the Katahdin Region.

After serving his country as a medic in World War II, Dr. Hamlin returned to the states and attended Colby College in Waterville, Maine and completed his medical training at the Tufts University Medical School. Upon graduation from medical school, Dr. Hamlin had a brief internship in Springfield, Ohio and then moved to East Millinocket in 1955, where he has remained ever since.

Dr. Hamlin has always exemplified the qualities of superior citizenship; his dedication to his patients and his community should serve as an example to others. Always one to bring a smile to his patient's faces, Dr. Hamlin's good humor and practical jokes are renowned throughout the region; but his compassion is his most outstanding quality. I have felt this part of his caring in my life when he attended to my own father.

It is always with some lingering sadness that I pass along my best wishes for the retirement of an individual like Dr. Hamlin. Though his retirement is well deserved it also signifies that the Katahdin Region is losing one of its most valued and experienced physicians. While his presence as a physician will be sorely missed; the extra time to spend with his family and fishing in area lakes and streams is long over due. I only ask that he leave some fish for the rest of us to catch.

The Millinocket Regional Hospital for which he worked for so many years will honor Dr. Hamlin next Thursday, July 1, 2004. I am sure the people of the Katahdin region will turn out in droves to congratulate him and thank this wonderful man who has spent so many years serving them.

After 48 outstanding years of dedicated service, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Dr. Hamlin and thank him for his tireless service.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SHEVCHENKO MONUMENT**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, four decades ago, on June 27, 1964, the Ukrainian

American community marked a significant event—the unveiling of a monument to the Great Kobzar, Taras Shevchenko. Taras Hryhorovich Shevchenko, the great Ukrainian poet, artist and thinker, the revolutionary-democrat, and the ardent fighter against tsarism and serfdom. He is considered the great son of the Ukrainian people. As the autocratic government of tsarist Russia attempted to erase Shevchenko's name from people's memory and suppressed all attempts to immortalize in sculpture the image of the poet of genius, the people could not forget this man. The first monument in the country, the bust in marble, to the great Kobzar was set up illegally in 1899 in Kharkov. On March, 24, 1935, it was a great holiday for the people in Kharkov as they joined together for the unveiling of the first legal monument of Shevchenko.

Almost 30 years after the people of Ukraine celebrated their monument, the Ukrainian Americans were able to have a holiday of their own. Through hard work, generosity, and dedication, the Ukrainian American community was able to honor their country's hero with a monument in the Nation's Capitol. Over 100,000 attendees participated in the festivities 40 years ago dedicated to the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko monument. The Ukrainian American community is fortunate to celebrate this significant milestone 40 years later. I am proud to represent an area of Chicago that we call "Ukrainian Village." I want to honor this special day with my constituents and praise the Ukrainian community, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), the U.S.-Ukrainian Foundation and all the organizations involved in honoring the 40th Anniversary of this special monument.

Mr. Speaker, this monument stands for more than just honoring a great man but also as a way to never forget the struggles and the human rights violations by the former Soviet regime and political repressions against those who struggled for Ukraine's liberation.

REMEMBERING A SOUTH CAROLINA
HERO, THOMAS CAUGHMAN**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on June 9th, one of Lexington, South Carolina's most beloved sons, Army Specialist Thomas Caughman, was lost, when he was killed in a terrorist attack while serving in Iraq.

As Thomas wrote from the field in Iraq, "freedom isn't free." Sadly, his family, friends and fellow South Carolinians have learned this lesson in a painful and personal way. Thomas Caughman was the son of proud parents Hampton and Jane Caughman of Lexington, South Carolina.

Thomas will forever be an American hero for defending the American people in the War on Terror. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest regrets to the family of Thomas Caughman, and the entire Wilson family sends their thoughts and prayers.

I request that the following article from The State newspaper be placed into the RECORD, in remembrance of the fallen hero.

[From the State, June 19, 2004]

WAR IN IRAQ: LEXINGTON BIDS FAREWELL TO A
FALLEN HERO
(By Chuck Crumbo)

When he wrote home, Army Spc. Thomas Caughman would close his letters with these words: "Freedom isn't free."

On Friday, family and friends honored the 20-year-old Lexington County soldier who paid the ultimate price.

About 1,000 crowded into the pews and lined the walls of Red Bank Baptist Church, and another 200 to 300 waited outside in the sweltering heat, as Caughman was remembered as a joyful and religious young man who made others around him feel special and loved.

A large crowd was expected. Caughman was a member of one of Lexington County's best-known families, with ties to banking, retailing and the religious community.

Nearly an hour before the service, traffic was backed up a quarter of a mile on S.C. 6, which runs past the church in the heart of the Red Bank community. After the church parking lot filled up, some mourners had to park across the street in the lot of St. James Lutheran Church.

The turnout would have delighted Caughman, said the soldier's uncle, Glenn Day, who offered personal remarks during the service.

"If he could say something to me right now and come up and do that little backhand on your chest . . . he'd say, 'Look at that crowd I got for you,'" Day said to laughter.

Caughman, a 2002 graduate of Lexington High School, died June 9 while patrolling a Baghdad neighborhood for bombs used to attack U.S. troops.

The Army said Caughman's armored vehicle was struck by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. Two other soldiers in his vehicle also were wounded seriously.

Caughman was assigned to Army Reserve Company C of the 291st Engineer Battalion, based in Spartanburg. He transferred to a Pennsylvania combat engineer unit when it was called up for active duty.

Caughman is the first fatality of the Iraqi war from Lexington County and the 21st member of the armed services with ties to South Carolina to die in the conflict.

Friday's service was a mix of sweet sentiment—about a son, brother, nephew, cousin and soldier—and a dose of unabashed patriotism.

Just after the service started, the Rev. Robert "Butch" Powell asked mourners to salute some 60 members of the U.S. military who attended the funeral, including four dozen members of Caughman's Reserve unit.

Led by the fallen soldier's parents, Hampton and Jane Caughman, mourners stood and offered a thunderous ovation that lasted for 40 seconds.

Later, pictures of Caughman flashed on a screen at the front of the church while country singer Toby Keith's recording of "American Soldier" was played over the public address system.

The pictures covered Caughman's life from toddler to soldier.

There were shots of Caughman as a child at birthday parties, pedaling his red tractor, riding horseback, playing youth league baseball and fishing at the family pond.

There also were pictures of Caughman at his high school graduation flanked by his parents, shots of him and his buddies posing with a buck they had bagged, and images of him in his Army desert togs at the wheel of a Humvee.

Caughman's parents said he loved children and especially relished the time he could spend with his cousins at family outings.

One of those cousins, 6-year-old Hannah Frye, honored Caughman by standing before