

SOUDER and former Superintendent of Ft. Clatsop Memorial, Don Striker.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GARY GRASMICK
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on August 2, 2004, we rise to thank Mr. Gary Grasmick for outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. For the past 29 years Gary has served this great institution as a valuable employee at House Information Resources, HIR, within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Throughout his career with HIR, Gary has held many positions of increasing responsibility. He began his career at the House on June 16, 1975 as a Production Control Specialist in the HIR data center. For many years Gary's technical, analytical, communication, and financial skills served him well in his efficient management of information technology budgets and contracts. He performed extensive amounts of research and analysis of vendors' hardware and software offerings to acquire the most cost effective and functional products for the House. Gary has also been responsible for configuration management of data center hardware and software and served on several HIR task forces. Since 1998, Gary has been a member of HIR's Immediate Office as the Resources Manager where all his years of experience have been invaluable in serving senior management. As Resources Manager, Gary also oversaw the HIR financial management and procurement processes to ensure compliance with House guidelines and the responsible execution of appropriated funds. Gary was also the recipient of the HIR Quality Award, an in-house award given to outstanding employees for service beyond their assigned duties. His peers and co-workers will miss Gary's professionalism and friendly manner.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Gary for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Gary many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

IN MEMORIAM—SPECIALIST CRAIG
STUART FRANK

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I take this floor to pay tribute to one of Michigan's fallen sons, Army Specialist Craig Stuart Frank. Spc. Frank was a military police officer assigned to the 1775th Military Police Company out of Taylor, Michigan and deployed in Iraq.

Spc. Frank was on assignment guarding a truck convoy mission from Kuwait to a location north of Baghdad when he and his comrades came under a rocket propelled grenade attack. It was on this mission that he gave his last full measure of devotion.

Long before his deployment to Iraq, Spc. Frank was a hero to his family, Timothy and Linda Frank, and his friends of Lincoln Park, Michigan. He joined the military to first serve his country, but also to take advantage of the benefits to pay off his school loans. His father said that, "he didn't want to burden us with the payments." Craig was studying education at Eastern Michigan University and his goal was to become a history teacher. He also showed an interest in becoming a firefighter.

Craig was apparently an avid reader. He brought with him to Iraq 15 books when he was shipped out. His bookishness was a cause for much teasing from his fellow guardsmen of the 1775th.

Spc. Frank's service in the Michigan National Guard and the way he conducted himself in uniform and in battle teaches us a lot about courage. Serving his country was a great source of pride to Craig, and he died on duty in the field of battle.

My thoughts, prayers and tears are with the Frank family and the lady of Craig's affection, Ms. Connie Walker. Craig answered the call to duty and served his country and the State of Michigan with valor. The Army has a tradition of "No man left behind." In that tradition, the story and memory of Spc. Frank will not be left behind. They continue to live on in the thoughts and stories of families and friends.

To the Frank family, I wish to borrow from Abraham Lincoln's letter to Mrs. Bixby: "I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you on the cherished memory of the loved, lost and solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

On behalf of a grateful nation, please accept our gratitude and deepest sorrow for your sacrifice.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BREANN
BLACKMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a smart, happy, and beautiful seven-year old, Breann Blackman, who brightens the lives of her family and her Grand Junction, Colorado community. Despite the many challenges she has faced she maintains a healthy and happy attitude towards life. I am proud to join my colleagues here today before this body of Congress and this nation in recognizing her tremendous caring and fun-loving nature in the face of great adversity.

When Breann was three-months old she was diagnosed with infantile scoliosis. The disease produces a severe twisting of the spine, which causes her to spend twenty-three hours of the day in a brace that encases her torso from the hips up to her armpits and has an attachment for neck and head support. The brace comes off for half an hour stretching exercises at recess and half an hour to take a bath. She attends swim therapy at St. Mary's Life Center and does breathing exercises four times a day with a Bi-pap breathing machine. In addition to these daily aspects of her life, she and her brother Jordan experienced the loss of both their mother and father to tragic

circumstances and now live under the custody of their grandparents Lillian and Gene.

Mr. Speaker, Breann Blackman has surpassed many obstacles in her life, and I am honored to recognize her strength and vitality before this body and this nation today. Thank you Breann for improving the lives of the people around you, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JUANITA PHILLIPS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Juanita R. Phillips, a retired St. Louis Public School educator and the aunt of my colleague and dear friend, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON. Ms. Phillips died of natural causes on July 1, 2004, less than three months shy of celebrating her 100th birthday. Born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 26, 1904, she experienced many highs and lows of this great country's history, witnessing historic events from both World Wars and the Great Depression to landing astronauts on the Moon. She attended the Clinton, Iowa Public Schools, graduated from the University of California-Los Angeles in 1927 and earned a master's degree in English from Ohio State University. She was a pioneer and a model for women of her day and today.

Ms. Phillips pursued a rewarding career teaching English at historically black institutions such as Florida A&M College in Tallahassee, Florida and the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia, before moving to St. Louis, Missouri in 1943 with her husband, Dr. A.C. Phillips. Ms. Phillips followed her love for teaching English to Soldan High School in the St. Louis Public School system, from which she retired in 1972, and subsequently served as a tutor.

In her years as an educator Ms. Phillips touched many lives. One of those lives is that of her niece, my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON. DIANE has followed in the footsteps of her Aunt Juanita by devoting her life to community service, first as a teacher and school board member, and then as a California State Senator and later as U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. DIANE has been a role model to other women just as Aunt Juanita was for her.

Juanita Phillips was truly an exemplary American. She overcame obstacles of racism and hatred to ensure a better life for her family and future generations. The challenges she faced as an African American educator through the years of segregation in our country were difficult to overcome, but Juanita didn't give up. She was undaunted by her commitment to making her world a better place, and she succeeded in doing so for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of a woman who dedicated her life to education and to making sure future generations could realize their dreams. There are lessons to be learned from someone who gave so much to so many. Let us all join in giving gratitude for this philanthropic, civic minded and loving individual, Juanita Rabouin Phillips, and to her niece, Representative DIANE WATSON, who carries on the legacy by her service in the Congress.