

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SERGEANT MAJOR JAMES PETTAWAY JR.

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of my neighbor and constituent Sergeant Major James Pettaway, Jr. who gave his life in service to his country. SGM Pettaway died this week as a result of wounds he suffered in August during his second tour of duty in the war in Iraq. Only a few weeks after his deployment to Iraq, the convoy jeep he was riding in struck a roadside bomb outside of Fallujah. The explosion killed one man and seriously injured SGM Pettaway, covering 80 percent of his body with burns. After a long fight, he died Sunday at the Brook Medical Burn Center in San Antonio, Texas.

I honor SGM Pettaway for the valiant sacrifice he made for his country. I also honor him for the kind of man he was. SGM Pettaway grew up in the army, enlisting after his high school graduation in 1988. The army changed him, made him stronger, gave him a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Because he was the kind of man he was, he wanted to give back some of what he had been given. He wanted to pass along the life lessons he had learned to others. His supervisor said the army "changed him from a scatterbrained kid to a caring man."

After 10 years of active duty, James Pettaway, this caring man and father of an 11-year-old son Brandon, joined a guard unit at the Herman Toulson Correctional Camp in Maryland. He was part of an 88-member guard contingent at the boot camp that houses adult felons. Because he was a caring man, SGM Pettaway took a genuine interest in the inmates' lives and tried to help them benefit from the things he learned in the army. He volunteered for extra duty, took a special interest in their accomplishments and tried to help them lead better lives.

In 2002, SGM Pettaway's reserve unit, the 223rd Transportation Company of Morristown, PA, was called to active duty. He served a year in Kuwait before returning to the United States. Then in May his reserve unit was called again to active duty. This time, his family and friends say, the 37-year-old sergeant did not have a positive feeling about returning to war. But he dutifully answered his country's call one more time. He would not live to see his hometown of Southampton, New York again.

Several of SGM Pettaway's cousins attended Southampton public schools and played on sports teams with my children. His Uncle works with my brother in the landscaping business. His son Brandon played on a Little League team last season with my friend's son. We all mourn his death. He is the first U.S. service member from our town to be killed in the Iraq war.

We cannot ask more of a man than we did of SGM Pettaway. He gave his all. Iraq forced him to learn some of life's most difficult lessons. I honor him for his bravery, his goodness, his service to others, and for the sacrifice he made for his country. I honor his son Brandon, and I pray that the lessons his father

learned will not have been learned in vain but will be carried on in the lives of his family and friends.

HONORING DR. EDGAR WAYBURN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edgar Wayburn of San Francisco and Marin County, California, on the occasion of the recognition of Tomales Bay as a Ramsar site. Designated by the U. S. government, the Ramsar Bureau in Switzerland maintains a list of Wetlands of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands. Ed Wayburn's support for this nomination was crucial in securing the Ramsar listing.

With a long history of environmental activism, Ed Wayburn has promoted understanding of the importance of the land/marine interface and, in 1998, successfully nominated Bolinas Lagoon as a Ramsar site, the only other such designation in California. Now 97, he has a record as one of the most successful environmental leaders in the country. Locally, Ed and his late wife Peggy are known for their roles in the expansion of Mount Tamalpais State Park and the creation of Pt. Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Nationally, they spent 13 years fighting to protect 104 million acres of Alaskan wilderness, an achievement that doubled the size of the national park system when President Carter signed the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act, which added substantially to six parks, in 1980.

A family doctor born in Georgia, Ed Wayburn came to California in 1927. The natural landscape awed him at the time, and the post-World War II boom that saw much of the Bay area paved over turned him into an activist. Five times president of the Sierra Club, he worked in a different style from his legendary colleague David Brower, the Club's executive director during the 1950s and 1960s. Skilled at working persistently behind the scenes, Wayburn could negotiate the halls of Congress and the offices of Interior Secretaries as comfortably as the wilderness trails he loved. In 1995, he won the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, and, in 1999, he won the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian award, for his exceptional service on behalf of environmental preservation.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Edgar Wayburn is principally responsible for saving more open space than any other living American. Although not the hiker he used to be, he is still awed and inspired by the natural world. "Wilderness is enjoyed not only by the young and hardy," he says. "Sometimes it is simply enough to know it exists—to remember and to dream." We share the dream of Ed Wayburn for a world in which mankind honors and preserves our natural heritage.

CONGRATULATING THE BRUDERHOF COMMUNITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bruderhof Community in their recent efforts to spread peace. The "community of brothers" is pursuing its goal of acceptance through construction of the "Peace Barn," a sanctuary for those who need silence and a gathering place for those who seek progress.

In the wake of September 11, 2001, a shadow of grief was cast over America. Nearly every citizen felt the reins of instability tugging at the society we once thought to be impregnable. With the strength and ambition that typifies the character of Americans, however, the Bruderhof Community turned devastation into promise by contributing to the Flight 93 Memorial and building a "Peace Barn."

Just two days after the terrorist attacks, the Bruderhof Community mobilized to realize its goals. In an effort to contribute to the Flight 93 memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the community children have produced handmade benches with the names of those who lost their lives engraved into the backs upon the request of the families. To date, the group has produced 27 benches and has no plan to stop. Additionally, by merging its resources and gathering its members, the Bruderhof children have created a refuge for reflection and a hall for meetings out of an old, neglected, and weathered barn. Now, the Peace Barn functions as a place of encouragement, healing and sharing.

Since its inception, the barn has welcomed scores of visitors seeking peace. Grieving families are comforted by the photograph-adorned walls that inspire memories of the lives that were lost on Flight 93. Holocaust survivors are heartened by the optimism and goodness that pervade the atmosphere in the barn. Curious travelers are impelled to spread the message of peace throughout their relative communities.

In a world wrought with terror, the achievement of world peace is a formidable task. The Bruderhof Community has espoused the idea that the pursuit of peace needs to start small and diffuse gradually. With every welcoming hand that is extended to visitors and every memory that is triggered through the photos on the wall, hopefully the Bruderhof vision for the future will materialize.

On September 11, 2001, our Nation lost the ability to take peace for granted. With the construction of the Peace Barn, the Bruderhof has initiated a trend that all of America should follow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEANNETTE DAVIS AND HER WORK ON BEHALF OF CHILDHOOD AUTISM

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jeannette M. Davis, who passed

away a year ago on October 8, 2003, at 45 years of age.

A resident of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Jeannette was recognized nationally for her advocacy on childhood autism. She was a homemaker and the mother of an autistic son, Christopher, whom I got to know over the past few years.

Jeannette traveled the nation to help create programs to assist autistic children and their parents. To obtain more funding for autism programs across our home state of Pennsylvania, Jeannette spent many hours visiting members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Senate.

Her advocacy helped lead to undergraduate programs for the autistic at Franklin and Marshall College, Millersville University, and The Pennsylvania State University. In addition, Jeannette's valuable work created an in-home autism-help program at Rutgers University.

I am saddened that a year ago this week, we lost Jeannette after an illness of several months. Despite her condition, she lobbied on behalf of the autistic community until her untimely passing.

Jeannette is one of Pennsylvania's great heroes, who while taking care of a son and daughter, used her voice and powers of persuasion to create new hope for children with autism and their families. While we continue to mourn her passing, today I rise to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Jeannette M. Davis.

THE UNIVERSAL NATIONAL
SERVICE ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 163 and urge my colleagues to overwhelmingly reject not only this election year "scare tactic" but the increasingly archaic policy of universal conscription.

Since the founding of our nation over two hundred years ago, the U.S. military has reluctantly used conscription to rapidly fill the ranks of an often undermanned and under funded military force in the face of grave national threats. Today, we live in a nation united under a single representative government that has faced and defeated the global threats of fascism and communism. A vital component of these victories was the evolution of the U.S. military from a garrison force, reinforced by conscripts in times of national emergency, to the present-day, all-volunteer military which now ably defends our nation from the deadly violence of international terrorism.

Like a large portion of our population, I am old enough to recall America's last attempt at conscription. More significantly, as a junior officer in the Marine Corps near the end of the Vietnam conflict, I witnessed first-hand many of the unfortunate repercussions of the military draft policy—the migration of a drug culture into the ranks, race riots, and the lack of unit camaraderie that leads to mission success.

I am proud to say that when I finished my 25-year career in the Marine Corps, those problems had completely disappeared or been

reduced to statistical insignificance. Today's all-volunteer military, forged in the tragic "lessons learned" of Vietnam, has repeatedly demonstrated its professionalism and ability to defend America's national interests. The men and women of this well-educated and well-trained force serve our nation because they choose to do so. Today, we honor their service and ensure their continued success by voting to maintain the best-equipped, best-trained, and all-volunteer, Armed Forces.

THE GUARD AND RESERVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (GREAT) ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Guard and Reserve Education and Training Act of 2004. GREAT would bring VA educational assistance opportunities for Guard and Reserve members—often referred to as the Selected Reserve—more in line with those of their active duty counterparts. In the post-9/11 environment, active duty and Guard/Reserve members often serve side-by-side as part of our Total Force concept. I believe it's an issue the Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committee can work on together because the Department of Veterans Affairs administers the program determining eligibility and pays educational assistance allowances.

This year America celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the original World War II GI Bill. Due to the GI Bill, college enrollment grew dramatically. In 1947, GI Bill enrollees accounted for almost half of the total college population. In the decade following World War II, more than 2 million eligible men and women attended college using GI Bill educational benefits. The result was an American workforce enriched by 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists and another million college-educated men and women. Indeed, the GI Bill is arguably our most successful program ever due to its profound effect on our economy and our workforce.

In 1985, under the visionary leadership of our former Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman, G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Congress designed the modern version of the GI Bill, fittingly now called the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). In Public Law 107-103, the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001, Congress significantly increased MGIB purchasing power for veterans and servicemembers. I was privileged to author this legislation which increased the MGIB basic benefit from \$672 to \$800 per month in January 2002, to \$900 in October 2002 and to \$985 in October 2003—a 46 percent increase. These increases are the largest in the MGIB's remarkable history. With the annual cost of living increase for fiscal year 2005, the MGIB now pays \$1,004 per month.

GREAT would continue the progression of improvements to the MGIB by providing a greater benefit to our Guard and Reserve members.

First, this legislation would increase the VA monthly educational assistance allowance rate

for Guard/Reserve members from \$288 to \$400. When Congress first created the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)-Selected Reserve educational assistance program in 1985, it established the monthly benefit level at about 47 percent of the active duty rate. However, the education benefit rate for Selected Reservists has lagged significantly behind the original 47 percent figure. Today, the \$288 per month that members of the Selected Reserve receive under chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, is only about 28 percent of the \$1,004 per month that regular active-duty servicemembers receive under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code. My proposed increase to \$400 per month would be a first step to bring the Selected Reserve education benefit closer to the amount Congress envisioned when it initially created the MGIB.

Second, GREAT would establish a new, higher benefit for Guard and Reserve members who have accumulated 180 days within a 5-year period of active duty service in a contingency operation since September 11, 2001. This new benefit would be equal to the benefit for servicemembers who enlist for 2 years of active duty and 4 years of Reserve duty—\$816 per month. These Reservists and Guards members would not incur a \$1,200 pay reduction to be eligible for the new benefit. In my view, the current pay reduction simply represents a kind of tax. The House did not originally contemplate such a pay reduction for either active duty or Selected Reserve members. In fact, the 1999 report of the bipartisan Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance recommended that Congress repeal the \$1,200 pay reduction.

Third, to establish greater equity in the Selected Reserve and active duty educational assistance programs, my bill would allow beneficiaries to use entitlement during a 14-year period that would begin on the date of their last day of active duty, the same as the policy currently in effect for active duty servicemembers. This new, 14-year delimiting date would be available to members of the Selected Reserve on or after September 30, 2004. Currently, Selected Reserve members may use VA educational assistance benefits under the MGIB only while still serving in the Reserves.

Finally, GREAT would give service branch secretaries the discretionary authority to allow Selected Reserve members to transfer any unused VA educational entitlement to dependents if the member has completed at least 20 years in the Reserves. Many Reservists are married and have families. My bill would furnish them an additional tool to finance a child or spouse's education or training to compete in the workforce. The Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance also made this recommendation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. The role of Guard and Reserve members in our national defense has changed dramatically under the Total Force concept. Guard and Reserve members can be mobilized for up to 2 years. They often experience some of the same types of issues in transitioning from military to civilian life as do their active duty counterparts. My bill would help facilitate that transition through increased training opportunities in a highly competitive civilian economy. Further, my bill fundamentally acknowledges