

His fellow officer, Captain Daniel M. Gade considered Lieutenant Brown one of the finest officers he'd known, saying that he was an inspirational leader, both on and off the field of battle who during numerous enemy contacts, was calm, leading his men with bravery and aplomb. He loved his men, and they loved him in return.

That is how Tyler lived life, a born leader, a born officer that had a passion for people and a passion for life. His leadership qualities were identified early. While President of his high school senior class at Woodward Academy, his classmates considered him a politician in the making; patriotic, red, white and blue to the core; and figured he could even become President of the United States some day.

After high school, Tyler proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, Carey and his older brother, Brent to Georgia Tech, which is my alma mater. At Georgia Tech, Tyler served as President of the Student Government Association for the 1999–2000 academic year, a position that his father had also held while in school. His hard work, dedication, and commitment to inclusion inspired fellow students to become more involved on campus and to get the most out of their college days. Tyler graduated in 2001 with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in management and in history, society and technology. Commissioned from the ROTC program at Georgia Tech, he earned paratrooper's wings and completed the rigorous Army Ranger training course before joining the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry, based at Camp Hovey in Tongduchon City, Korea.

Tyler was among 3,600 troops of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in early September from South Korea. He had only been in Iraq 2 weeks when he was killed. Tyler had been approved for service in the Army's famous 3rd Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard, one of the oldest and most respected Infantry Regiments in the United States Army. The Old Guard has the responsibilities of guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, serving as the Army's ceremonial unit and, as an active and well-trained Infantry Regiment, the 3rd Infantry is also responsible for the protection of Washington, DC.

Instead of accepting this prestigious assignment he chose to go to Iraq with his men. That decision exemplified his life, putting the good of others in front of his own interests.

On September 28, Tyler finally was joined with the Old Guard as they escorted him to his final place of rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge for his heroic service.

I had the privilege of being present at his interment and to pay respect to a young man who in only 26 years had made a difference and touched more lives than many do in their entire life. As the bugler began to play taps and the honor guard fired a rifle volley salute, I couldn't help but look around at some of those lives who stood beside me and see the heaviness in their hearts and the sadness in their eyes, but I could tell we were saying goodbye to a truly special individual.

My heart went out to the Brown family, a proud American family giving so much to their country, as the flag that draped Tyler's coffin was folded and presented to his mother, Sally,

and the medals that had been earned by the ultimate sacrifice were placed into the hands of his father.

The heavy rain that fell down that day was fitting to the somber mood created by this loss. Tyler Brown was a young man, a son, a brother, a friend, an officer, a leader who left this world with so much potential and so much ahead of him.

His brother Brent said that Tyler "died for the country he loved, doing what he wanted to do. He lived well and died a hero. He lived life to the fullest, he truly did. He became a role model to me."

Mr. Speaker, Tyler Brown in his life and in his death has become a role model to me, a role model for all of us. I salute his service to our nation, the love he showed to his family and all those with whom he came into contact. We know that he is in a better place now and pray this knowledge will provide some measure of comfort for his family in the days ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown along with the entire Brown family are to be commended and honored for their sacrifice and my thoughts and prayers remain with them as they endure this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN J.
FINKELMAN.

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on May 2, 2004, Steven J. Finkelman received the Southwest Achievement Award from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and I am proud to memorialize here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the accolades Steven received as he accepted this prestigious award. Steven is a devoted father and husband, and he is equally devoted to his community and his country. He has devoted countless hours of his life to preserve, protect and defend the United States of America, and he understands, as I do, that America's strongest ally in our war against terrorism is the State of Israel.

Here again tonight I want to record my immense pride in Steven's achievements and my gratitude to him for all that he has done to improve the lives of our neighbors in Houston, and for his tireless work to promote the principles of individual freedom grounded in faith and self reliance that have America the greatest and most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

Congratulations Steven, on receiving AIPAC's Southwest Region Distinguished Leadership Award for 2004. No one deserves this high honor more than you do. I am pleased to memorialize here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my own congratulations, your speech as you received the award, and the eloquent words of our good friend Melvin Dow as he introduced you.

AIPAC PRESENTATION TO STEVE FINKELMAN

The video mentioned that Steve is the child of a Holocaust survivor. That fact sends two messages about this presentation to Steve.

First, it is a tribute to Steve's family that one generation arrives in this country with nothing, and a generation later the family

operates a respected successful business, has educated its children and grandchildren, and Steve, as the video pictures reflect, is a personal friend of Senators, Congressmen and other government leaders—the American dream coming true.

Second, the story illustrates the unique glory of this wonderful country which takes, in the words on the Statue of Liberty, "the tired, the poor, the wretched refuse of a teeming shore" and offers them the golden opportunity to enjoy freedom and to use their talents and energy to be whatever they can be.

Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community. Be involved and be a part of the community." Steve is the paradigm of Hillel's concept.

Steve is in numerous Jewish organizations, not just as a member, but as an active, involved leader. I will tick off a few:

First, naturally, I will mention AIPAC—Steve is on the National Executive committee and the Houston Advisory Council.

He also has served or currently serves on the board of directors of these organizations:

The Republican Jewish Coalition;
The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA);

The Institute of Hebraic Christian Studies;
State of Israel Bonds (Steve has been President of the Prime Ministers Club);

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev;
Congregation Beth Yeshurun;

Holocaust Museum of Houston (Steve has served on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board since the inception of that organization);

Anti-Defamation League;
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston;

Camp Young Judaea;
University of Texas at Austin Hillel.

I could go on, but that gives you the idea.

Steve has won awards from the Jewish Federation of Houston, Hillel, State of Israel Bonds, and Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Israel.

He spent a year studying and working in Israel. He's been to Israel 16 times.

A tribute to Steve would not be complete without also paying tribute to Sandra—his wonderful partner of almost 17 years. Steve and Sandra share not only community property but also a heart-felt appreciation of the American dream, a profound dedication to the security of Israel, and a deep commitment to Jewish values. In the latter connection, their three children all attended Jewish day schools and all attended Young Judaea summer camp.

For all these reasons, AIPAC is proud and honored to present its Southwest Achievement Award for 2004 to Steve Finkelman.

STEVEN J. FINKELMAN—RESPONSE FOR AIPAC
SW REGION DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP
AWARD

Thank you, Melvin. Receiving this award from you makes it even sweeter!

Friends! I am filled with humility and gratitude for being chosen as a recipient for this award. I have so much respect for AIPAC and for its vital mission to support the U.S.-Israel relationship. Being recognized by AIPAC, therefore, means so much to me.

When I heard Joy's beautiful rendition of the national anthems earlier this evening, I didn't hear two separate songs, rather two verses of the same song.

In my mind, love for the United States and love for the State of Israel don't compete with one another; they compliment each other.

Memory can be fickle and in the whirlwind of current events and competing interests, it is easy to forget the fundamentals. No one

does a better job keeping us focused than AIPAC.

Tonight, I am inspired . . .

Inspired by the incredible dedication of people whom I have met through my involvement in politics . . . grassroots activists, elected officials, candidates—all of you have my deepest admiration.

Inspired by our Christian Zionist friends who mean so much to me and who have opened their hearts to Israel and to the Jewish people.

Inspired by the words we heard earlier this evening from Sen. John Cornyn and the members of our local Congressional Delegation, who prioritized their schedules to be here tonight. And by all the other elected officials who have joined us here tonight as well.

Inspired by our wonderful Houston Jewish Community and the professionals and lay leaders with whom I have the privilege of working. Each organization plays an important role in the totality we call Klal Yisrael.

Inspired by a strong spiritual attachment to Judaism. My faith and the values that derive from our rich heritage are the underpinnings for my political activism.

I want to thank Relda for sharing this honor with me. And to the entire AIPAC staff who worked so hard on this event.

As a Holocaust survivor, my father's legacy to me is the sacred duty to remember those who did not survive. My mother, of blessed memory, was an example of unending endurance and inner strength, and my mother-in-law's zest for life is very special to me.

Sandra and I have been blessed with three wonderful children—Jordan, Seth and Marissa. They have learned to cope with the evenings that both Mom and Dad are out at meetings. However, Friday nights are spent together at Beth Yeshurun and Shabbat Dinner afterwards.

I hope my children will look around this room and see how many of you have taken the time to support the important mission of AIPAC.

Things can get pretty crazy in our home between all the meetings and events Sandra and I are involved with. Yet, Sandra still makes sure that there are three meals a day on the table, and that each kid gets to wherever they need to go. She is an awesome mother, wife and partner. I am so fortunate to have a wife who is not only supportive, but who makes me proud for all that she does. Sandra, I love you.

At one time or another, all my other family members who are here to support me this evening end up pitching in to help in one way or another. Thank you all.

I close with a hope that each of us this evening has been inspired to increase our level of pro-Israel activism at least one notch—it begins with education on the issues. There is no better place for that than AIPAC . . . get involved with candidates, elected officials, and the political party of your choice . . . or better yet, with the political party of my choice. Not to worry, Mark, that's as partisan as it gets tonight.

The great sage Hillel asked—“If I am not for myself who will be? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?” The answer to the question “when” is “now!” Let's go do it!

Thank you.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL CRABBERS 700TH VICTORY IN FOOTBALL

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, Representative JOANN DAVIS and Representative ED SCHROCK, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Hampton High School Crabbers football team won their 700th game last night. By doing so, the Crabbers became one of only 11 high school football programs in the Nation to reach 700 victories. This is a remarkable feat and I believe they deserve formal recognition for their accomplishment.

Hampton High School began playing football in 1899, so the legacy of this milestone extends to the hundreds of players who have worn the Crabber uniform and to coaches such as Mike Smith, Dick Esleeck, James “Suey” Eason, and Johnny Palmer. Coach Smith has been head coach for more than half of the Crabbers' 700 wins, and has been a part of more than 400 victories.

My colleagues JOANN DAVIS, ED SCHROCK, and I would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to the Hampton High School players and their families, Coach Smith and the rest of his coaching staff, Hampton High alumni, and the entire Hampton High community for their remarkable accomplishment.

THE INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OUR RETURNING SOLDIERS AND VETERANS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, October 3 through October 9 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. During this week, it is critical that Members of Congress and the American public recognize the increased mental health needs of our returning soldiers and veterans.

As co-Chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, I rise today to express my strong support for expansion of the mental health benefits offered to our veterans and the men and women currently serving in our armed services. Those who have witnessed the atrocities of war must have professional assistance to deal with the traumatic memories that they are going to live with for the rest of their lives. These traumatic memories can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, a dangerous biological condition affecting a soldier's body, mind, and certainly family. Unfortunately, soldiers returning home often do not receive the comprehensive care they need. Some even sign their rights-to-service away.

Many of the soldiers who served in recent wars in the Middle East have a desperate need for mental health services. Here are some alarming statistics. Out of 15,000 veterans returning from the Middle East who

have utilized VA healthcare services, 12 percent presented symptoms related to psychological trauma. It is estimated that more than 25 percent of troops returning from Iraq are being examined for mental health concerns. These are startling statistics and dramatically demonstrate the need for more mental health services.

We must concern ourselves that many soldiers find it difficult to obtain treatment or fail to seek help because of the stigma attached to mental illness due to a lack of sensitivity. Just look at our jails and our homeless population. Our communities and our social service system are affected, yet we refuse to admit a problem exists.

I am also deeply troubled and concerned, as are many women Members of Congress, with our returning women soldiers who may have been exposed to the traumatic experience of sexual assault. For example, a horrendous 8 percent of female Gulf War Veterans experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault during deployment. The PTSD from sexual assault is just as harmful as combat related PTSD. This must cease immediately.

In the past three decades, the Veterans' Administration has taken great strides toward better mental care services for men and women, and there is now a better understanding of PTSD because of research conducted through the VA health system. More remains to be done. Twenty-five years ago, the VA offered no PTSD services, no Vet Centers, no homeless services. Today these services exist though limited. However, many veterans will not benefit from these services because of a lack of access. There are just not enough Vet Centers, and the need for services will only continue to grow as a result of U.S. involvement throughout the world.

Additional funding for the VA health system must be appropriated to improve access to care. The President's proposal of funding increase of only 2 percent for the VA health system does not even cover increases in cost of living and is insufficient even to maintain the inadequate current level services. The demand on PTSD services has not kept up with the increase need of services. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have greatly increased the need for these vital services. Some veterans who need weekly or biweekly follow-up appointments for therapy are forced to wait weeks, and in many cases even months. This is unconscionable. The VA does not have enough mental health professionals due in part to lack of funding, and the President's low funding proposal will exacerbate this problem. Our returning soldiers and veterans deserve better from their government. They have earned what was promised them.

The Bush administration has repeatedly emphasized that the war in Iraq is not another Vietnam. However, by not providing veterans the necessary mental health resources, we can assure the same high rates of suicide that existed among Vietnam veterans. As we conclude our recognition of mental illness awareness this week, we will continue our fight to ensure that our veterans and service personnel will be able to receive the mental health services they deserve. Their sacrifice for our beloved country paid for them.