

and Summit County to secure water for residents; successfully adjudicating over 125 applications for water rights, changes of water rights, and plans for augmentation and exchange; and negotiating major conservation easements and open space acquisitions for the Meadowdale Ranch, Lily Lake, Caribou Ranch, and Cal-Wood Ranch, all important open space projects in Colorado.

Most likely due to his extensive knowledge of and love for the environment, Glenn has taken it upon himself to become an elite and avid mountain climber. He completed over 1,100 summer and winter ascents of peaks over 11,000 feet and climbed numerous other mountains around the world. Because of these experiences, Glenn has been asked numerous times to contribute written pieces for outdoors publications. He has also led various mountaineering clubs and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the ongoing achievements of Glenn Porzak in mountaineering and in conservation law. Following his ascent of Cho Oyu, Glenn has been quoted as saying that it's time that he started acting his age and suggesting that his expeditions to summit peaks higher than 26,250 feet are over. As those who know Glenn are aware, he has said this before. So, I would not be surprised to see Glenn back on the mountain making yet more climbs. The allure of the outdoors and the majestic peaks are that strong. It is the same allure that calls me to the outdoors and the adventurous challenges that they present. Glenn's passion for the outdoors and his legal work are an inspiring reminder of the determination of the human spirit to surmount any obstacle and meet any challenge—and especially that age needs not be a limiting factor. I'm sure that Glenn will remain active in these and other important endeavors.

DEATH OF RAUL BESTEIRO,
"MR. B"

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, this week my heart is heavy with the sad news of the passing of a unique and beloved patriot, Raul A. Besteiro Jr., known affectionately throughout South Texas, and around the world, as "Mr. B." His death has devastated the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where he was simply a legend.

Mr. B was just an exceptional human being. He did in the course of his life what all of us want to do, he literally changed people's lives . . . locally, nationally and internationally. His name was so synonymous with Brownsville that many people actually thought that "Mr. B" meant "Mr. Brownsville."

He touched the lives of thousands of young people in Brownsville as an educator and school administrator in his early years. He was their role model, surrogate parent, teacher, inspiration, motivator and champion.

He was a force within the national business community in persuading the Congress to pass NAFTA, giving South Texas the economic opportunity and the development tools to attract more commerce—and better jobs—to Brownsville. He was my powerful ally in working to improve the economic cir-

cumstances and vitality of the Rio Grande Valley.

Over the last decade, with NAFTA in place, he turned his attention to harnessing global trade routes to the Valley and the Port of Brownsville, a task now only partially complete.

He remained an important part of improving the lives of young people in South Texas—and the Nation—through his work with the University of Texas at Brownsville, and with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's intern and fellowship programs.

I loved Mr. B so much, and relied heavily on his counsel and his friendship. He loved trains; whenever I see a train, I think of Mr. B. I will miss him personally and professionally. Yet it is the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and the Port of Brownsville that will miss the presence of his sweet soul most profoundly.

Brownsville has lost three legends in 2004: Senior U.S. District Judge Filemon B. Vela, U.S. Circuit Judge Reynaldo G. Garza, and now Mr. B. Brownsville Public Utilities Board member Cris Valadez offered a beautiful tribute when he said, "In Spanish there's an old saying that we don't bury men like Mr. B; we plant them in hopes that others like him will grow and be here with us because it will be a better world."

Mr. B gave so much of himself to his community; he was a principled example to all those around him. He was the principal of Brownsville High School; he was superintendent of the Brownsville Independent School District; he was elected president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; he became director of the Port of Brownsville; he was the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College Distinguished Alumnus in 2000; he was named to the Legends of Texas Hall of Fame; he served as Chairman of the Board of the International Bank of Commerce for Cameron County; he was vice chair of the Brownsville & Rio Grande Railroad; he was a member of the Institutional Development Board at the University of Texas at Brownsville; he was a member of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership; he was board president of the Historical Brownsville Museum; he was elected vice-chairman of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board in 2004; and he was a leader in the local Salvation Army, Red Cross, United Way of South Texas and the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I hope when you say your prayers tonight, you will ask God to bless Mr. B's family—his beloved wife Mina and their children—as they learn to live without him; and pray for the community of Brownsville which has lost such a dear pioneer of our city.

TRIBUTE TO CLANCY LYALL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the service of a valued friend of mine and a courageous veteran from Maryland, Clancy Lyall.

Just last week we observed Veterans Day, where we honored the bravery and sacrifice of

our veterans and their families and all of the men and women who make up our Nation's armed forces.

On June 6, 1944, U.S. Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower sent our troops on a mission to confront one of the world's most tyrannical dictatorships with some notable words of inspiration. "You are about to embark on a great crusade, the eyes of the world are upon you, the hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

Despite a tragic number of casualties, the allied forces were ultimately triumphant in liberating Europe and in defending the world from further oppression by ending the control of the brutal and bigoted Nazi regime.

As a member of the E Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, known as the "Band of Brothers" during World War II, Clancy Lyall jumped onto the beaches at Normandy on D-Day, fought at the Battle of the Bulge and helped capture Hitler's "Eagles Nest" retreat.

Sixty years later, on June 6, 2004, Clancy was able to return to Normandy with hundreds of WWII veterans where he participated in the "Normandy Mémoire 60th Anniversary", and was awarded by the French Government with a chest badge in Carenton where his unit distinguished themselves in battle.

Southern Maryland is fortunate to have Clancy Lyall in our midst. He has served our community as a loud voice for Veterans and has organized Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades for many years, privileging our community with an opportunity to honor these important observances.

He has also served as the Past Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans Service Organization, meaning he has made a choice to not only be a member of the veterans' community, but to take part in the organization and work to further the causes of veterans. And, Clancy has worked to preserve stories of the war through presentations at area high schools so that students are able to begin to truly know and understand the human experiences of World War II.

I know that all my colleagues join me in saluting my friend and representative of one of the true heroes of the "Greatest Generation," Clancy Lyall, for his unwavering devotion to our country, and his uncompromising dedication to our community. Clancy, a grateful Nation is indebted to you for your extraordinary service in war and in peace.

HONORING HOWARD LEIBOWITZ
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF BOSTON

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Howard Leibowitz as he completes his service with the City of Boston. Howard served as the director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations for Mayor Thomas M. Menino since 1994, creating strong relationships with members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation and their staff. Howard began his service with the City of Boston in 1987, first as the director of federal relations for Mayor Raymond Flynn

and then as the first press secretary in Mayor Menino's administration.

Howard Leibowitz is a life-long resident of the City of Boston. He grew up in Brighton and Mattapan, attended Boston Technical High School, and currently lives in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood. Howard graduated from Brandeis University and worked in his first political campaign as a teenager.

He served the people of City of Boston and the administration of Mayor Thomas M. Menino admirably. His many accomplishments include authoring the Boston Neighborhood Investment through Capital Expenditures program and the Senior Home Repair Program, helping to draft the federal Community Housing Partnership Act, and providing national leadership through the city's participation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. Howard served as part of the teams that brought the Democratic National Convention, two annual meetings of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities' Congress of Cities to Boston. Howard is an active member of his community and is particularly committed to affordable housing and economic growth and development. He was a champion for city's legislative efforts to raise new monies through the Municipal Revenue Package.

Mr. Speaker, Howard was a tenacious and effective advocate for the City of Boston and its constituents during his tenure, developing and fighting for legislation and policies to improve the lives of Boston residents, at the federal, state and local level. I am extremely grateful for his efforts on behalf of many of my constituents and appreciate his hard work and dedication. He will be sorely missed. Howard, congratulations on a job well done.

REMEMBERING U.S. ARMY PFC.
JACOB S. FLETCHER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Army Pfc. Jacob S. Fletcher died on November 13, 2003, from wounds he suffered when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by an improvised explosive device. Throughout our nation's history we have triumphed over adversity because of the bravery of people like Pfc. Fletcher. In recognition of his sacrifice, I would like to have his mother's touching account of his life read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

My son, Jacob Samuel Fletcher, was born in Mineola, New York on November 25, 1974. He spent his childhood in Babylon, where he grew up with me, his stepfather Ray, stepbrother Scott and stepsister Tara. He graduated from Babylon High School in 1992. He played lacrosse in his younger years and varsity wrestling in his last year of high school. Jacob always drew and sketched, which was his natural talent. He was gifted with words and wrote eloquently. His passion for music eventually led him to play drums. Jacob gave great love to his family and was known as a loyal and caring friend. He would be there for anyone in need to listen to or help in any way he could. He loved children dearly and was moved by animals of all kinds.

Jacob first tried to join the Army when he was 8 years old by filling out applications in a magazine. He tried twice, but I sent the of-

ficers away when they called for Private Fletcher. He was about to be sworn into the Army when he was 23, but hurt his knee, keeping him out of the service. At 27 he finally joined the Army, with 9/11 being the catalyst to once again fulfill his calling to serve his country. Jacob's training in the Army was completed in Ft. Benning, GA. After his basic training he trained for his paratrooper wings, which he also received at Ft. Benning. He was originally stationed in Vicenza, Italy, where he stayed for 3 months before deploying to Iraq.

He parachuted into Iraq along with 999 other paratroopers in the dark of night. On March 26, 2003, he and the others seized an airfield in Northern Iraq and then went with the Kurds to Kirkuk, Iraq, where he patrolled and went on many missions. He was given 3 days of rest and relaxation in Qatar on November 9. On November 13, on the way back from Qatar, on Highway 1 in Samarra, a bomb hit the bus he was on. My beloved son, along with Joe Manucci was airlifted to a hospital where doctors tried to save him, but he soon died from his injuries.

I know that Jacob had a deep feel for the Iraqi children. He was saddened by the condition that the Iraqis were made to live in. It broke his heart to see the injustice. He had a strong sense of fairness and duty to serve his country. He truly understood what freedom is about and the choices we have to make as Americans.

Jacob is buried at Long Island National Cemetery. The words courage and compassion, which grace his headstone, will tell those who glance his way, that he was a passionate and brave young hero. He takes with him the essence of the Purple Heart, Bronze star, Combat Infantry Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Service Ribbon and Army Service Ribbon.

RESEARCH REVIEW ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following correspondence for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BARTON: I am writing concerning H.R. 5213, the "Research Review Act of 2004," which is scheduled for floor consideration today.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters concerning title XVIII of the Social Security Act. Section 4 of the bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the coverage standards that, under Medicare, apply to patients with inflammatory bowel disease, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with

respect to H.R. 5213, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. BILL THOMAS,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5213, the "Research Review Act of 2004," on which the Committee on Ways and Means received a named additional referral upon introduction.

I appreciate your willingness not to exercise your referral on H.R. 5213. I agree that your decision to forego action on the bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5213 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO J.D.
LUNSFORD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend J.D. Lunsford from my district as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement from the plumbing and heating business. Lunsford Brothers Mechanical Contractors of Grand Junction, Colorado, stands as a tribute to its founder and his 35 years of dedication to his community. It is my pleasure to congratulate J.D. before this body of Congress and this Nation on a job well done.

A devout member of the First Assembly of God Church, J.D. began his family business with a skill and a prayer. After almost a decade as an employee for another mechanical contractor, J.D. received his master plumber's license and began looking for an opportunity to go out on his own in the plumbing and heating business. With only \$2,000 saved for supplies and materials, J.D. founded Lunsford Brothers Mechanical Contractors. J.D. immediately went to work on a 42-unit condominium in the Colorado Mountains shortly before the beginning of the ski season, coming through in the clutch and firmly establishing a reputation for solid workmanship. Growing Lunsford Brothers into a successful business is the realization of a powerful dream and the beginning of a family tradition of service to the Grand Junction community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring J.D. Lunsford to the attention of my colleagues before this venerable body. I would like to join Lunsford Brothers' 45 employees in wishing J.D. luck in what hopes to be a happy and productive retirement. Small businesses like Lunsford Brothers are the backbone of our Nation and encompass the spirit of American enterprise. Congratulations, J.D., and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.