

the battlefield and an expert in the field of intelligence for over 30 years. Our nation is indebted to leaders like Colonel Ives, who deserve our respect for their unending dedication in providing security for Americans both at home and abroad. Of course, no soldier can be successful without a supportive and understanding family at home. Their service and sacrifice in allowing Colonel Ives to do his work deserves our respect and appreciation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Ives for his decades of tireless service towards the protection of our nation. We wish him and his family well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL  
RYAN S. MCCABE, UNITED  
STATES MARINE CORPS

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 29, 2005*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Corporal Ryan S. McCabe of the United States Marine Corps for his extraordinary courage and heroism while serving our nation in Afghanistan. On March, 10, 2005, Lance Corporal McCabe was presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Lance Corporal McCabe put himself at grave personal risk to protect the lives of the Marines in his unit. He used a bayonet to navigate his unit through a minefield in Afghanistan. Due to his bravery, Lance Corporal McCabe's patrol leader—who had been wounded by a detonated landmine—received the urgent medical care he needed to survive and recover.

Lance Corporal McCabe has brought great pride to his parents, Stephen and Kathleen, and his hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts. I would like to congratulate Lance Corporal McCabe, and enter into the record a news article titled "V for valor" by reporter Robert Mills which ran in the May 30, 2005 edition of The Lowell Sun.

His patrol leader had already been wounded by a landmine explosion when Lance Cpl. Ryan McCabe, of Lowell, was handed a bayonet and told by his sergeant to start digging his way through the minefield.

McCabe, 22, took his orders without hesitation.

Just minutes before, McCabe and the rest of the six-man patrol he was part of on that mid-August day had started up a hill where they saw a bunker. The patrol leader took the lead, walking up a trail even though the troops saw landmines on the hillside.

Nevertheless, the patrol leader soon detonated an anti-personnel mine, which blew off part of his leg.

The rest of the patrol retreated from the immediate area to avoid setting off any other mines, and began to organize a rescue mission.

That's when McCabe received his orders.

McCabe, who comes from a long line of veterans and Lowell firefighters, got on his hands and knees, and began probing through the minefield, plunging the bayonet into the dirt, searching for mines.

"You feel through the dirt with the bayonet at an angle so if you find a mine you hit it on the side, which won't set it off," he said.

The anti-personnel mines are triggered when they are stepped on, so only direct pressure on top of the mines will cause an explosion.

McCabe was too excited at the time to remember about how far he had to crawl through the minefield, but he eventually got to the lieutenant and secured the area around him which allowed the rest of the patrol, and the medic that was traveling with it, to rescue and treat the group's leader.

In recognition of his efforts, McCabe was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, with a combat V—for valor—earlier this month.

Despite his heroism in Afghanistan, which he returned from in December, McCabe and his unit, Lima Company of the Third Battalion Sixth Marines, will now ship out for duty in Iraq starting in August or September.

He will leave for urban and desert warfare training in California next week, before spending an estimated six to nine months in Iraq.

He said having another deployment so soon is "stressful," but nothing he can't handle.

"It's stressful, but once you get over there it's not too bad" he said. "The first few months are depressing, but you get used to it real quick."

McCabe, who lived in Lowell all his life before joining the Marine Corps, ran cross-country and track while he was a student at Lowell High School.

When his duty with the Marine Corps is finished in about two years, he hopes to return to Lowell to become a firefighter, just as his father, two uncles and grandfather were before him.

McCabe's father, Steve McCabe, of Lowell, is a lieutenant with the Lowell Fire Department's Ladder 4. McCabe's uncle, Patrick McCabe, is one of the department's eight deputy chiefs. His uncle, Bob McCabe, is also a Lowell firefighter, as was his grandfather, Patrick McCabe, who was a deputy chief when he retired from the department in 1984.

He followed in his father's footsteps when he joined the Marines in 2001. His father had served from 1974 to 1976, just missing being sent to Vietnam.

Speaking from his Lowell home last week, Steve McCabe said he is proud of his son, though he naturally worries about him being in such dangerous situations.

"Like any parent that has a son or daughter serving I'm extremely proud, but at the same time I have mixed emotions because like any parent I worry," Steve McCabe said. "I'm nervous about him going to Iraq."

Steve McCabe said that just as he did when his son was in Afghanistan, he will be following closely any reports he can find while his son is in Iraq.

Though his rescue mission in Afghanistan was perilous, McCabe said he didn't realize what he had done until after the lieutenant was saved.

"At the time, the adrenaline was going so much I just wasn't thinking of what was going on," he said from Fort Lejeune, in North Carolina, last week. "It happened so quickly I didn't have time to get nervous."

"Afterward, I realized 'wow, what did I just do?'" McCabe said.

Mr. Speaker, we're blessed to have brave men and women like Lance Corporal Class

Ryan S. McCabe serving our nation. We should never forget the risks they take to preserve our liberty.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE  
RODRIGUEZ

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 29, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a long time friend, Mr. George Rodriguez. "Georgie", as he is affectionately known in my community, will be honored in the Bronx, New York tonight for his outstanding work and unyielding service to the people of the Bronx, NY.

Since he arrived in New York over forty years ago, George has devoted most of his time to fighting the good fight. Serving as an advocate for the disadvantaged, George has helped to curtail the debilitating effects of racism, poverty and disease throughout the Bronx community.

Among George's long list of accomplishments are several projects which have helped to put roofs over the heads of our most vulnerable citizens. He has served as Chairman of the NYC Model Cities Program (a program that provides low income residents and senior citizens with housing), and helped to establish Mins Plaza Housing, OVB Garden Apartments and Borinquen Court housing for seniors. In addition, George has assisted in providing his neighbors with much needed quality healthcare. He was instrumental in the establishment of the New Lincoln Hospital, and the Segunda Ruix Belvis Neighborhood Health Center.

Mr. Speaker, men like George are a rare breed. It is not everyday that you find individuals who are willing to devote their entire lives to uplifting others. His selfless acts of kindness have helped countless Bronxites live better lives. Furthermore, his actions serve as a testimony to the great influence an individual can have when he is determined to bring about change.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly appreciative of the work George has done for residents of the congressional district. As a result of his strong leadership and vision, the Bronx is a better place and as result of his enduring friendship I am a better leader. For his outstanding service to the people of my community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. George Rodriguez.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL  
SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 27, 2005*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Title II of H.R. 458. This provision protects our service men and women from the predatory practices of high cost military lenders. Companies such as Pioneer Financial have demonstrated the need