

A TRIBUTE TO TWO BRAVE TOTS, JUWAN BRUNSON, 3 YEARS OLD, RHAQUANN BRUNSON, 4 YEARS OLD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two very special tots, Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson, who had the presence of mind to call 911 to seek assistance from emergency personnel when their grandmother, Mrs. Otisteen Brunson, became dizzy and fell in her house on Park Avenue in Wilson, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I learned that as soon as Mrs. Brunson fell, Rhaquann and Juwan immediately charged to their grandmother's rescue; Rhaquann's tiny fingers happened upon 911 on his grandmother's telephone while little Juwan provided comfort to his grandmother by rubbing her head until the emergency personnel arrived.

Mr. Speaker, this incident stresses the importance of parents, grandparents or older siblings taking the time to familiarize children at a very young age with the proper way to respond in emergency situations. It is critically important for children to know their address, home telephone number and how they should respond when confronted with a catastrophic situation such as illness, a fire or flood.

I applaud Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson for their bravery, but more importantly, I applaud their grandmother, Mrs. Otisteen Brunson, for taking the time to teach these tots how to dial 911.

Mr. Speaker, this special act performed by Mrs. Brunson's grandsons very well may have saved her life, as she had just recently been released from the hospital and she suffers with arthritis, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to two mighty brave tots, Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson. I thank God for the blessings of children.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID BUCKLEY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, while Members of Congress are the ones with our names on the door, I doubt that any of us would disagree with the view that we are only as good as the team we have working with us.

David Buckley has been one such stellar member of my team. As Minority Staff Director of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the last two years, "Buck" or "Mud"—as he is affectionately known—has been an indispensable aide, a calm counselor, and one of the most pleasant people with whom I have ever worked and traveled.

Together, Buck and I have visited with the brave women and men of the intelligence community in some of the most challenging and austere parts of the world.

Together, Buck and I have discussed and analyzed some of the most difficult intelligence

and national security issues confronting our country, and we have worked hard to translate those efforts into policies that will hopefully keep the American people and the world safe in this era of terror.

David Buckley came to the Intelligence Committee with many years of impressive experience in congressional and criminal investigations, counterintelligence and law enforcement. Following 8 years of active duty service in the Air Force, he worked as Chief Investigator for the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired at the time by former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn—one of the most respected voices on national security the Congress has ever produced. He served in the Inspector General's office in the Department of Defense and later as the Assistant Director for Defense, National Security and International Affairs in the Government Accountability Office. Immediately prior to joining the Committee, Buck led a staff of 350 criminal investigators in the Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration's office. Finally, Buck is also a graduate of the Defense Intelligence Agency's clandestine human intelligence case officer course and the Federal Executive Institute.

Buck leaves Capitol Hill with the affection and respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. He is genetically programmed to be bipartisan and courteous—traits that have served him extremely well and will continue to distinguish him in the workplace. I personally will miss our daily conversations, his unfailingly positive attitude and consummate professionalism.

I wish him and his wonderful family time for dinners at home, church activities, scout trips, and lots of love and laughter. As Buck begins this new chapter in his life, he remains a valued member of "Team Harman."

INTRODUCING "AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS GOVERNANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006"

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, charitable giving makes a real difference in the lives of people in need, and I have continually sought ways to encourage all Americans to give more. More than a government program or grant or stipend—nothing reflects better the spirit of man caring for his fellow man than the act of freely, benevolently giving out of his own pocket. I truly believe that by increasing charitable giving, we can make a real difference in the world. The Red Cross is the symbol that best represents charitable giving to most Americans. That is why I became involved in this effort to make the American Red Cross a more effective organization, capable of carrying out its mission of meeting critical disaster and emergency needs around the globe. We need to better enable the Red Cross to meet the needs of victims from natural disasters like Katrina, the tsunamis, and the California wildfires.

Yesterday, I introduced the "American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2006." This bill is in large part the result

of a report done by the Red Cross, entitled American Red Cross Governance for the 21st Century, and the hard work and dedication of Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY and his staff. Earlier this year the American Red Cross undertook its first significant review of internal governance since 1947, in an effort to modernize and strengthen its governance structure and practice. In February of this year, the Red Cross challenged its Governance Committee to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of the Board of Governors, the role of management, the relationship with local chapters, and the transparency and accountability of the Red Cross. To conduct this review, the Committee brought together an independent panel of the country's preeminent governance experts and with this panel produced recommendations that were unanimously approved by the Board of Governors in October.

The most important aspects of effectively operating a large corporation are governance, oversight, and accountability. This carefully crafted legislation will modernize the Red Cross governance structure by decreasing the size of the Board of Governors and clarifying their role as being responsible for governance, not day-to-day operations. The bill subjects the Red Cross to enhanced oversight by creating an Office of the Ombudsman that reports annually to Congress, and ensuring that oversight is a primary responsibility of the Board. Through the legislation, the Comptroller General is authorized to review Red Cross involvement in any Federal program or activity, and the bill includes findings that Congress expects the Red Cross to maintain open communications with State regulators of charitable organizations and cooperate with them as necessary. These provisions will help the Red Cross achieve greater transparency and accountability.

Governance, oversight, and accountability are the hallmarks of an efficient corporation that meets the needs of its consumers. In the case of the Red Cross, those needs are great and, unfortunately, continue to grow. But the changes made by the American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2006 will better equip the Red Cross to achieve its mission worldwide. We need to pass this bill as soon as possible to enable the Red Cross to begin making these changes. This will allow the Red Cross to continue to be a major conduit for charitable givers and better utilize the generosity of all Americans.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act and strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and pass this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF MELANIE CHRISTOPHER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to an end, we see the closing of an era for News Channel 12 in Jackson, Mississippi. After 25 years in the business, Melanie Christopher—the cheerful and informative co-anchor of WJTV—will be retiring at the end of this year. She will be focusing more time and attention on her husband and family, but we, her viewers, will miss her.