

Agent in Foreign Counterintelligence, and member of the FBI Reactive Squad and FBI SWAT.

Walt's further service to the Bureau was primarily in the area of International Terrorism and support to the Special Operations Group. In 1995, he was selected to the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team Tactical Helicopter Unit. The members of this elite team considered Walt to be one of the most able and talented pilots to have ever served Hostage Rescue.

As a Supervisory Special Agent for Hostage Rescue, Walt was greatly respected and widely admired for his quiet but powerful presence. All who worked with him remember this friend and leader who avoided the spotlight and always put others first.

His FBI family, agents and pilots alike, can share dozens of stories about Walt's bravery and determination in the field. They can also recount exhaustive examples of this man's extraordinary gift as a strong and focused, yet quiet and selfless leader. Whether sharing the events surrendering Walt's quick thinking, his courage under pressure and his talent as a pilot on the occasion in which he single-handedly pursued fleeing drug suspects and, using only his helicopter, blocked their escape and retained them for capture, or when remembering how he calmed a younger agents baby, providing much needed leadership to the new father in the art of cooing while changing a diaper, those around him always knew of the standard he set for himself and for others in all things pursued.

He was a loving husband for 27 years to wife Yvonne and was a proud father to sons, Sean, Nicholas and Alex. Friends and neighbors from his community in Stafford County, Virginia, will always remember the active support he provided to his family in all their varied activities. While it may be difficult for Brook Point High School football fans to recall the game scores over the last eight seasons, few would forget Walt as the most active cheerleader consistently in attendance.

The same can be said for all events in which Alex, Nicholas and Sean participated, whether as a soccer coach for Alex, football enthusiast for Nicholas, or proud father and passionate fan of Sean's many musical performances; Walt was their number one supporter.

Walt Garcia's best friend, beloved wife Yvonne, and their remarkable three sons, Sean, Nicholas and Alex, will always cherish their memories of time spent together with this devoted husband and father. The community of friends and neighbors in Stafford County, Virginia, along with extended friends and close family across this great county, cherish the gift that was his friendship and love.

And finally, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation was fortunate to have counted this talented and dedicated agent as one of their own, we Americans will forever be grateful for his brave and faithful service to this Nation.

THE DAILY 45: ATHENS, CALIFORNIA SETS MURDER MILESTONE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 35

people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. At a time when millions of homeowners are facing daunting challenges associated with the economic meltdown of the housing market, last Sunday, homeowners and residents of Athens, California were facing a crisis of a different sort. On Sept. 21, when a still unidentified man was shot to death, his loss of life marked the 14th gun-related incident, and the eighth gun-related death, in this community alone!

This latest victim, an African American man, had a life, a family and, I'm sure, someone who loved him. I grieve for him and the veil of violence that neither Athens nor any other American city should have to endure.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say, 'Enough is enough, stop the killing!'

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge October 10, 2008 as the 97th anniversary of the Republic of China, more commonly known as Taiwan.

It is important for Congress to recognize the accomplishments of Taiwan and its democratic government. Taiwan is a loyal friend of the United States and a staunch ally in Asia. Taiwan is a shining example of a solid democracy, recently exemplified by the free and orderly Presidential elections in April and the peaceful transfer of power to President Ma. This transfer of power is a hallmark of a true democracy.

On the eve of Taiwan's anniversary I congratulate President Ma, Washington Representative Ambassador Jason C. Yuan, and all of the Taiwanese people for their unwavering pursuit of freedom.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following (dollar figure for which is to be adjusted to reflect totals actually provided in the bill):

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON

Bill Number: FY 09 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

Account: Title I, Department of Defense, Military Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin—Granville Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$12,800,000 to fund acceleration of construction of a facility to relocate the Ohio Air

National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron and 251st Combat Communications Group to another part of the Springfield, Ohio Air National Guard Base. The current 25 year old facility is obsolete and places severe restrictions on the ability to perform equipment maintenance and conduct training operations. It does not comply with existing codes and has excessive operations and maintenance costs. The current building can be reused for other functions but cannot be made functionally adequate for the communications mission.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure to meet with Joyce Jones, who is a Spina Bifida Association board chair, and past board member of the Spina Bifida Association's Central Indiana Chapter. Ms. Jones's daughter, Lisa, is afflicted with spina bifida, and also is active within the chapter and is a past Chapter president. Ms. Jones visited my office to discuss the daily challenges that her daughter faces as an adult suffering from spina bifida. As the House of Representatives prepares to adjourn, possibly for the year but certainly through the November elections, I rise tonight to ask my colleagues to join me in the best spirit of bipartisanship to help raise awareness of the struggles of people like Lisa Joyce by recognizing October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

For my colleagues who may not know, spina bifida—which literally means split spine—is our Nation's most common, permanently disabling, birth defect. This defect often presents itself within the first month of a pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column of the unborn child. Due to this opening, a person with spina bifida faces complications with almost every organ system, including physical, developmental, educational, and vocational challenges throughout life. The estimated total medical and surgical costs for persons affected by spina bifida in the United States exceed \$200 million. Currently an estimated 70,000 to 130,000 Americans are afflicted with this condition and that number is growing by about 3,000 annually.

Compounding this tragedy is the fact that spina bifida, and many other so-called neural tube defects, are largely preventable. In fact, research has shown that adequate consumption of folic acid or vitamin-B by women of child-bearing age before and during their pregnancies could lower the possibility of a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect by almost 70 percent. The important point, however, is that folic acid is water soluble and it does not stay in the body for very long; so women need to take it every day to help reduce the risk of neural tube defects. Throughout October, the Spina Bifida Association and others will work to raise awareness of the fact that all women of child-bearing age are at risk for having a pregnancy affected by spina bifida; and the fact that they can significantly lower that risk by taking a daily dose of folic acid.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is perhaps the most valuable tool we have to