sang ". . . Lord, there's just one favor I ask of you, see that my grave is kept clean." In 2007 the name of the cemetery was changed to Blind Lemon Memorial Cemetery.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the good work of Director and Choreographer Akin Babatunde and Producer Alan Govenar for such a magnificent rendition of the life of Blind Lemon Jefferson and those Blind Lemon Blues.

HONORING THE FLINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1959

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Flint Central High School Class of 1959 as they celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. A party was held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, on September 4 in honor of this milestone. I am proud to say that I was their teacher.

Over 1,000 students graduated from Flint Central High School in 1959 and their senior year was highlighted by outstanding academic and athletic programs. The football team won the State Championship, the cross-country team won the State Championship, the basketball team won the Regional Championship, and the track team won the State Championship.

The Class of 1959 boasted six Valedictorians. Many students accepted college scholarships and military academy appointments. Over 350 students participated in the 33rd Annual Kaleidoscope and the theatrical production that year was "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

The graduates spanned all walks of life and went on to careers in law, research, education, medicine, the fine arts and manufacturing. The surviving 700 classmates live in almost every state in the United States. Members of the Class of 1959 spread out over the globe and currently can be found in Scotland, Japan, and Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the achievements of the Flint Central High School Class of 1959. As their former teacher, I take deep pride in helping to shape the minds and abilities of these graduates and I congratulate them on their talents, accomplishments, and triumphs.

CONGRATULATING TED AND VEE STUBAN ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stuban of Berwick, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary that was celebrated on September 3.

Throughout their remarkable lives, Ted and Vee Stuban have exemplified what it means to be personal and community role models.

As lifelong residents of northeastern Pennsylvania, Ted was associated with the excavation business and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation before starting an auction business which he and Vee operated for about 25 years.

Ted was also deeply involved in his community, initially as a member of the Berwick Council, then as mayor of Briar Creek and, later, as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly as State Representative of the 109th District for eight successive terms, from 1976 to 1992.

In his capacity as State Representative, Ted was instrumental in crafting legislation and serving constituents in a manner that earned him much respect among his colleagues in Harrisburg and among the thousands of citizens in his district whom he represented so well.

Ted was also deeply involved in civic activities over the years. He was a member of the West End Fire Company, the Knights of Columbus, the Bloomsburg Elks Lodge, past president of the Columbia Montour Aging Board, the Columbia-Montour Visiting Nurses Association board of directors, the PPL Advisory Commission and Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukranian Catholic Church.

Vee Stuban is the former Charlotte Hetler, of Berwick. Formerly employed by the Wise Potato Chip Company in Berwick, Vee has been active in Democrat political circles for many years. She is a member of the Columbia County Democratic Women's Club and the Columbia County Democratic Caucus. She has also been active over the years as a 4H leader and as a member of the Calvary United Methodist Church in Berwick.

Ted and Vee are the parents of a daughter, Mrs. Joseph R., Kathy, Duda.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ted and Vee Stuban on this very special occasion. Not only has this remarkable couple contributed greatly to the quality of life in their community, but they have also been an inspiration to their peers and to future generations as they illustrated, through their actions as well as their words, how to live lives focused on community service to others as a means of deriving personal happiness and contentment.

JARED C. MONTI: AMERICAN HERO

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the hardest part of our job is attending the funerals of those young men and women who have given their lives in the service of our country. Having voted to send American military forces into war in Afghanistan, I was profoundly moved—and troubled—when I attend the funeral of Sergeant Jared C. Monti of Raynham, Massachusetts, who lost his life in a brave effort to save a comrade in that country. These occasions are for us an important reminder that voting to send people to war is a last resort done only after the most thorough and thoughtful consideration, and only when no alternative is consistent with our security.

But Madam Speaker, to talk about the difficulty of our jobs in the context of the death in battle of this brave young man is an example of grave disproportion. For me, this was a sad day. For the family of Jared Monti, it was part of a period of deep and enduring sadness, and of course with Sergeant Monti himself it was the ultimate tragedy—a promising young life lost.

Madam Speaker, in the Boston Globe for Sunday, September 6, Bryan Bender of the Globe staff wrote a moving, eloquent article about Sergeant Monti, describing the battle in which he was killed as he with no regard for his own safety tried to save a wounded comrade. Next week I will be at the White House when Sergeant Monti's family receives the Medal of Honor that was posthumously awarded to him. Madam Speaker, as a tribute to an extraordinary young man, whose dedication to his comrades was unlimited, and as a reminder of what war really means to those who must fight it, I ask that Mr. Bender's excellent, sad article be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, Sept. 6, 2009]

HE COULD NOT LEAVE A COMRADE BEHIND

(By Bryan Bender)

The sound of feet shuffling in the woods, high on a ridge in remote Afghanistan, was the only warning that Sergeant Jared C. Monti and the 15 men under his command were about to be attacked. Before they could even react, they were bombarded with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire.

The ambush by mountain tribesmen allied with the Taliban came so suddenly and with such ferocity that some members of Monti's unit "had their weapons literally shot out of their hands," according to an Army report.

Monti, a 30-year-old staff sergeant from Raynham, shouted orders and radioed for support as he found cover behind some large rocks. An officer a few miles away asked whether he could pinpoint the enemy's position.

"Sir, I can't give you a better read or I'm gonna eat an RPG," Monti replied.

But later, when one of his men was wounded and lying in the open, Monti braved intense fire to try to rescue him—not once, but three times. It cost him his life.

Three years later, after an Army review of Monti's actions that day, President Obama will award him the Medal of Honor, the highest recognition for valor in the US military. When Monti's parents, Paul and Janet, accept the award in a White House ceremony on Sept. 17, it will be only the sixth time the Medal of Honor has been awarded since Sept. 11, 2001, and the first time someone from Massachusetts has earned it since the Vietnam War.

Monti's story reveals not just the courageous actions of a 12-year Army veteran. It also illustrates the extreme conditions of combat in Afghanistan, where increasing numbers of US forces are dying, and the sheer chaos of the war.

Everything went wrong for Monti and his patrol. The unit was left on that narrow ridge longer than intended, exposing it to a much larger enemy. And while Monti's display of "extreme personal courage and extraordinary self-sacrifice," as the Army described it, helped turn the tide, disaster struck again when the soldier Monti tried to save was killed in a freak accident while being airlifted out. Including Monti, four soldiers died.

"True valor is not defined so much by results," an Army general wrote in recommending Monti for the medal, "as it is by