

On July 10, the day after his 33rd birthday, Sergeant Edgerton was leading his troops just north of Char Dara, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit and detonated an improvised explosive device that ultimately took his life. A short while prior, Edgerton had just been nominated for a Bronze Star Medal for saving the lives of several members of his convoy during an attack.

Edgerton received various medals and accolades for his service, including the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Medal, the NATO Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and two Overseas Service Ribbons. He was also awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Action Badge, all posthumously.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Edgerton embodied the most essential qualities of an American soldier. He was selfless, dedicated, and brave. He is remembered as a man who put the safety of his fellow troops before his own, and accordingly a man who has earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Through his exemplary service in Iraq and Afghanistan, SGT Donald Edgerton has brought pride to our troops, his family, and all of Western North Carolina. It is truly my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of SGT Donald "Rocky" Edgerton for the sacrifices he has made for our country.

HONORING THE RAINBOW COMPANY: RECIPIENT OF THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA'S 2010 MEDALLION AWARD

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2010*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Rainbow Company as the 2010 recipient of the Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.

In 1976, the Rainbow Company opened the first children's theatre company in Las Vegas. Patricia Marchese, the Manager of the City of Las Vegas' Cultural and Community Affairs Division asked Jody Johnston to teach drama classes that proved so popular they asked Jody to produce plays.

The Rainbow Company's first production was Pippi Longstocking. Pippi toured locally and was later recorded and given the "Best of the West Award" for the best educational programming in the western United States.

In 1980, the Rainbow Company produced a show that acquired national consideration. *Odd Man Out*, an original script by Brian Kral, focused on a dance teacher and her class of disabled students. The play featured both disabled and non-disabled children and was preceded by months of drama classes with disabled young people. This led to a 1981 *People* magazine article that noted the Rainbow Company's achievement as "the first theatre in the U.S. to totally integrate handicapped and non-handicapped" students.

In 2001, the Rainbow Company began to put on workshops that became so successful

they were expanded to full-day camps that last for 8 weeks. In addition, they provide outreach classes for at-risk children at local elementary schools and shelters.

Rainbow Company has obtained several other accolades including the Nickelodeon's Parents' Picks' 2009 Award and the National Recreation and Park Association's first-place Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities Award.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, home to the Rainbow Company, it gives me immense pride to recognize this outstanding and unique company for their achievements in providing the children of my district with unparalleled touring and main-stage acting opportunities, outreach programs, educational programs and annual workshops. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization for their contribution to the arts and education and for their 2010 Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.

WHITNEY NELSON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2010*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Whitney Nelson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Whitney Nelson is a 9th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Whitney Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Whitney Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
STAFF SERGEANT DAVID SMITH

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the patriotic service of U.S. Air Force SSgt. David Smith, age 26, a dedicated defender of American liberty, who lost his life while coming to the aid of wounded warriors in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Smith, a graduate of Satsuma High School and a resident of Eight Mile, Alabama, was devoted to his mission of rescuing his comrades on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. During his years of wearing the uniform of his country, he proudly participated in more than 130 combat missions, literally saving the lives of hundreds of military personnel.

A member of the 66th Rescue Squadron from Ellis Air Force Base in Nevada, Staff Ser-

geant Smith was assigned to the 563rd Rescue Group. While conducting a medical evacuation mission in Afghanistan's Helmand province, his HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter was shot down by Taliban insurgents on June 9, 2010.

Speaking about the loss of Staff Sergeant Smith, as well as three of his comrades and those injured aboard their rescue helicopter, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Norman Schwartz noted, "Faithful to the rescue motto 'That others may live,' these airmen were courageously and selflessly flying in support of their joint coalition teammates. We grieve for our warriors and our thoughts and prayers are with their families, as well as with the airmen still recovering."

At the time of his death, Staff Sergeant Smith was just 5 days from completing his combat duty. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Force Combat Award Medal, and the Alabama Distinguished Service Medal.

During this time of sorrow, my heart and prayers go out to Staff Sergeant Smith's mother, Mildred Hardee, his fiancée, Meggan Eckersley, brothers, Randall Dunn and Todd Smith, sisters, Tracy Smith and Jamie Smith, and his extended family.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Smith for the loss of their beloved son, brother and finance. He is truly an American Hero and we will always cherish his service to his country and its people.

HONORING CALIFORNIA GRIZZLIES  
JUNIOR RIFLE TEAM

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the California Grizzlies Junior Rifle Team on winning the 2009 National Trophy Infantry Match at Camp Perry on August 7, 2009. The team will be recognized and honored at the annual National Rifle Association sanctioned high power match on Saturday, July 3, 2010.

The California Grizzlies Junior Rifle team consists of seven juniors from around the state of California; team captain Anthony Henderson, Sonora; David Bahten, Jamestown; Chad Kurgan, Sonora; Jim Minturn, San Diego; Joshua Lehn, Lemoore; Cheyanne Acebo, Vacaville; and Matthew Chezem, Simi Valley. The team is led by coach Jim O'Connell. The 2009 National Trophy Infantry Match winners shot a 1284, becoming the first junior team to ever win the event and the first civilian team to win in 79 years. The team has been a tough competitor in recent years. They finished fifth at the event in 2008, setting a record with a score of 1233. The team won the junior title, setting new records in 2008 and 2009 in the National Trophy Team event, shooting a score of 2870 to finish eighth overall. The team consistently has members in the President's 100, a group of distinguished shooters and members that receive notable rankings and points in various competitions.

The competition at Camp Perry includes many different matches; the Infantry Team Match, established in the late 1920s, is the competition that most closely resembles battles from war. Teams of six shoot at eight targets, starting off at six hundred yards, moving