

service. I am grateful to the Guard for recognizing Tim's contribution to the security of our country.

In 2004, Tim deployed to Balad, Iraq, one of our largest air bases, with Missouri's 131st Bomb Wing. He was one of only five members of his unit sent to Iraq. While everyone who goes to war is affected, some return more affected than others. Tim Wymore is one such person.

Tim is one of thousands of our service members exposed to hazardous materials while operating in and around the burn pits in Iraq. Since returning, Tim's health has deteriorated to the point where he is unable to work. He's been in and out of the hospital and today cannot stand on his own and relies on oxygen to breathe.

Through it all, Shanna, his wife of 25 years has not only stood by his side, but fought to get the benefits and care he deserves from a system sometimes indifferent to his suffering. I got to know Tim and Shanna after they contacted my office seeking assistance with the Veterans Administration.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor TSgt Tim Wymore, so I won't take further time to elaborate on how the system has failed to support this warfighter. I will only say that I will continue to work to see that the Veterans Administration is held accountable for how it serves our citizen soldiers.

Despite his suffering, Tim Wymore remains a patriotic citizen and father. In fact, rather than try and dissuade his son from serving in uniform, he supports his youngest son Cody's decision to follow in his footsteps and enlist in the United States Air Force.

I pray God bless the Wymore family and the United States of America.

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“STEVEN SOLARZ: A GREAT  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS”

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, America lost one of the outstanding people to have served in this House. Steven Solarz was a Member of the House from 1974–1992, and no Member either in my personal experience or in my reading of history was a more effective and constructive leader in foreign policy as a Member of the House. Too often, Members of Congress, especially the House Members, distinguish themselves in the foreign policy field mostly in a negative way. Sometimes that is a very good thing because these Members are preventing things from happening that shouldn't happen. But there is a tendency to demagogue and to play to public dislike of foreigners. Steven Solarz was a role model for those who think that Members of the House have a constructive role to play in foreign policy. Without ever having risen to the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he made himself an extremely significant positive force in foreign policy, for human rights, and for constructive American relations with a wide range of nations. He understood the importance of our being strong when we had to be, and of our being open and generous when that was called for.

Madam Speaker, Steve Solarz was a personal friend of mine for many years, and I suppose that people could claim that I have exaggerated the greatness of the role he played because of that. So I was particularly pleased to see that one of the best students of Congress, Norman Ornstein, expressed eloquently and cogently the importance of the role Steve Solarz played in foreign policy as a House Member, in his December 8, 2010 article in Roll Call.

Madam Speaker, as an example that I believe all Members ought to aspire to, I ask that Norman Ornstein's deserved tribute to Steven Solarz's foreign policy leadership be printed here.

[From Roll Call, Dec. 8, 2010]

REP. SOLARZ WAS A LEADER WORTH  
REMEMBERING

(By Norman Ornstein)

This is the season for farewell addresses from many lawmakers leaving at the end of the 111th Congress. Some speeches, such as those of Sen. Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) a few weeks back and of Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) last week, are particularly poignant, reflecting decades of dedication to the Senate and reverence for its traditions (if a touch too much deference to its existing rules and too little concern for how the contemporary abuse of the norms have distorted those traditions and call for modest but meaningful tweaks in those rules).

But their eloquence underscores how elections, while bringing necessary change for a democracy and reaffirming popular will, also result in the departure of some of the most solid citizens of the Congressional village. The loss of expertise, insight and institutional memory—not to mention fundamental decency—that comes with the departures, some voluntary and some not, of people such as Reps. John Spratt (D-S.C.), James Oberstar (D-Minn.) and Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) and Sens. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) and Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), among others, is painful to those of us who care about Congress.

Then there are other losses. Former Rep. Steve Solarz (D-N.Y.) died last week at age 70, after a four-year battle with esophageal cancer. While he received prominent obituaries in the Washington Post and the New York Times, chances are many new and not-so-new Members of Congress who weren't around in the 18 years that Solarz served in the House, from 1975 to 1993, were either unaware of his passing or paid little attention to it. As a start, they should go back and read those obituaries, and then make a note to read his wonderful book, “Journeys to War and Peace: A Congressional Memoir,” which will be published next year.

I wrote a foreword for the book, in which I noted my striking experiences on visits to the Philippines and Cambodia; in each case, when I met with academics, high government officials and others, I was asked frequently, “Do you know Steve Solarz?” In the Philippines, actually, the question was, “Do you know Steve Solarz personally? He helped save my country from dictatorship.” In Cambodia, it was whether I knew the Steve Solarz who was instrumental in saving Cambodia from the murderous excesses of the Khmer Rouge.

Solarz was not a secretary of State, a Senator or even the chairman of a powerful committee. He was a rank-and-file House Member who, by the force of his personality, a remarkable work ethic, a political savvy, an articulateness unmatched in contemporary politics, a commitment to democracy and human rights mixed with hard-headed sense of reality, and a willingness to work across

the aisle to accomplish mutual goals, had a greater effect on the world than most secretaries of State, Senators and chairmen of powerful panels.

Solarz traveled the world, but not with Congressional delegations; he went alone. American embassy personnel dreaded his arrival; they would not have to arrange trips to the souk or the rug store, but would instead have to keep up with 18-hour days choreographed by Solarz to include meetings with the foreign minister, the defense minister, the intelligence chief and the key opposition figures.

When he scoped out situations and found corruption, abuse of power and worse, he used his skills and connections to relentlessly push for change. Back in Washington, D.C., his office became a home away from home for dissident leaders from around the world who got short shrift elsewhere. As a consequence, to pick one example, Solarz probably had better ties with the Kurdish leaders in Iraq than any other American.

Solarz's shining moment, perhaps, was on the House floor during the stirring debate over whether to authorize the use of force against Saddam Hussein after his invasion of Kuwait, i.e., the first Gulf War. There were dozens of emotional and wrenching speeches as Members struggled with the decision about whether to send young Americans to war, and perhaps to death; at the time, there were predictions of potential mayhem in the desert. When liberal Democrat Solarz stood up and spoke in favor of the authorization, it was truly a riveting moment. Everyone stopped to listen. He was powerful and eloquent, and he did as much as anyone to shape the outcome. There are few examples in which an individual lawmaker has any effect, much less one that is consequential, from a speech on the House floor.

It is hard to imagine another Solarz emerging in a political system that is now so polarized that a powerful opinion leaders and statesmen like Sen. Dick Lugar (R-Ind.) cannot persuade his own party colleagues to vote for the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. It is even harder to imagine a House Member throwing himself into peripatetic travel to every corner of the globe and trying to shape events and outcomes in the world without being shredded by cable news and anonymously funded campaign attack machines, or finding ways to build unlikely and persuasive partnerships across every partisan and ideological divide. But it is not impossible to imagine some new Members of both parties persuaded by Solarz's example to take some trips abroad despite the predictable criticism of junkets and the equally predictable partisan flak, and to think about core values of freedom, human rights and America's national interest as transcending petty partisan interests. At least I like to think is not impossible.

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THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF LONG  
BEACH, CALIFORNIA

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fire Department of Long Beach, California. Specifically, I would like to thank and honor firefighter paramedics Chuck Hakopian, Mark Miller, Joyce Vanderweide, and Carston Sorensen for their heroic response to an apartment fire in Long Beach last week. These firefighters risked