

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROBERT E. RUCKER, JR., ON HIS PROMOTION TO BATTALION CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to congratulate and honor Robert E. Rucker, Jr., on his promotion to Battalion Chief for the City of Scottsdale Fire Department.

Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Bobby Rucker, Jr., pursued a career in fire service. In 1988, he started his career with the Rural Metro Corporation. He attended the academy of 88-01, receiving the award for Outstanding Cadet Firefighter as selected by Fellow Cadets. His training was immediately followed with a trip to Yellowstone to participate in one of the largest forest fires in American history. Robert served as a PT instructor for 92-01 and 97-02 academies, as well as a Reserve Coordinator for 3 years. During his 17 years with Rural/Metro, he served as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, and Captain before being hired by the City of Scottsdale in 2005.

Prior to his promotion to Battalion Chief, he worked as a Captain on engine 602 in downtown Scottsdale. He was temporarily reassigned as a Recruit Training Officer for Academy 08-01 and again recently for Academy 12-01. Robert has been an active member on the deployment team, safety team, EMS team, facilities team, and training team.

Battalion Chief Rucker was a recipient of the 2009 City Manager's Award of Excellence in recognition of the Police/Fire group ability to Collaborate as a Team and was nominated in 2007 for Fire Captain of the Year at the Firefighter's Choice Awards. In addition, he has received commendations for the 1988 Yellowstone Fire and the 1995 Rio Fire.

Bobby's formal education consists of an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Fire Science from Scottsdale Community College and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Emergency Services Administration, Magna Cum Laude from Northern Arizona University.

During his career, Bobby has always had the loving support of his wife Toni, son Trevor, daughter Morgan, his father, Bob Rucker, Sr., and step-mother Micki, his mother, Cathy Hoff and her husband Bob, his sister Sharon Rucker, and step-brother Brian Hoff.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire safety by Battalion Chief Bob E. Rucker, Jr., and hereby wish him continued success in his career.

HONORING AMERICAN OLYMPIAN
KIM RHODE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative CHU rise today in honor and celebration of American Olympian Kim Rhode, who became the first American to earn an individual medal in five straight Olympic Games following her gold-medal performance on July 29 in the women's skeet shooting event in London.

A native of California, Rhode has been competing in trap and skeet shooting events since she was a child. She won a gold medal in her first Olympics as a teenager—in the 1996 Atlanta Games—and has since earned bronze in Sydney (2000) and gold in Athens (2004), all in the trap event. She also won a silver medal in the 2008 Beijing skeet competition. This accomplishment makes her just the 8th U.S. woman Olympian to have won at least five medals in individual competitions.

With her near-perfect score, Rhode set an Olympic record last Sunday, hitting 99 of a possible 100 targets, tying the highest mark ever achieved in skeet-style competition. She scored perfect 25-of-25 figures in the first two rounds of competition, ending her streak at 65 made shots when she had her first and only miss in the third round. Rhode closed out the final round with another perfect 25, finishing eight shots ahead of the first runner-up.

A model athlete and competitor, Rhode's consistency and persistence have defined her career and its success. Though she remains a tough competitor at age 33, Rhode has stayed family-oriented and remarkably balanced for an athlete of her caliber. She shoots for fun with her husband, Mike Harryman, and her principal coach and trainer is still her father, Richard; her mother, Sharon, helps to manage a schedule filled with sponsorship obligations and speaking engagements. Despite all her successes, those closest to Rhode say she remains passionate about the sport for the best of reasons—her own personal enjoyment.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate and praise Kim Rhode's accomplishments thus far, and wish her the best in future competitions. She is a role-model for young athletes in America and across the globe, and she is deserving of our most honorable recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 539, on the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

(H.R. 3803), I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS BARETT W. McNABB

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen soldier who died in military service to this country. This true American hero, Sergeant First Class Barrett W. McNabb, was stationed in Washington state and he and his family lived in my home district in Southwest Washington prior to his final deployment. Sergeant First Class McNabb died on June 12, 2012, from wounds he suffered from an improvised explosive device while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant First Class McNabb was on his fourth overseas deployment, previously serving in Kuwait and twice in Iraq. He entered the Army in 1999, and since that time earned several awards and commendations including four Army Commendations including an Army Commendation with Valor, three Army Achievement Medals, four Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star, an Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star, four Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, three Army Service Ribbon Overseas Service Ribbons, and a NATO Medal.

SFC McNabb was also posthumously awarded a Bronze Star Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, a Combat Action Badge, and a Purple Heart.

SFC McNabb wore his uniform with great honor in defense of his country, but he was also a son, a husband, and a father. He was remembered as an inspirational leader; a trait he no doubt began to learn while playing varsity football at Chino Valley High School while growing up in Arizona, and further developed during thirteen years of loyal service to his country.

The thousands of men and women who serve in our military must each day make the difficult choice to put themselves in harm's way. But SFC McNabb and those other brave soldiers stationed around the world do so to protect our great country, this place that has been an enduring symbol of hope and democracy for more than 200 years.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Barrett W. McNabb, and the other Americans in our Armed Forces who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Our words are not enough to express the gratitude they have earned.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING SPECIALIST BRENDEN
N. SALAZAR

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative ADAMS rise in honor of Specialist Brenden Salazar, who gave his life July 22, 2012, while supporting combat operations in the Logar Province of Afghanistan. He died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol.

Salazar was a 2010 graduate of Paul Hagerty High School in Oviedo and enlisted in the Army in June 2010. He deployed to Afghanistan in July 2012 after being in his unit a little over a year and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Caserma Ederle, Italy. Brenden came from a long line of soldiers. His grandfather is a retired helicopter pilot and both his mother and stepfather are active duty Army aviators.

Spc. Salazar will be buried at Florida National Cemetery with full military honors. He is survived by his father Chris Salazar and sister, Sophie Salazar of Canton, Georgia; mother, Jovanna Nelson; stepfather, James Nelson; and sister, Hannah Nelson of Chuluota, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that we honor Spc. Brenden Salazar's sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. He is a hero to his countrymen, his family, and his fellow soldiers. He reminds us that America is blessed to have so many young men and women willing to stand up and fight to preserve our precious freedoms. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all our military families, whose selfless dedication to this Nation is an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF VICTIMS RIGHTS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue and to point out the efforts of a person who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes on this issue.

The issue I am referring to is the passage of a Victim Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Currently, this issue is before us by way of H.J. Res. 106.

The resolution seeks to amend our Constitution by fixing a problem our founders never likely anticipated. Our founding fathers were concerned, with good reason, about the prosecutorial abuses they had witnessed by the King of England and local Colonial loyalist bureaucrats.

There are few offices more powerful than a prosecutor, and abuse of that office by prosecutors, or by the police assisting that office, is prevented by many provisions in our Constitution. What has happened, however, is that all of the Constitutional provisions designed to stop prosecutorial abuse have essentially conveyed criminals in our society with fundamental rights unparalleled even for its lawful citizens.

This proposed amendment addresses the reality that for every crime there is a victim, and that our legal system has systematically excluded these victims from meaningful consideration. This amendment, if enacted, would prohibit the denial or limitation of the rights of a crime victim to fairness, respect, and dignity. It would also convey to a crime victim the right: (1) to reasonable notice of, and to not be excluded from, public proceedings relating to the offense; (2) to be heard at any release, plea, sentencing, or other such proceeding involving any right established under this amendment; (3) to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; (4) to reasonable notice of the release or escape of the accused; (5) to due consideration of the crime victim's safety; and (6) to restitution.

The victims of crimes would have standing to fully assert and enforce any of the above rights in court. This amendment brings balance back to the criminal justice system which has, for centuries, protected the criminals and ignored and often harmed the victims a second time.

At the same time, no constitutional right afforded to a criminal would be impacted or lessened. All such rights are preserved. Instead, crime victims are afforded some legal rights long overdue.

I want to point out the good work of Steven J. Twist, of Phoenix, Arizona. He has been an advocate for crime victims' rights. He recently published a scholarly review on this issue, called "The Proposed Victims' Rights Amendment: A Brief Point/Counterpoint" in the Phoenix Law Review, Volume 5, Number 2 (2012). He researched this issue and has advocated for this issue for years. His work should be recognized and applauded. On behalf of my constituents and the people of Arizona, I want to thank Mr. Twist for his work in this area and I encourage my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 106.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF VINTAGE HALL AND ST. HELENA HIGH SCHOOL IN ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration and praise of St. Helena High School, my alma mater and one of the oldest public education facilities in northern California, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Founded in June of 1912, upon the completion of what is now known as Vintage Hall, St. Helena Union High School represents the culmination of a long-standing effort to unify the various school districts of the St. Helena area, including those of Pope Valley, Conn Valley and Angwin. Early efforts to provide free, public education, beginning in the 1890s, combined the regions under a single governing board, but classes had to be held in the local Presbyterian Church from 1895 until completion of the building nearly 20 years later.

Today, St. Helena High School's facilities have expanded far beyond Vintage Hall to accommodate the demands of the community's growing student population. And this year, the school became home to a new \$13.5 million vocational education complex, complete with a state-of-the-art culinary facility, animal barn, agricultural mechanics workshop and all of the amenities of 21st century classrooms. With these facilities in place, students will benefit from a top-flight vocational training program, essential to the development of a skilled work force and subsequent community improvements.

Students at St. Helena High School will now be afforded the unique opportunity to prepare for careers in the areas of hospitality, tourism, the culinary arts, floral design, agricultural husbandry, and mechanics, continuing the historic tradition that St. Helena High School started so many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate the students, educators and administrators of St. Helena High School, past and present. The centennial celebration in St. Helena is one that is well-deserved. We extend our best wishes to the school and community for many more years of outstanding public education and the merits that come with.