

disarm and liberate Iraq, Minnesota's Office of Homeland Security has taken a number of security measures to assess any potential risks and to ensure the safety of Minnesotans throughout the state.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEPC) was partially activated at the onset of military action and was fully activated at 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2003. The SEOC remained fully activated until 11:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2003 and partially activated until 8:00 a.m. on March 24, 2003. In addition, the Minnesota State Patrol was deployed on March 17, 2003 for security purposes to the Flint Hills Oil Refinery, Ashland Oil Refinery, Prairie Island and Monticello Nuclear Plants, and the Minneapolis and St. Paul Water Treatment Facilities. On March 19, 2003, the Minnesota National Guard relieved State Patrol troopers and continued to provide facility security until 7:00 a.m. on March 26, 2003.

State cost estimates to activate the SEOC and to provide facility security total approximately \$463,000. The major costs incurred by the state were the facility security costs: Department of Military Affairs, Minnesota National Guard (\$368,000) and Department of Public Safety, Minnesota State Patrol (\$65,000). There were also just over \$30,000 in costs to activate the SEOC which include some operating and overtime costs for other state agencies. These costs do not include any costs at the local level to provide security or to prepare and respond to potential threats.

The cooperation and coordination at the state level has gone very well, and I am pleased that Minnesota has no incidents to report. In a conference call with the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Ridge assured states that every attempt would be made to seek reimbursement for costs to provide heightened security at critical infrastructure sites. As Congress prepares to act on a supplemental appropriations bill, any funds you can secure for Minnesota's extraordinary costs, particularly in light of the state's budget crisis, will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Minnesota. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

RICH STANEK,
Commissioner.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay Federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them. It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of gov-

ernment "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes. What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government.

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 123, on the motion to recommit H.R. 1036 with instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKET- BALL TEAM ON WINNING THEIR FOURTH NATIONAL CHAMPION- SHIP

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team, who defeated the University of Tennessee Volunteers 73-68 to win the NCAA tournament on April 8, 2003.

I would like to offer special congratulations to Head Coach Geno Auriemma who won his second consecutive national title. After losing four senior starters last year, junior Diana Taurasi took control of the team and led them to victory, scoring 28 points.

Mr. Speaker, these extraordinary young women do not need me to tell them that they are champions, or that their accomplishments are appreciated. This year was supposed to be a year of rebuilding, but the Huskies were not going to rest on their laurels. Over the past 2 years they have only lost one game.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out that although they are young adults themselves the outstanding achievements of the this team offers a fine example to our nation's young people. I applaud them for all of their achievements both on and off the court.

IN MEMORY OF CDR WILLIAM W.
COBB

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of CDR William W. Cobb of Atlantic Beach, FL.

CDR Cobb was born in Lexington, MO, on November 7, 1920. He was raised in Lexington and Long Beach, CA, and attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington. CDR Cobb was a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and was immediately ordered to sea duty in the Pacific. He saw combat action during several battle campaigns on the USS *Indianapolis* and the USS *Wasp*.

After World War II, CDR Cobb completed flight training in 1947 and went on to his first squadron tour in VP-26 from 1947-1949. He subsequently was assigned as Executive Officer and Instructor, NROTC at the University of Missouri in Columbia, before returning to flight duty as the Deputy Director of Plans and Operations, 1503rd Air Transport Wing in Tokyo, Japan. CDR Cobb assumed duties as the Assistant Operations Officer, NAS Moffett Field, California, and from 1958 through 1960, he was assigned duties as Senior Pilot and Patrol Plane Commander in Airborne Early Warning Squadron Three, based in Agaña, Guam.

CDR Cobb reported to the Pentagon for duty in the office of the Chief of Naval Information after a tour as a student at the Army Language School in Monterey, CA. He served under Admiral J.S. McCain, the father of Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

CDR Cobb retired from the Navy in July of 1964 after 24 years of honorable and dedicated service. He had a second career in sales and as a realtor in McLean, VA. He resided in Alexandria, VA, from 1961 to 1990. After a second retirement, CDR Cobb and his wife, Jean, also a former Lexington native, moved to Fleet Landing in Atlantic Beach, FL. His wife, a former Miss Lexington and runner up in the Miss Missouri pageant, passed away in 1999. They were married for 56 wonderful and productive years.

Mr. Speaker, CDR Cobb was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his son Rear Admiral William W. Cobb, Jr.; a daughter, Susan E. Cobb; a sister, Mrs. C.C. Shannon; a grandson, granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY D. LYNCH IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE ON BE- HALF OF MICHIGAN VETERANS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Jerry D. Lynch, State Commander of the Michigan American Legion, for his tireless service on behalf of all veterans and active duty military personnel through the nation's largest wartime veterans' organization, the American Legion.

I have known and worked with Jerry Lynch for more than a dozen years, both during my time as a Michigan State Representative, and as a U.S. Representative. He has been a champion of veterans' causes for all of those years, and for many years before.

He is devoted to his community. It is no surprise to me that Jerry's first official act as Michigan State Commander after being elected by delegates at the American Legion State Convention in 2002 was to lead his home town Fourth of July parade in Daggett, Michigan.

Jerry knows that bringing the ideals of the American Legion and its goals and values back home to each community in Michigan is critically important to making sure that the contributions of our veterans and our active duty military men and women are honored in every day life. He is a shining example of those ideals.

When our fighting men and women have been performing so valiantly in Iraq and the welfare of all our veterans is on the minds of every American, it is particularly important to recognize the ideals of the American Legion as exemplified in Jerry Lynch.

State Commander Lynch, a Vietnam era veteran of U.S. Navy service, has been active at many levels of the American Legion. He has held positions at the state level, including Zone Commander, Membership Director and has served on the Americanism and New Posts Committees. Prior to that, he served as Commander of the Upper Peninsula Association, was a District Committeeman, and held several offices at Stephenson, Michigan Post 43, including that of Commander.

Jerry's lovely wife Judy is now the Legion's "First Lady" and will contribute her own special brand of activism and support to Legion causes. The Lynchs have three children, Kim, Kelly and Donald.

Jerry's talents for leadership and service have been his great gift to the American Legion, and to Upper Peninsula veterans in particular. No task was too small—or too big—to get Jerry's attention, if it needed doing. He always comes through.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today asking that you and our House colleagues join me in relaying our respect and our appreciation to Jerry D. Lynch, who exemplifies the American Legion ideal, but more importantly, who is a perfect example of the human ideals of service to his fellow man and remembrance of those who have served before him.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LAWLOR QUIGLEY

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who dedicated his life to ensuring that the veterans and working men and women of our country had access to the best quality health care available. He was an individual of the highest integrity and character. Sadly, he passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2003, after a long illness. Hailing from Mashpee, Massachusetts on Cape Cod, his was a life devoted to his fellow men.

John Lawlor Quigley was born on April 29, 1922. He was married to Jean Regan and

leaves three children—Jan, Kristen and John. He was also the proud grandfather of nine grandchildren.

He served his country honorably as a member of the United States Marine Corps during World War Two, and earned the Purple Heart for being wounded on Iwo Jima in 1945. After the war, he returned to Massachusetts, determined to become a positive force in his community. He graduated from Georgetown University and Boston College Law School with a law degree before making a run for Massachusetts House of Representatives. Though unsuccessful at his first run in politics, it may have been a blessing in disguise as his work then focused exclusively on veterans and health care issues.

John's commitment to America's veterans and to equal healthcare access for working families was instilled in him from an early age. His father, Lawrence F. Quigley, an 11 term mayor of Chelsea, Massachusetts, was the Commandant of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, a state facility for homeless veterans as well as those with medical conditions necessitating long term care from 1934 to 1948. John succeeded his father and oversaw the Home for over 3 decades, from 1948 to 1980. The Quigley legacy over the last 7 decades is such that the Home's hospital has been renamed after John's father and in a sense it is fitting that John's final moments were spent in a place that he had nurtured and had truly become part of the fiber of his being.

He also was heavily involved in health care issues nationally. He served as President of the Massachusetts Hospital Association from 1961–62, Director of the American Hospital Association's Region 1 and President of the New England Healthcare Assembly. Membership in these organizations enabled John to tackle the many varied and constantly evolving issues in the healthcare industry. It was a platform he used to good effect. The loyalty of his peers, employees and fellow veterans is proof of that.

In addition to his many personal and professional responsibilities, John also made the time to be an active member of his community through involvement in a number of civic organizations. He lived his life with a concern for his fellow man and genuinely cared about the future of America. John Quigley is an example for all of us and as he looks down on us today, I want to add my voice to the chorus of accolades he has earned many times over for his devotion to veterans, love of country and dedication to family. I salute you and may God bless you.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DIEGO F. RINCON

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to give some remarks about one of those noble heroes who gave his life, Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon, who is from my 13th Congressional District in Georgia, whose funeral will be held today in just a few hours from now at 2 p.m. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church located in my district in Conyers, GA.

As we see on television the joyous faces of Iraq who have been liberated we must never forget the precious price that was paid by our brave and courageous soldiers who gave their lives so that Iraq could be free.

In his last letter to his mother, dated February 22 and received by his family on March 22, Private First Class Diego Rincon wrote:

Hola, Mother,

How are you doing? Good, I hope. I'm doing OK, I guess. I won't be able to write anymore starting the 28th of this month. We are moving out. We are already packed and ready to move to a tactical Alpha-Alpha (in Iraq). Once that happens, there will not be any mail sent out. We will only receive mail that is less than 12 ounces. At least that's what they said.

I'm not sure where exactly we're going [to] be yet, but it is said to be a 20-hour drive in the Bradleys [fighting vehicles].

So I guess the time has finally come for us to see what we are made of, who will crack when the stress level rises and who will be calm all the way through it. Only time will tell. We are at the peak of our training and it's time to put it to the test.

I just want to tell everybody how much you all mean to me and how much I love you all. Mother, I love you so much! I'm not going to give up! I'm living my life one day at a time, sitting here picturing home with a small tear in my eyes, spending time with my brothers, who will hold my life in their hands.

I try not to think of what may happen in the future, but I can't stand seeing it in my eyes. There's going to be murders, funerals and tears rolling down everybody's eyes. But the only thing I can say is, keep my head up and try to keep the faith and pray for better days. All this will pass. I believe God has a path for me. Whether I make it or not, it's all part of the plan. It can't be changed, only completed.

"Mother" will be the last word I'll say. Your face will be the last picture that goes through my eyes. I'm not trying to scare you, but it's reality. The time is here to see the plan laid out. And, hopefully, I'll be at home in it. I don't know what I'm talking about or why I'm writing it down. Maybe I just want someone to know what goes through my head. It's probably good not keeping it all inside.

I just hope that you're proud of what I'm doing and have faith in my decisions. I will try hard and not give up. I just want to say [I'm] sorry for anything I have ever done wrong. And I'm doing it all for you, Mom. I love you.

Tuesday, I talked with Diego's father, George, on the telephone and I expressed all of our feelings as a grateful Nation when I assured him that his son's contribution will forever be remembered. In addition, we would present him with the RECORD of this tribute to his son along with a U.S. flag that is flying over the Capitol today—the day of his son's funeral. This father of this genuine American hero was touched and moved and we both were in tears and he said, "Thank you, Congressman SCOTT." I said, "No, thank you, Mr. Rincon, we thank you. The Nation and the world thank you and your son because your son gave us the greatest gift of all, which is this: The gift that someone would lay down his life for his friend and those friends we see joyously celebrating their freedom on television today; friends who are thankful and grateful to 19-year-old Private First Class Diego Rincon."

Rincon fought the good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith, and most assuredly