

"This world is a better place for each of us today thanks to the life of Corporal David Gardner Weimortz of Irmo, South Carolina. David was a fearless Marine, but he was first a son to Mrs. Fran Fellers and Mr. Terry Weimortz, a brother to Miss Kelly Weimortz and a friend to what seems like everyone he ever came into contact with.

"This particular remembrance of David is dedicated to his Mother, Fran Weimortz Fellers, my dear friend. These past few weeks have been the worst of times for any mother but the outpouring of love from her friends and family have held her up and let her loved ones know what a legacy of life David left. David was certainly a man's man but he was definitely a Mother's son. The choices were clearly his own and he was very proud of them and of what a difference he was making in this world by helping secure freedom for the Iraqis. David, by all accounts, always did it his way, no matter what age he was or what he was doing. Serving his third deployment to Iraq, he died in a roadside bomb attack on August 26th in the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was a corporal, even though he was a college graduate. He wanted to jump right in and not take the time to go to Officer's Candidate School—he felt that he was needed right then. Trappings and titles were not important to him, but making a difference was. Once his frustrated mother asked him why he was so intent on being a Marine when there were so many people in our own country that just don't care that these soldiers are out there for them—why wouldn't he please just stay home? David replied 'Mom, I'm out there for the GOOD people too, and that also means that I am out there for YOU.' David felt like the hope in Iraq is in the children. He said 'The kids are really what make it worthwhile. It is our goal, our desire, they come in as well adjusted, well educated persons and want to have a democratic society. Hopefully, that will be infectious and spread.' David was proud to say 'I got everything I wanted out of the Marine Corps. I have no regrets.' Very sadly, David's candle of life was extinguished far too soon; but the light that he shined on the people he loved in his path will always burn brightly.

"David was always playing sports as a child, and his first word was 'ball.' David was a graduate of Dutch Fork High School, and graduated as a golf standout. He then went to the University of South Carolina where he graduated as a history major in 2000. After college, he worked for a publisher in Raleigh and modeled products at NASCAR races before enlisting. He joined the Marines in March 2003 and graduated from boot camp at Parris Island. His next step was to enter Law School when he returned from military duty.

"Out of the hundreds of people who have shared thoughts and memories of David, the one constant was his sense of humor and ability to entertain people and make them laugh! This was the core of his personality. No one was untouched by his wit and charm, and his ability to make people smile and laugh was the ONE thing that EVERYONE remembered. There was never a room that he did not fill with his contagious personality when he entered, and never a person who did not leave with laughter after being around him for any time at all. His exterior was huge, 6'5 and 225 pounds of all man and muscle and mass—but his interior was always thinking of the other person and what he could do to make him or her smile or make their life better. This gentle warrior of a man visited two sisters (friends of his in California) for a few days; and after he left, he had written thank you notes to each of them including one to Simon the Cat thanking him for sharing his bed (aka the floor!).

All of his local teachers have shared that their classrooms would not have been nearly as 'exciting' without the wit, charm and amazing harmless but funny antics of this brilliant young man.

"The Marines have lost an unbelievable soldier, Todd Gayle, Jason Flynn, and Miles Solomon have lost their best friend, Fran has lost her most precious son, Kelly has lost her beloved brother who had promised to walk her down the aisle and give her away whenever she found the right man ('Muff' and 'Bubby' as they referred to themselves were as close as brother and sister could be), Helen Asbill of Aiken has lost her grandson and Pam and Clint Parker of Greenville, SC, have lost their treasured nephew. The people of our community have lost one of the finest young men ever placed on the earth. What we have gained is the discovery of this very wonderful young man will always be with us. He has permeated out hearts and souls and we have learned so very much from him. There are already in the works many well deserved memorials being made in his name with USC, National Bank of SC and Project Pet. If we could all be as lucky as to know ourselves as well as David knew himself, and to set an example of quality for life and love as he did. His passion for his mother and his sister were unsurpassed, and he wanted to 'take care of them' . . . always.

"We can only take so much sadness; so dance, sing, laugh—celebrate the life that was before the death and what it gave you and what it will continue to give you because you will always have him in your heart. 'So it's the laughter we will remember—the way he was.' David, you will be forever in our lives and hearts."

PRAISING GALVESTON COLLEGE'S STRATEGIC PLAN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Galveston College, which is in my district, is in the fifth year of its strategic plan to better help its students meet the challenges of the 21st century by transforming itself into a learning college. The learning college is an exciting new model designed to ensure community colleges respond quickly to internal and external challenges and think creatively about the future.

The learning college rests on collaboration between students who are willing and able to take primary responsibility for making their own choices and faculty and staff who are able to empower students with the tools students need to make sound choices. Galveston College helps students develop the attitudes and behaviors necessary for academic and professional success. Galveston College also challenges its employees to work in an environment based on teamwork and a culture open to change and learning.

Fundamental to the learning college experience is the creation of different options for learning, including the traditional classroom, laboratory and clinical settings, and Internet coursework. A learning college also assists students in forming and participating in collaborative learning activities.

Since adopting the learning college model, Galveston College has made an increased variety of coursework and programs available to students. Many of these programs involve cre-

ative uses of technology that enhance the learning process. For example, thanks to collaboration with the Virtual College of Texas, Galveston College has made available a large selection of Internet coursework to its students.

Galveston College has also implemented several initiatives to improve its developmental programs and student services technology. These initiatives include Achieving the Dream funded by the Lumina Foundation; a title V Grant, Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Program; and the Quality Enhancement Plan. These initiatives will allow the college to implement best practices in student retention.

In order to better ensure that it is preparing students for good jobs in the Galveston area, Galveston College has assigned an account executive to work with the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, the Galveston Economic Development Partnership, and the Galveston city government to ensure Galveston College's course offerings match the needs of the community.

Galveston College's efforts are showing results. On May 18, 2006, CCBenefits, Inc. completed a socioeconomic impact study of Galveston College. The report details how Galveston College benefits the students and the community. According to the study, a student at Galveston College will see an increase of \$6.62 in lifetime earnings for each dollar spent at Galveston College. The study also estimated that Galveston's economy is \$107.3 million stronger due to the actions of Galveston College.

This year, Galveston College had the largest graduating class in its history. With its commitment to fashioning a 21st century learning college that provides students with a first class education designed to help them meet today's challenges, I have no doubt Galveston College will remain an asset to the Galveston community and a model for other community colleges to follow.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DICK TRACY COMIC STRIP

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the world's most famous detective, Dick Tracy, on his 75th Anniversary, and to recognize that my home state of Illinois has declared October 4, 2006, "Dick Tracy Day."

For the past 75 years, the plainclothes detective, Dick Tracy, has graced the comic pages throughout the country. As a native Chicagoan, I have never known a world—or a Chicago Tribune—without Dick Tracy. As a child, I remember wishing I had a two-way wrist radio and wondering when Tracy and Tess Trueheart would tie-the-knot.

Not only has the comic strip provided daily entertainment for countless Americans, it also loyally has served our nation—in promoting the FBI's "Most Wanted" and "Crimestoppers" campaigns, and during World War II, when it educated Americans about the U.S. war effort.

Of course, the imaginative man behind the detective was none other than Chester Gould. His passion for crime prevention elevated the

Dick Tracy comic strip beyond pure entertainment to a model for public service. When Chester Gould put down his pencil in 1977, after more than 40 years, he was fortunate to have the very talented and capable Dick Locher to carry on his beloved comic strip. As a fellow resident of Illinois' 13th district, I am delighted to represent Dick Locher here in this body.

I am pleased to recognize Dick Tracy, an icon of American culture, Chester Gould, the creative genius who brought him to life, and Dick Locher, the great talent who both honors and extends Dick Tracy's legacy. Once again, congratulations, Dick Tracy, on your diamond anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MARY A. BAIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary A. Bain, who recently passed away. Longtime Chief of Staff to Congressman Sidney Yates, Mary was beloved by many of us on Capitol Hill, including me.

It is hard to believe that Mary began her political career in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Administration—as the Illinois director of the National Youth Administration. She was a dedicated public servant for many years to come, particularly devoted to our dear colleague and my colleague on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Yates, whom she served in many capacities for almost 50 years. I am sure if Congressman Yates was here with us, he would say it was almost as if they served as co-Members.

As I said when she received the Heritage Defender Award, "Not only did Mary Bain save national treasures, she is a national treasure." She applied her considerable political savvy to preserving America's cultural heritage, and she was always a stalwart for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution, among many others.

Mary Bain helped to break the marble ceiling for all women—she was one of the first women to serve as a Congressional Chief of Staff. She talked about how much she looked forward to seeing a woman become our nation's first Speaker. I am hopeful that next January we can make that dream a reality—and I know that when we do, Mary will be smiling down on us.

When Mary retired in 1998, she was the last of the New Dealers in government, having remained committed to the principles of Roosevelt her entire life. And though she can never be replaced on Capitol Hill, we continue her work to expand opportunity and prosperity to all Americans.

As we pay tribute to Mary, we remember the many people who loved her—particularly her husband Herbert, who preceded her in death, and her daughter Mary Ellen and two grandsons. I hope they can draw comfort from the fact that so many are praying for them and grieving Mary's loss with them.

IN SUPPORT OF A RESOLUTION CALLING ON IRAN TO IMMEDIATELY FULFILL ITS NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution calling on Iran to immediately fulfill its nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

On August 31, 2006, Iran rejected United Nations Security Council Resolution 1696 requesting that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities, including research and development within 1 month or face economic and diplomatic sanctions.

In a report the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, released that same day, the agency discussed proof of Iran's continued pursuit of its nuclear program, as well as evidence that Iran might be pursuing alternative nuclear activities in secret.

For decades, Iran has been deceiving the IAEA and the international community about the extent and the purpose of its nuclear program. Iran has consistently failed to provide sufficient information about its nuclear capabilities and has failed to fully cooperate with international nuclear nonproliferation laws. Time and time again, Iran has scorned diplomatic and economic propositions offered by the global community.

The United States cannot afford to stand aside now and allow Iran to continue with their pattern of nuclear defiance.

This is why I am calling for this resolution, which calls for the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1696; asking the Security Council members to move forward quickly and apply appropriate multilateral sanctions against Iran. This resolution also calls upon President Bush to implement and exhaust every diplomatic and economic sanction at his disposal to prevent a nuclear Iran.

Iran's strategic plan is blatantly obvious: With one hand it is stringing along diplomatic negotiations with the world's powers, while the hand behind its back continues to pursue nuclear activities. In doing so, Iran is successfully driving a wedge between the international communities. Iran remains defiant banking on the assumption that the United Nations Security Council will be unwilling to agree on imposing sanctions on their country.

Iran's pattern of insubordination is extremely troubling to me. Even more troubling to me is the reluctance of the international community to unite together and take immediate action against the threat posed by a nuclear Iran.

This past weekend, European Union, EU, leaders met with an Iranian negotiator in an attempt to persuade Iran to suspend its nuclear enrichment. And just last week, top diplomats from the EU-3: Britain, France, and Germany, as well as the United States, met in Berlin for the first time since Iran refused to accept the United Nations deadline to halt its uranium production.

But while these meetings signal progress, they will accomplish nothing if all of the Security Council members do not completely implement resolution 1696. Russia, China, Britain,

France and Germany, and the United States voted for this resolution; now they must champion what it calls for.

The need to implement multilateral sanctions and for the United States to apply all diplomatic and economic sanctions at its disposal against Iran is growing steadily.

Over the years we have seen how Iran's defiance against the international community has galvanized extremist groups in Iraq, Gaza and Lebanon. In the most recent example of the cross-border attack by the terrorist group Hezbollah against Israel—largely financed and supported by the Iranian Government—we saw the devastating impact that Iranian assistance to militia groups can generate.

On the day following the 5-year commemoration of 9/11, our Nation is still vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Allowing a primary sponsor of international terror to advance their nuclear capabilities, burgeons the terrorist threat posed to our Nation.

Iran poses a huge and existential danger to our democratic ally Israel as well. For years, President Ahmadinejad has spewed anti-Semitic rhetoric and has denied the Holocaust's existence. Iran's nuclear intentions are no secret. President Ahmadinejad is on a national crusade of hatred and ultimate destruction against Israel and the United States.

Moreover, in one of the most unstable regions in the world, Iran continues to remain a highly destabilizing force. A nuclear Iran only intensifies the threat Iran currently poses to the security of the entire global community.

Mr. Speaker, let us take a moment to consider the consequences of allowing a repressive anti-Semitic regime with ideological goals, extensive oil production capabilities, and an active sponsor of global terrorism, to possess nuclear powers. The possibilities are endless and progressively more dangerous. A nuclear arms race in the Middle East could break out, or Iran could garner support elsewhere in the Muslim world and successfully advance their radical ideological movement against the West.

Many in the international community had hoped that Iran would realize that advancing their nuclear program makes their country less safe, not more. But Iran made its choice. It has not only failed to meet the demands of the United Nations Resolution 1696, it has defied the resolution and the international community. And now it must pay the price of sanctions.

I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me and co-sponsor this resolution to request that the Security Council members and the United States reply with an immediate and meaningful response to Iran's longstanding pattern of nuclear noncompliance.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS EDWARD AUSTIN KOTH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, sorrowfully I rise before you today to honor the second sailor from Maryland who died serving his country in the War on Terror. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the life and memory of an altruistic serviceman from