

with a parade and a declaration of "Brad Walker Day."

Corporal Walker has been an inspiration to many others as well. Recently, I had a discussion with Bert Caswell, a member of the Capitol Guide Service. Bert had met Brad at Walter Reed Medical Center and was truly moved by his story. That inspiration led Bert to write a poem that honors Corporal Walker. I enjoyed having the opportunity to read this poem and wanted to share this with the House of Representatives:

WALKING TALL

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

There's a calm before the storm . . .  
Upon, battlefields of honor in hearts as worn . . .  
All in souls of honor, as into the darkness their hearts of courage move on . . . where magnificence is born . . .  
And when that battle is done . . .  
Fine Men and Women of honor lie face down, living but their last most brilliant suns!  
And then there are those ones, left behind with new battles begun . . . without arms and legs our sons . . .  
As somehow their heart's must get up and walk again . . .  
All in their pain and heartache, as their most splendid souls must somehow begin . . .  
Telling them to get up and walk, as these inner voices of faith and courage so much has taught in the end!  
Taught us all about the walk, the walk of life . . .  
All in the kinds of battles we so chose to fight, all in these our darkest days of night . . .  
All between dark and light, life and death . . . good and evil . . . as comes this battle, this their fine fight . . .  
Is but their walk so burning bright . . .  
Is but their walk of life, which brings such light . . . to everyone there so in sight . . .  
Are all those steps they take, watching them . . . as all of our hearts so begin to break, all on this night . . .  
And now upon this day, so seen . . .  
Is but a fine United States Marine, Corporal Bradley J. Walker of Tennessee . . .  
Who went off to war, who gave up his two fine legs all for our country tis of thee . . .  
While, there in the face of death . . .  
As he looked down to see no legs left, when he began his most heroic quest . . .  
But, cheating death . . . as he began to walk . . . step by step . . . as his faith our world would bless . . .  
As Brad, stands even taller on this day . . .  
All in what his heart has now so conveyed, all in those new steps he has so made . . .  
For Marines can do, and a heart of courage full can so teach so much too . . . all in courage's way!  
All in our walk o life . . .  
Will we walk tall, and with our souls so burn bright? Doing what is right!  
As comes this night, Walking Tall . . . Corporal Bradley Walker this valiant knight . . .  
Brad, The Toast of Tennessee . . .  
One damn fine United States Marine . . .  
And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray he'd be like this one . . . Walking Tall like Bradley!

In honor of Corporal Bradley J. Walker, D Co., 4th Combat Engineer Battalion of White Pine Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, this is a fitting tribute to a fine young man who has sacrificed so much for his country, and I hope that the House will join me in honoring Corporal Walker for his service and thanking Bert Caswell for his tribute to this young man's service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO LIMA COMPANY

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I request to submit this tribute in honor of the Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment based in my congressional district. The piece was written by Albert Caswell.

Rest! Rest our fine sons . . . Your war is now over . . . Your battle's begun . . . There's Company in Heaven . . . There's a new force to be found . . . There's a new band of 23 brothers, of so renown . . .

There's a new winged force of Angels, warriors in the Army of our Lord now . . . There's 22 Magnificent Marines and a Corpsman, who are all out in front, moving so forth out on the prowl . . .

Heading in a divine direction, to do a battle for our Lord . . . to fight the darkness, as it's the light they so ensure! The ones who so lived and so died for each other, in the darkest times of war . . . as where their great burdens bore. Who have now come back as Angels, in this the greatest of all force . . . listen on the wind, you'll hear their voices.

Once but our bravest and brightest, who were all once champions of right . . . there our United States Marines . . . Who were the finest of all sons our nation has seen, who so bravely left all their loved ones to do what must be done! While, strength in honor was but their most magnificent of themes, but willing to die for us and give up all their dreams.

Moments on this earth are but all we so have, to make a difference, to crush hearts . . . all in our shortest of life paths. To grab hearts, from the beginning, where we so start, to stare right into the face of death with but only your fine hearts.

But for the greater good, as only they could . . . There's Company in Heaven . . . it's getting crowded up here! As the Lord our Father, welcomes these fine warriors in all of his tears!

And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray and so wish . . . that he could but be like all of these fine ones!

Yeah, There's Company in Heaven . . . New Angels up here! Ready for this new battle which appears!

And when there comes a gentle rain . . . your sons' tears of love shall wash down upon you to so ease all of your pain . . . Until, one day up in Heaven . . . you will all so meet again! And you won't have to cry no more . . . FAOY.

LIST OF THE LIMA COMPANY FALLEN

Lance Corporal Timothy M. Bell, Jr.; Lance Corporal Eric J. Bernholtz; Corporal Dustin A. Derga; Lance Corporal Nicholas B. Erdy; Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids; Sergeant David N. Wimberg; Lance Corporal Michael J. Cifuentes; Lance Corporal Christopher J. Dyer; Lance Corporal Jonathan W. Grant; Sergeant David Kenneth J. Kreuter; Lance Corporal Jourdan L. Grez; Private First Class Christopher R. Dixon.

Lance Corporal Christopher P. Lyons; Staff Sergeant Anthony L. Goodwin; Petty Officer 3rd Class Travis Youngblood; Sergeant Jus-

tin F. Hoffman; Staff Sergeant Kendall H. Ivy II; Lance Corporal Nicholas William B. Bloem; Corporal Andre L. Williams; Lance Corporal Grant B. Fraser; Lance Corporal Aaron H. Reed; Lance Corporal Edward A. Schroeder II; Lance Corporal William B. Wightman.

HONORING MATTHEW AARON GATES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Aaron Gates of Platte City, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Aaron Gates for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF INDEPENDENCE AT HOME ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Independence at Home Act. I am pleased to introduce this important legislation today with my colleagues in the House, Representatives. CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ) and RAHM EMANUEL (D-IL), and my colleagues in the Senate, Senators RON WYDEN (D-OR), BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD), BENJAMIN CARDIN (D-MD) and SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI).

Our legislation is designed to improve the quality of care received by a particularly vulnerable portion of the Medicare population—beneficiaries with multiple chronic and debilitating diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS, diabetes and other conditions. Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions account for a disproportionate share of Medicare spending compared to their representation in the overall Medicare population. Specifically, CMS reports that each year, 10 percent of the Medicare population accounts for two-thirds of all Medicare fee-for-service program payments. Because this population sees an average of 13 physicians and fills about 50 prescriptions per year, beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions often receive disjointed care from health providers, including conflicting information and multiple diagnoses for the same symptoms.

The Independence at Home Act addresses the critical needs of these patients, for whom coordinated care has the greatest potential to achieve positive results. Through the creation

of a 3-year demonstration project in 26 states, our legislation provides for patient-centered health care directed by physicians and nurse practitioners working as part of a team of caregivers qualified to deliver quality health services for this specific Medicare patient group. The Independence at Home program is designed to fund better health care and improved health care technology through savings it achieves, using an innovative health care delivery model to permit the growing number of Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and to receive care in a setting that is preferred by the beneficiary involved and the family of such beneficiary.

In addition to delivering holistic, preventive care that enables patients to remain in their own homes, the Independence at Home demonstration projects hold providers accountable for quality outcomes, patient satisfaction, and a mandatory minimum 5 percent savings on an annual basis compared to Medicare costs that would have been incurred if the beneficiary had not participated in the demonstration project. Our bill generates these savings by providing comprehensive and coordinated care to the highest cost Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, reducing duplicative and unnecessary services and avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. As demonstrated by the Veterans Administration and many other existing programs, the Independence at Home Act has the potential both to promote quality, effective care and significantly reduce costs.

Our bill has been endorsed by the American Academy of Home Care Physicians; AARP; the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; the National Family Caregivers Association; the Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving; the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; the Maryland-National Capital Home Care Association; the Visiting Nurse Associations of America, and Intel Corp.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this important legislation.

#### REAL SEX ED WEEK

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, our government has spent \$1.5 billion in what is a failed policy for our Nation's children. Our investment in abstinence-only education has failed in giving our teenagers the medically accurate, life-saving information about birth control and sexually transmitted infections they need to make informed decisions. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one out of every four teenage girls in the United States is infected with a sexually transmitted disease and 40 percent of women will get pregnant before they reach 20 years of age. The facts confirm what many of us here in Congress have been saying for years, abstinence-only programs do not work.

This is a public health concern and we must reject funding for abstinence-only programs they are ideologically driven and are wishful

thinking. Citizens in my district are demanding comprehensive sex education to keep our youth healthy and safe. A majority of voters in nearly every demographic category strongly support comprehensive sex education and want public schools to teach it, including 78 percent of Catholics.

Congress must put an end to ineffective programs that only cover abstinence until marriage and start putting our money where it works: into comprehensive sex education. Our next generation is depending on us for accurate, lifesaving information, and it's time we gave it to them.

#### IN HONOR OF JOHN LAIRD

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a truly remarkable public servant. Assemblymember John Laird, who has represented the coastal portions of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in the California legislature for the last 6 years, will leave the legislature at the end of this current term as a result of term limits. I know I speak for the whole House, particularly my colleagues from the California delegation, in extending our gratitude and admiration to John for his Assembly service.

In 2002, John was first elected to represent the 27th Assembly District, which I represented during my tenure in the Assembly. His constituents, including me, returned him to the Assembly in 2004 and 2006 by overwhelming margins. Once in office, John quickly gained a reputation as a quick study of complex policy matters and a member who works with just about anybody in the Capitol. At the start of his second term in 2004, Mr. Laird joined the Assembly leadership team as chair of the Budget Committee, a position to which he won reappointment to in December 2006. As budget Chair, John was a key figure in working with the Governor and other legislative leaders in crafting the State's annual budget. Sometimes those other parties went along with John and the budget came in on time. Other times, those other parties departed from John's lead and delayed the budget's adoption. In each of these budgets, John left his stamp on the lives of Californians by fighting for reduced community college fees, K-12 education, and funding for transportation, park maintenance and foster care.

During Mr. Laird's tenure, he authored a wide range of bills that were signed into law—to establish the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restore community college health services, and to expand and clarify State civil rights protections. In the 2006 session, he successfully authored bills to provide new protections for sea otters, help build a new veterans cemetery at the former Fort Ord, provide pay increases for park rangers and fish and game wardens, and support local affordable housing trusts.

Raised in Vallejo and educated in Vallejo public schools, Mr. Laird's parents both were educators. They bequeathed to John a deep respect for public service and a passion for the Chicago Cubs. He graduated from UCSC's Adlai Stevenson College. He served on the

congressional district staff of Congressman Jerome Waldie, was an analyst for the Santa Cruz County Administrative Officer, and was Executive Director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

In 1981, Mr. Laird was elected to a seat on the Santa Cruz City Council where he served until 1990. He was elected by the City Council to one-year mayor's terms in 1983 and 1987, becoming one of the first openly gay mayors in the United States. He served as an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to his election to the Assembly in 2002. Thanks to the recent landmark decision by the California Supreme Court, John was able to marry his longtime partner John Flores.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no better argument against California's legislative term limits than John's leadership and record. On behalf of the House, I want to wish John and his husband every happiness and urge him to continue his great record of service.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH CASON

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a great American. Keith Cason was an example of a true American family man. He grew up in Fairmont City and moved to the Caseyville area to raise his family. He always had a smile on his face and always set a good example of what we strive to be. He was full of life and energy and enjoyed attending church on Sundays with his father.

Tragically, Keith was lost in an automobile accident in St. Louis on July 15 of this year. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary, his sons Ryan and Craig, his sisters Kena and Karen, his father Charles and all those who mourn at this time for Keith. He devoted his life to his family and his country, and he left a positive mark on both. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

#### HONORING JOSEPH JOHN McLAIN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph John McLain of Platte City, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph John McLain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.