

ages to become a support system for one another. This often leads to veterans becoming informal counselors to each other and making sure that one another stay on track. Many graduates of the program find the bond of friendship and support so beneficial that they return as volunteers to give back to others in need, especially with many veterans now returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I truly admire the work that Mr. Roy Foster has done, and continues to do, for our nation's veterans each and every single day. After serving our country so valiantly, no veteran should ever have to face the future alone.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES JOHNSON

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**HON. MARY FALLIN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to rise today to note the passing of Dr. James Johnson, an adoring husband, cherished father, and respected physician in my home state of Oklahoma.

A lifelong hemophiliac, Dr. J, as he was known to so many of his patients, dedicated his life to healing others. During his more than 25 years practicing medicine, Dr. J treated thousands of patients, and worked with researchers and insurance companies on finding new ways to treat and hopefully one day cure hemophilia.

Dr. J was particularly fond of reminding students to continually challenge their minds—because while their bodies may someday fail them, they could always count on their knowledge. No one lived this out better than he did. During his months in the hospital, I am told, he would consult on his own case and instruct med students performing basic procedures on him. Always gracious and ever the educator, Dr. J would kindly suggest, “You know, son, if you do it this way, you won’t hurt your patient so much.”

Dr. J owned his own practice for many years, and was most recently medical director for a company that performs house calls for the elderly and homebound. Over the years, he worked as an ER doctor, a prison doctor, and a primary care doctor. When off the job, Dr. J was also a die-hard Sooners fan, a Thunder season-ticket holder, an amateur pilot, and an active member of his local church. But the roles he cherished most were those of husband and father.

Dr. J was laid to rest Monday in Edmond. While we take comfort in knowing that he is at peace, the State of Oklahoma and particularly who know Dr. J grieve this loss. I believe I speak for the whole House when I say our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. J’s wife of 26 years, Becky, their daughter, Ashley, and the hundreds of family, friends, colleagues, and patients who knew and love him so dearly.

HONORING CORPORAL SYLVESTER WATTS (RETIRED)

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Corporal Sylvester Watts (Retired). We are all saddened that Sylvester is gone, but joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

Sylvester Watts was born October 8, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois to the late Pastor Van B. and Missionary Ruby Watts. He was the youngest of 11 children; his parents, three brothers and one sister, Rufus, Reverend Roosevelt, John and Otha, made their transition from life-mortal ahead of him. He transitioned to await the resurrection on November 29, 2009 at his home in Chicago, Illinois.

Sylvester accepted Christ as his personal Savior at an early age under the pastorate of his father at Greater Progressive Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois where he served as an usher and a member of the Youth Choir.

Sylvester joined the United States Marine Corps May 1, 1967, was temporarily retired April 16, 1969 and honorably discharged on September 30, 1974. He served his country with dignity and honor and attained the rank of Corporal. During his Military Service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Viet Nam Campaign Medal with device and Marksman Rifle Badge.

Having been reared in a Christian home where the Word of God, the love and support of family were the guiding principles, Sylvester learned early in life that “if a man doesn’t work, he doesn’t eat”, so in spite of the emotional and psychological issues he faced as a result of his tenure in Viet Nam, he was determined to survive.

Sylvester attended Elmhurst College where he majored in Business Administration. He was gainfully employed with Gerber Products Company, Watts Side Grocery (family owned) the Deputy Sheriffs Office, Strategic Services Unit, Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois, Sodexho Marriott, Trajo Enterprises and Rich Cake Enterprises.

Sylvester leaves to cherish precious memories: Missionary Janet Watts-DuPart, Reverend Lucille Watts-Watson, Reverend Van Watts, Jr. (Ruth), Benny Watts, Reverend Frank Watts, Evangelist Shirley Watts Kyles Green; Nephews: Calvin Andre, Van Blair, Vincent, Victor, Vaughn, Joseph Preston, Joseph B., Anthony, Troy, Torrence, Ivyl, Michael, Steven, Anthony; Nieces: Barbetta, Janet, Loretta, Christiana, Angie, Janet, Jacqueline, Tina L., Cheryl Lynn, Donna Michelle, Lori Alva, Rubi and Kora; a special nephew, Pastor Alfonso Cleveland and a special friend, Reverend Jeanne L. Edwards, who engaged him in intellectual spiritual conversations at the dinner table whenever family gathered.

We, the Watts family, continue to strive to keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. He alone is able to keep us from fall-

ing and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Jude v 21&24.

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HONORING BEVERLY SCOTT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Beverly Scott as the outgoing President of the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors. Ms. Scott will be recognized at the annual installation luncheon for the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors on November 20, 2009 in Oakhurst, California.

The Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors (YGAOR) first began as the Mountain Co-Op in 1998 with a group of eight volunteers. Today, the group has a paid professional staff and ownership of the Association’s building. YGAOR was responsible for developing one of the first computerized Multiple Listing Systems, which continues to operate today with the latest technology. They work very closely with the California Association of Realtors by providing leadership at both the statewide and regional levels. YGAOR provides educational opportunities for its members, as well as fundraising activities that benefit local non-profit organizations and scholarship programs.

Ms. Beverly Scott is a fifth-generation native of Eastern Madera County. After graduating from Yosemite High School, she attended Bakersfield City College and earned her Bachelor’s degree from California State University, Bakersfield. Ms. Scott has a very diverse history, including service in the United States Army, working as an editor, a photojournalist, a medical instructor, a realtor, a volunteer and a mother to four children: Skyler, Heavenly, Sierra and Raylynn. She is a true entrepreneur; the manager of Oakhurst Real Estate, and the general manager of National Computer Software, Inc.

With Ms. Scott’s role at YGAOR, she has been a strong leader and provided a voice of optimism for local real estate. The 2009 Board Members worked closely with past Board Members to create a new strategic plan and to provide guidelines for defining a strategy, making decisions and allocating YGAOR resources. The new strategic plan brought an updated mission statement: “The Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors is committed to professional excellence for the success of its members in all aspects of the real estate industry.” With this mission statement in mind, the 2009 Board, with the leadership of Ms. Scott, established four goals: Advocacy, Communication, Education and Organizational Excellence.

Ms. Scott is a leader in the real estate industry, as well as in the Oakhurst community. She has been a member of YGAOR since 2004, and has served on various committees over the past five years. Ms. Scott has been a member of the Board of Trustees for the Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District since 2006, serving as Vice President in 2009; the Eastern Madera County/Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce since 2001, serving as President in 2004, the Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum since 2004, serving as an Officer and a Board Member, Local Water and Sewer Committees since 2002 and is a