

"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 I 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