

much worrying by his parents, he later returned safe and sound—and enlisted in the U.S. Army's delayed entry program. At age 18, Mr. Wurtz was assigned in Hawaii. He quickly moved up the ranks and moved to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum in upstate New York. Then came September 11, 2001.

After watching the horror of the terrorist attacks unfold on his television from Fort Drum, he had no idea that a short time later, he would be fighting terrorists in Afghanistan to protect his hometown and all of America from future terrorist attacks.

Between late September and March 1st, Sgt. Wurtz found himself in various staging and combat situations, leading up to his involvement in Operation Anaconda. The 10th Mountain Division was positioned on a mountain in Afghanistan in the morning hours of March 2nd and immediately became engaged in a 16-hour fire fight with enemy forces.

Shortly into the battle, Sgt. Wurtz was struck by a mortar shell, injuring his right foot. Minutes after the initial hit, the wounded Wurtz was hurt again, a mortar shell hitting his right kneecap. As he was being carried off the battlefield by medics, a photographer took his picture—a photo that appeared on front page of the March 8th New York Daily News. While he received medical attention in the field, because of the fierce fighting, Sgt. Wurtz and about 40 other injured soldiers were forced to endure the danger of intense fighting and freezing temperatures, because helicopters were unable to airlift them until nightfall.

After a series of operations and hospital stays overseas, Sgt. Wurtz arrived at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC on March 9th to very grateful family members: his parents Clem and Joan, brothers Chris and Daniel, aunt and uncle Judy and Lenny Crawford, cousins Peggy Crawford and Brianne Pawson, and sister-in-law Danielle Auletta. While in Washington, he was presented with the Purple Heart and visits from U.S. Generals and visits from Members of Congress.

On March 18th, Sgt. Wurtz returned to New York City and his College Point neighborhood where he has been greeted and thanked by many appreciative friends, neighbors and local leaders. Despite his injuries, he is eager to report back to Fort Drum and is willing to return to Afghanistan if he is so ordered.

Although Sgt. Wurtz would disagree with the label, Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring him as the hero he is. Sgt. David Wurtz's courageous service on behalf of this country is the reason our Armed Forces ensure that we remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

A TRIBUTE TO KVPT VALLEY PUBLIC TELEVISION ON ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of KVPT Valley Public Television, which has made a significant contribution to the educational advancement of many people in my district. KVPT provides the Central San Joaquin Valley with quality PBS programs includ-

ing Antiques Roadshow, Masterpiece Theater, and Sesame Street. Beyond that, Valley Public Television produces local programming such as Valley Press and Jobs, which broadcasts valuable local news and information about agriculture, employment, cultural events, and politics.

Throughout the past 25 years, community support has been an integral part of Valley Public Television. Through financial support, volunteering, and technical advice, Central Valley residents have maintained the station's quality alternative programming. Without the assistance and generosity of local residents, KVPT could not have sustained the inspirational and educational programming that has contributed so much to the people of my district.

Valley Public Television plays an important role in expanding educational opportunities for the Valley. It offers GED courses and has formed partnerships with local community colleges. These partnerships have resulted in the formation of on-air college courses that viewers can take for credit. KVPT also offers "Ready to Learn" workshops, which teaches parents, caregivers and teachers in a seven county region how to utilize KVPT's children's programming as an educational tool to help children get ready to learn before they enter the school system.

Under the leadership of its General Manager, Colin Dougherty, Valley Public Television has been a leader in Central Valley broadcasting for a quarter of a century. Mr. Dougherty has been with KVPT since its inception in 1977. His work has been an important part of Valley Public Television's success. I commend Mr. Dougherty on his work over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Valley Public Television on their twenty-five years serving the residents of the Central Valley.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND CRAIG D. MCDANIEL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in offering our warmest congratulations to an outstanding community leader, Reverend Craig D. McDaniel, who is being honored for his faithfulness and dedication to the Smith Memorial Church of God in Christ as well as to the 10th District of New Jersey. On Friday May 10, 2002, there will be "A Night of Celebration" in Newark mark his achievements.

Craig Douglass McDaniel was born on February 25, 1960 to the Reverend Melvin McDaniel and the late Sallie Prather McDaniel in Newark, NJ. He is the eldest of five siblings born to this union. Craig was reared in Newark, NJ and attended the Newark Public Schools, graduating from Weequahic High School in 1979. He furthered his education at William Paterson College in Paterson, NJ.

Craig attended church with his family until he joined Holy Temple (Smith Memorial) Church of God in Christ in 1984 under the leadership of the late Bishop Howard Smith. In

1986, Craig was ordained a minister under the current Pastor, Dr. C.H. Evans and a few years later was ordained an Elder in the Church of God in Christ. In the early 90's, Elder McDaniel became assistant Pastor. He has traveled throughout the United States in revivals as an avid supporter of the Church of God in Christ.

One of Reverend McDaniel's greatest joys in life is serving people. In church, he is the Youth President and the Advisor of the Youth Department, Committee member for the Pastor's Anniversary Committee, former Vice President of the Young Adult Choir and many other auxiliaries. Reverend McDaniel serves in our jurisdiction as Vice President of the Youth Department and is also a National Adjutant in the Church of God in Christ.

In the community, he has participated on the advisory board for AIDS Benefits, Outreach Street Ministry, Essex County Prison Ministry, Annual Youth Retreats and Summits and the Beth Israel Medical Center Cultural Awareness Board. Reverend McDaniel was on the committee that enabled the Smith Memorial Church street to be renamed, from Stratford Place to Bishop Howard Smith Plaza (named after our founder, the late Bishop Howard Smith). In addition, Reverend McDaniel continues to better himself by continuing his education at Kean University in Union, NJ where he is currently majoring in Education.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in wishing Reverend McDaniel all the best as he continues his outstanding service to his church and the 10th District of New Jersey.

HONORING NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL-CANTON

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on July 6, 1962, Northside Hospital-Canton opened its doors to the surrounding community. From the very beginning, the hospital has strived to be an institution dedicated to the health and wellness of those that it serves. The hospital opened with only 250 beds, a 24-hour emergency department, and 80 physicians. As Cherokee County began to flourish and grow, the hospital did as well. Now, with more than 1,470 physicians serving over 300,000 patients annually, the hospital has proven itself to be a top quality facility that is clearly able to cope with the demands of a vibrant and growing part of one of the major metropolitan areas in the Southeastern United States. As the hospital reaches a milestone of 40 years of service, it is easy to see the vital role it plays in the community.

Much of the hospital's success can be attributed to its outstanding staff and its top-notch doctors; and employees stay with the hospital for a long time. One nurse, Ginnie Poor, has worked at the hospital for over 37 years. She is an example of the dedication and commitment the workers have made in order to guarantee health care of the highest quality.

Currently the hospital is expanding its emergency, radiology, and women's services, as well as offering more specialized services.