



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *111th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, JULY 30, 2009

House of Representatives

Remarks of
The Honorable Bill Delahunt of Massachusetts
Honoring the Service of U.S. Marine Cpl. Nicholas G. Xiarhos

U.S. House of Representatives
July 30, 2009

Madam Speaker –

I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the service of U.S. Marine Corporal Nicholas G. Xiarhos – a loving son and brother, exceptionally dedicated soldier, and a constituent of mine.

On July 23, Nick died after being injured by a roadside explosive while serving in the Garmsir District, an area in the volatile region of southern Afghanistan. If ever there was an individual who went above and beyond to answer the call of service to his country, Nick was that man. He returned from a tour of duty in Iraq this past October only to change battalions so that he could be redeployed to Afghanistan in May. At the time of his death, Nick was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, and was scheduled to return home around Christmas.

Beloved and admired by his family, peers, fellow men and women in uniform, and his hometown community of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 21-year-old Nick was the epitome of a true American hero. He eschewed being singled out for his achievements and admirable sacrifices, telling others that he was no different from the thousands of other Marines who shared the same mission. As he told his parents only two weeks before his death, he was living his dream while serving in Afghanistan despite the physical and emotional toll that combat takes on even the most seasoned soldiers.

Six feet tall, athletic, and muscular, Nick had a heart of gold that instinctively drew others to him. During his years at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, he was dubbed “the mayor of DY” for his outgoing, amiable, friendly nature and popularity. As a senior, he received the “Does Most For Others” title – a well-deserved moniker that embodied how Nick approached relationships, his military service, and life in general. Upon returning from Afghanistan, Nick’s goal was to attend college and – following in his father, Lieutenant Steven Xiarhos’, footsteps – to become a police officer.

Nick’s life was one of immense promise, tragically ended too soon. As he is laid to rest tomorrow, I want to extend my deepest condolences to the Xiarhos family – his parents, Steven and Lisa; his younger brother, Alexander; and his twin sisters, Ashlyne and Elizabeth. While he will be truly missed by all those whose lives he touched, Nick’s memory and the sacrifice he made for our country will forever live on.

Thank you, Nicholas Xiarhos, for your service. May you rest in peace.