



# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *113<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

The Honorable Jeff Miller of the First District of Florida  
Washington, Thursday, June 20, 2013

## HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT JESSE LAMAR THOMAS, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deepest sympathy that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American soldier. Army Staff Sergeant Jesse Lamar Thomas, Jr. of Pensacola, Florida died on June 10, 2013, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. SSG Thomas was assigned to the 66th Transportation Company, 39th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

SSG Thomas enlisted into the Army in October 17, 2003, and most recently served his country as a Human Resources Specialist, where he always fought for the resources and well-being of his fellow soldiers to ensure they had the tools required to accomplish the mission. SSG Thomas is remembered by his Company Command as a great mentor, a dedicated noncommissioned officer, and a true professional committed to a life of service to his fellow soldiers, to the United States Army, and to the United States of America. SSG Thomas is also remembered as

remembered as a talented musician and a man with a deep dedication and love for his family and God.

SSG Thomas lived to support and lift up those around him. He dedicated his life helping to ensure those who would do our Nation harm were defeated, while also working to secure the blessings of freedom for the Afghan people. We will never forget his service toward that honorable end. To SSG Thomas' loving wife Michelle; his children Jamie, Justin, and Jordan; mother, Irma Jean; his siblings, Sheldra, Geneen, Shandrea, and Darrin; his extended family and friends, my wife Vicki joins me in offering our most sincere condolences and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress and Nation, I stand here today to honor SSG Jesse Lamar Thomas, Jr. and all of the warriors we have lost. May God continue to bless them and the men and women of our United States Armed Forces.