

**Statement for the Record by Congressman Greg Walden
Recognizing the Heroic Feats of Specialist Tom Hoy, Oregon
Army National Guard
July 13, 2006**

Mr. Speaker, the late Arthur Ashe once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at any cost, but the urge to serve other at whatever cost."

With that in mind, I rise today to recognize a heroic event that took place in the heart of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District on Sunday, July 10, 2006. On that day, a member of our nation's military gave selfless service to three children in danger—and in the process saved a life.

Specialist Tom Hoy is a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. On July 10th, 2006, he was with three fellow soldiers participating in recruiting activities near the Deschutes River in Bend, Oregon.

While near the river, Specialist Hoy observed three children on inner-tubes, with no life jackets, who were floating downstream, dangerously near a spillway.

A spillway creates a perilous setting. A woman was reported as having drowned near this spillway the day before, and another woman had to be pulled from it unconscious several days before that.

What Specialist Hoy saw was at least one of the children appearing to be in distress. The soldiers directed the three children to come to shore, and the two older boys were able to. But the third child, a young girl no older than six or seven years old, was too far out and appeared to be crying and frightened. Specialist Hoy told the girl to grab onto some weeds that were growing out of the water and instructed another soldier to stay on the near side of the river in case she let go and made it near that side. Hoy then ran upstream, crossed a bridge, and ran back down the opposite bank, jumping several fences, until he reached the girl's location. Without any concern for his personal safety, Specialist Hoy entered the waist deep, swift-moving water and was able to have the girl climb onto his back where he carried her to safety. Hoy, the other soldiers, and one civilian then returned the girl to her overjoyed parents.

Specialist Hoy is a resident of Prineville, Oregon, where he resides with his wife, Jennifer, and their children. He remains a dedicated public servant. In addition to his continued role protecting our nation, he is a reserve police officer with the Prineville Police Department.

I myself am proud to represent Specialist Hoy in the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to applaud his selfless act of service as a way of urging others to follow the example set by this real life hero.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back my time.