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PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR WILLIAM EDWARD ADAMS —HON. SCOTT TIPTON (Extensions of Remarks—February 18, 2011)

HON. SCOTT TIPTON OF COLORADO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, It is my sincere honor to stand and pay tribute to a heroic American who was awarded our nation's highest honor for his conspicuous gallantry in the Kontum Province in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Major William Edward Adams is an inspiration to every citizen of our great nation, and a reminder to all Americans that some will sacrifice everything to preserve our way of life.

Maj. Adams was born in Casper, Wyoming, and raised in Craig, Colorado. He went to high school in Missouri at the Wentworth Military Academy. He graduated from Colorado State University, where he also met his future wife Sandra Adams. Upon graduation he joined the United States Army. Major Adams was deployed to Vietnam in 1970.

On May 25th, 1971, Maj. Adams willingly volunteered for a helicopter rescue mission that would undoubtedly endanger his lightly armored aircraft and his life. The mission was to fly into a remote fire base that was under heavy attack to pick up three critically wounded soldiers. Maj. Adams was fully aware of the advantageous position of the enemy's formidable anti-aircraft guns; as well as the clear skies that would provide no cover from the imminent barrage. While directing and coordinating fire support from other attack helicopters, Major Adams landed his aircraft and picked up the three wounded soldiers. As he began his return flight, Maj. Adams' helicopter was bombarded with enemy rocket and gunfire. He calmly regained control of the aircraft, and prepared to make an emergency landing, but the helicopter exploded before Maj. Adams could touch down. For these actions, Major William Edward Adams posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker it gives me pride to know that I have fellow countrymen who are capable of such selfless feats of bravery. It has been a true privilege to rise and pay tribute to Maj. William Edward Adams.