



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *110th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

House of Representatives

**REMEMBERING AND HONORING
THE VICTIMS OF THE SHOOTING
AT KIRKWOOD CITY HALL
HON. W. TODD AKIN
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 12, 2008

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great tragedy that occurred in my District last Thursday. On what seemed to be a typical night in what has long been considered an almost idyllic community, Charles Lee Thornton shot and killed Police Sgt. William Biggs outside of the Kirkwood City Hall.

After entering City Hall, Mr. Thornton then shot and killed four dedicated civil servants and severely wounded the mayor before he himself was shot and killed by responding Kirkwood Police officers.

Today Kirkwood Mayor, Mike Swoboda continues to struggle for his life.

Those killed in the City Hall where: Police Officer Tom Ballman, Councilwoman Connie Karr, Councilman Mike Lynch and Public Works Director Kenneth Yost. Kenneth Yost had worked for the City of Kirkwood for thirty-five years.

As Kirkwood and surrounding communities lay to rest these officers and public servants, one cannot help but to be moved by the deep sense of faith expressed by the family and friends they have left behind. What has also become so clear is the deep commitment that these individuals had for their community.

With that service in mind I would like to refer to Mathew 20-28 which states:

“Among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the willing servant of all- like the Son of Man; he did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give up his life as a ransom for many.”