

Natick, Massachusetts and Scotia, New York, which leaves Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey without teams.

The National Defense Authorization for FY 2003 rectifies this by authorizing 23 additional teams, one for each state and territory in the United States. This initiative has been a concern of mine since well before the tragic events of September 11, 2001. On January 10, 2000, I sent a letter to the Honorable Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army, urging that a team be deployed in Connecticut. I followed up that letter with a series of actions in support of expanding Civil Support Teams nationwide. I worked with the Connecticut Air/Army National Guard, the National Guard Bureau and the National Guard Association of the United States to address this issue of homeland security. On October 4, 2001, I sent a letter to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Department of Defense, to ask his support for establishing additional Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

The language in the bill before us is derived from legislation I introduced (H.R. 3154) on October 17, 2001, which attracted 49 cosponsors. On November 14, 2001, in response to these efforts Ellen Embry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Assistance to Civilian Authorities briefed a small number of fellow Democratic Committee members of the House Armed Services Committee. At that meeting I reiterated my view that there should be at least one WMD-CST in every state and U.S. territory. On February 6, 2002, I again raised this issue with Secretary Rumsfeld when he testified before the House Armed Services Committee.

During the House Armed Services Committee's consideration of the FY 2003 Defense Authorization measure (H.R. 4546), my colleague, Congressman TAYLOR of Mississippi, and I successfully offered the amendment, based on my legislation (H.R. 3154), to include the provision for the additional Civil Support Teams.

Currently there are thirty-two Civil Support Teams across the country, authorized by Congress over the last three years. While 32 teams was a good start, it doesn't go far enough. H.R. 4546 will increase (from 32 to 55) the total number of Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (CSTs)—including a team for Connecticut.

My legislation (H.R. 3154) requires the Department of Defense to establish at least one team per state and territory. Federal emergency resources need to be properly and fully integrated with state and local emergency response operations. To do that, we need a team in each state. Establishing a team in every state ensures a quick response to a Weapons of Mass Destruction attack, and allows the Civil Support Teams to run practice scenarios with local and state authorities that would be involved in the event of a real attack. This will ensure high-quality coordination among all those involved.

A Connecticut-based Civil Support Team is vital to residents of Connecticut and the Northeast Corridor. The terrorist attacks of September 11th in New York City made this point clear, and necessitate addressing this regional national security concern as soon as possible.

The Civil Support Team in New York helped assess the initial terrorist incident at the World Trade Center, and undertook chemical, biological and radiological sampling at Ground Zero. The team also provided a full range of communications support as well as air monitoring services. The attack in New York was a critical test for this Civil Support Team, and it proved to provide significant assistance to local and state authorities. Connecticut deserves to be equally well protected and prepared. I am delighted that my legislation to advance that goal has been incorporated in the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2003.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, and for the other strong national defense provisions authorized within, I strongly urge the House to vote in support of H.R. 4546, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2003.

THE HONORABLE DAN NOBLE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the Honorable Dan Noble of Norwood, Colorado, who passed away on November 12, 2002. Dan Noble was an exceptional man who spent his life serving his community and his nation.

Dan was an Army veteran and served as a staff sergeant in a motor battalion in Korea from 1950 to 1952. When he returned from the military he married his wife, Donna, and attended the University of Colorado School of Banking from 1960 to 1962. He became the President and the Director of the San Miguel Basin State Bank in Norwood.

In 1970, Dan was appointed to fill a one-year vacancy in the Colorado State Senate. He continued to faithfully serve his constituents for a total of 17 years. He served seven of these years as the Majority Leader. Senator Noble was respected by all of his peers and his commitment to the people of Colorado is a great example for all who serve in the Colorado General Assembly.

Dan died of cancer at the age of 73, leaving behind his five children: Douglas Noble, Danette Christiansen, Darin Noble, DruAnn Nemecek, and Darcy Crotteau.

Dan Noble was truly a great man. It is with sadness that I inform the House of the loss of such an exceptional American. I ask the House to join me in extending its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Noble.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN N. ABRAMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Gen-

eral John N. Abrams' 36 years of service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command and staff positions, culminating as Commanding General, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Fort Monroe, Virginia. Throughout, General Abrams demonstrated strong and inspiring leadership, unsurpassed executive ability, and an untiring dedication to the spirit and mission of the United States Army.

General Abrams was commissioned through Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, on February 3, 1967, after enlisting in the United States Army on February 17, 1966. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Shippensburg State University of Pennsylvania with a Masters of Science in Public Administration. He is also a 1986 graduate of the Army War College.

General Abrams has served in command and staff positions over the last thirty-five years. He is a combat veteran of Vietnam from August 1967 to July 1969 where he served as an armored cavalry platoon leader and armored cavalry troop commander with the 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, which deployed from the 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany, from 1988 to 1990; the 2d Infantry Division, Uijongbu, Korea, from 1993 to 1995; and V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany, from 1995 to 1997. Prior to assuming command of TRADOC, he was the TRADOC Deputy Commanding General from August 1997 to September 1998.

His service includes staff assignments as Chief of Staff of the 3rd Armored Division in Germany; Military Science Instructor at the United States Military Academy at West Point; Army Staff Officer in War Plans and Deputy Director of Operations Directorate in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations and Plans.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters and Valor device, and the Purple Heart. He has also received the Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Throughout his career, General Abrams has made significant contributions at every level assigned. In his final assignment, he brought to bear the accumulated experience and dedication of a career spent serving the nation and our soldiers. He has provided continuity for the Profession of Arms—integrity, loyalty, dedication, mentorship, vision, and the willingness to take and stand behind the risks associated with implementing change in the Army. General Abrams' distinguished performance of duty will have far-reaching impacts on the future of the Army. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing General Abrams all the best.