

HONORING BRIG. GEN. LEONARD F.
KWIATKOWSKI

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Air Force Brig. Gen. Leonard F. Kwiatkowski, who is retiring after 29 years of distinguished service to his country. General Kwiatkowski is the program director for the Military Satellite Communications [MILSATCOM] Joint Program Office, Space and Missile Systems Center, at Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA.

General Kwiatkowski began his service to the Nation at a time when the space program was beginning to mature. He managed technology development programs that fielded some of the weapons systems we saw perform so well in the gulf war. In his first Air Force assignment, he was involved in the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program, at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, which is in my district. This began his highly successful and distinguished career, which has been primarily devoted to the development, acquisition, and fielding of our country's most advanced weapon systems. He has been directly associated with the development of the F-15 air superiority fighter and the delivery of the first F-100 engines for the F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft. He has also been responsible for the development and fielding of our country's most technologically advanced command, control, communications computer, and intelligence systems supporting all of our Nation's services. Additionally, he served with distinction with our NATO allies while assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe [SHAPE], Belgium. In these assignments he directly contributed to our deterrent posture during the cold war era and also was responsible for delivering key C4I systems to our forces during the gulf war. The systems General Kwiatkowski developed, enabled us to rapidly communicate reconnaissance information, vastly improving the combat effectiveness of our warfighters.

In this, his last, Air Force assignment General Kwiatkowski returned to Los Angeles AFB and the Space and Missile Systems Center to direct our Military Satellite Communications Systems. He managed the congressionally directed restructure of the MILSTAR communications system and has guided the program from its restructure through the Defense Department's acquisition decision process, through the launch of the first two satellites and the design and manufacturing of the restructured block II satellite.

General Kwiatkowski has been a leader in acquisition reform issues, as well. His efforts have been praised by TRW, the first level subcontractor building the MILSTAR communications satellites for the DOD. The first two satellites are in orbit now. They were launched on time, on budget, and are 100 percent effective. His efforts to reduce the number of military-unique specifications and requirements have encouraged TRW to find lower cost, less complex manufacturing requirements, and saved the taxpayers significant amounts of scarce Defense resources.

High-level TRW officials said they will miss General Kwiatkowski's innovations and close

working relationship, but they will miss his leadership skills most of all. He was one of the first Defense Department acquisition personnel to use integrated contractor/government development teams to assess areas of potential risk and word to reduce the risk as the system was designed. Knowing where to devote such risk reduction efforts is already paying dividends as the next-generation advanced military communications satellites are being designed.

The general has also served as mission director of the first MILSTAR launch and the Defense Satellite Communications System [DSCS] III launches. In the latter case, under his leadership, the Defense Department completed the full operational capability milestone of the DSCS III constellation. He has also been a vigorous, enthusiastic, catalyst in reforming and streamlining the acquisition process. Under his extraordinary leadership, the MILSTAR Program has underrun its budget projections by \$1.5 billion and is meeting all of the warfighters' requirements of our country's most complex, secure communications satellite system.

General Kwiatkowski has served his country in a truly outstanding manner. Combat aviators, sailors, and soldiers will be more informed, capable, and most important, more likely to survive any future conflicts because of him. That's legacy we can all admire. We all wish General Kwiatkowski, his wife, Carol, and his children, Karen, Michael, and David, the best as this career closes and a new one begins.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN SAM
GIBBONS OF FLORIDA

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, today, to pay tribute to one of the House's most distinguished Members, Congressman SAM GIBBONS of Tampa, FL, who will retire at the end of this Congress.

He served in the United States Army for 5 years during World War II with the 501st Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He was in the initial assault force landing at Normandy and was awarded the Bronze Star.

SAM was among those honored during celebrations of the 50th anniversary of World War II last year and is a great example of heroism for us all.

During his service in the Congress, he has been a collegial friend and a hard worker. While he made a reputation for himself on the Ways and Means Committee as an expert on trade, he also showed his leadership abilities when he took the helm of the Committee in the spring of 1993, in the midst of intense debate over reforming our Nation's health care system.

This year, too, SAM GIBBONS, provided himself to be a tireless advocate to protect the interests of Medicare beneficiaries. He has been a persistent defender of the rights of senior citizens, a true representative of his constituents, and a credit to the United States Congress.

We will miss him very much.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN
THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I offer my amendment on behalf of approximately 800 Polish and Hungarian immigrants who legally entered this country between 1989 and 1991. My amendment will allow these 800 immigrants to adjust their status to permanent resident so that they one day may become full citizens of the United States.

This group of immigrants was paroled into the United States by the attorney general. Parole is a limbo status which gives them the right to live in the United States indefinitely, but denies them the opportunity to acquire permanent residency or citizenship. These immigrants have already endured much hardship and suffering. They came to the United States after living for years in refugees camps in Europe. All of the parolees were on the verge of gaining refugee status when U.S. refugee policy for those two nations changed. With the fall of communism in 1989, INS no longer accepted their refugee applications. In fairness to those who were far along in the application process, INS granted some of the applicants parole.

The parolees have now been living in the United States for more than 6 years. They are working and paying taxes. They have made new homes and adjusted to a new way of life. America is now their home.

Unfortunately, the parole status places strict limitations on these new lives. Without residency or citizenship, they lack some of the rights Americans take for granted. These include the ability to qualify for in-state resident tuition at public universities and the right to travel internationally at will. That's right, they have no international travel privileges which has prevented them from visiting families for years. They have missed both weddings and funerals.

INS predicted that the parolees would adjust their status through relatives in the United States who petition on their behalf through the family reunification program. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In many cases it is not possible to apply for adjustment through family members, and in other cases it could take many years. This is because U.S. immigration law allows permanent residents to petition only for their spouses and children. Citizens can additionally petition for siblings. Grandparents and cousins, regardless of status, can never petition.

Many of these parolees were brought here, however, by distant family members. Without passage of this amendment, these unlucky individuals will never be residents. Some of the parolees were brought by brothers and sisters, many of whom came as refugees and are not yet citizens. Under current law, a parolee would have to wait 5 years for his or her sibling to become a citizen, then another 9 years for a fourth preference petition to become current. It would take 14 years for this kind of parolee to become a resident. Then again, if the bill currently under debate passes, siblings will

not be allowed to petition for other siblings and therefore, the parolees would be without an avenue to adjust their status.

Mr. Speaker, these 800 parolees have suffered much. Let's make their life a little easier and provide them with an opportunity to be-

come full U.S. citizens. Please support my amendment.