

this resolution to President Clinton, the presiding officers of the House of Representatives and Senate, the majority leader of the Senate, and the Secretary of Defense.

AMERICA'S UNSUNG HEROES

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, during his State of the Union Address this week, President Clinton recognized one of the heroes from last year's bombing in Oklahoma City. I believe this was a tradition begun by former President Reagan but regardless who started it, it is a practice which has great merit.

For all across America, there are countless unsung heroes—men and women, boys and girls—who rise to whatever occasion is necessary to lend a helping hand to one of their fellow citizens.

Such was the case in the early morning hours of New Year's day in the city of Robertsedale, AL. Then, one of my constituents, Mr. Floyd Smith, saw that his neighbor's house trailer was engulfed in flames and without regard for his own safety, rushed in to save the lives of this family.

If it were not for Mr. Smith, George and Doris Hammock, and their grandson, Adam, would no longer be with us today.

Clearly, Floyd Smith didn't wake up intending to be a hero that day. Like most Americans, he probably had other things on his mind on this first day of the new year.

But when he saw his neighbors were at risk, he raced over to try to awake the Hammocks by beating on the walls of their trailer. Then he helped the family escape the burning home through the window.

Once the Robertsedale Fire Department arrived, it took 45 minutes to totally extinguish out the fire. The Hammocks lost everything—their home, their clothes, their possessions—but thanks to Floyd Smith, they didn't lose the one thing which is truly irreplaceable—their lives.

Just like so many other heroes, Floyd Smith deserves to be recognized for his outstanding act of bravery. He put the life and well-being of others above his own. And he did so not because it was politically popular, but because it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Smith is truly an American hero and he deserves to be praised for his outstanding acts. Everyone can learn from his example and because of it, the Hammocks now have an opportunity to live out their New Year's resolutions with many more to come.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I salute Mr. Floyd Smith, and ask that a copy of this statement be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. EARL G.
PECK, USAF, RETIRED

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a man

who has served his country and his State for almost 50 years, Maj. Gen. Earl G. Peck. I have had the privilege of working with Earl for a number of years on issues of concern to veterans.

General Peck began his military service in 1948 and served for more than 36 years in the U.S. Air Force. He was a command pilot with more than 7,000 hours in fighters, bombers, tankers, and trainers. Earl received numerous military decorations, including the Defense and Air Force Distinguished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal with four campaign stars and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

During his distinguished military career, Earl held many different positions. He served as Chief of Staff, Strategic Air Command; Director, Intelligence and Space Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Deputy Commander, Sixth Allied Tactical Air Force, Izmir, Turkey; Chief, Office of Air Force History; Commandant, Squadron Officers School; Commander, 3902d Air Base Wing; Chief, Special Air Operations, Vietnam; and many others as a squadron pilot and staff officer.

When the general left the Air Force in 1985, he could have sat back and enjoyed his retirement. But as so often is the case with veterans, Earl continued to contribute to his community.

Since his retirement, he has been active in the Retired Officers Association, the Air Force Association, and the Order of Daedalians. He is also a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

In 1989, Earl was appointed as the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Immediately preceding his appointment, he was Director of the Florida Division of Veterans' Affairs, the department's predecessor.

As an advocate for Florida's veterans, Earl has worked to improve the quality of life for all of the State's 1.73 million veterans. The resources of the department has increased by 400 percent, providing increased services to veterans. During his tenure, veterans' homes have been constructed in Lake City and Daytona Beach and more are planned. He has worked to elevate the VA's understanding of Florida's problems and to improve the resources and facilities available to our veterans. He has always been a valuable resource for our congressional delegation in Washington.

Earl is the outgoing President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Jesse Brown presented Earl with the Secretary's Award for Outstanding State Director—a well-deserved honor.

In 1994, I was honored by the Association as "Man of the Year." I know he was instrumental in my selection for this award and I am grateful for his support.

As Earl prepares to retire from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, I wanted to wish him the best of luck in his retirement. Although he may be retiring, I know Earl will remain a strong advocate for Florida's veterans.

GEORGE DYKSTRA: A GREAT
AMERICAN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of George Dykstra, known as Mr. Sparta to people in the town he called home. George Dykstra lived a great American life: In good times and bad, he was always there to serve his family, his neighbors, and his country.

Born in Fulton, IL, in 1921, George grew up in Prospect Park, NJ. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps for 7 years and received a Purple Heart while serving in the Pacific Theater as a sergeant during World War II, which included action in Guadalcanal and the Philippines. After the war, George finally settled down and moved to the township of Sparta in the heart of Sussex County, NJ. Little did George know that he would dedicate the next 50 years of his life to serving the citizens of this small, mountainous town. Whether it was the Sparta VFW Post, the North Jersey Midget Football League, flood victims in Wilkes Barre, PA, or planting flowers in front of the municipal building, George Dykstra was there to lead the way or just lend a helping hand. According to Monsignor Charles C. Cassidy, the retired pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Sparta, "everything he did was for someone else."

George also made significant contributions through his service in municipal government. He was a member of the Sparta Township Council for 18 years, including four terms as mayor. It was through this venue that I first met George and came to know him as a straight-shooting, thoughtful, and caring man. Whether it was keeping tabs on the Superfund sight at A.O. Polymer or acting as a sounding board for local veterans as a valued member of my Veterans Round Table, George didn't tinker around the edges, he always got right to the point. He was someone I could trust. Sparta Councilwoman Dolores Blackburn put it perfectly when she said that "he cannot be replaced. The things he did were well-intentioned, whether you agreed with him or not. He was our local color."

I could not possibly name all of the organizations that George Dykstra was involved in during his years in Sparta, he was literally a part of everything that went on in the town. According to Pat, his wife of 22 years, "he just loved Sparta. He always wanted to stay here." David Ferguson worked along side George as Sparta's township manager and wholeheartedly agrees, stating that "He is 'Mr. Sparta.' I don't know anyone who cared more and loved Sparta more than George. He was the most dedicated individual I have ever known toward his community. He had a heart of gold and we all loved him." His fellow councilman, Michael Devine, aptly described him as "straightforward, uncomplicated and reliable as a man could be." Sparta always counted on George to come through for the community and he never let them down—he was a sure thing.

George Dykstra had a way with everyone—even reporters. Carole Hartman covered George for 4 years with the Sparta Independent and the New Jersey Herald and found out

quickly that he was not like most other politicians. "George shot from the hip. The words 'no comment' were not in his vocabulary." Of course covering George was no easy job, he was always on the move trying to beautify the town in some way or keep tabs on what was going on at police headquarters. And George was no stranger to controversy. As Carole Hartman said, "George didn't care if he was politically correct. Even if you disagreed with George, you always had to realize that his one and only motivation was plain and simple: He only wanted what was best for Sparta."

My sympathy goes out to George's wife Pat, their 6 children, 11 grandchildren and his 3 sisters. While we all mourn George's death, his family, the township of Sparta and the people that George touched in his lifetime should all feel a sense of pride for having known a man of such uncommon character. George Dykstra lived a great American life and his legacy will live on forever.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1124,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, the conference report to S. 1124, the fiscal year 1996 Defense Authorization bill, contains many positive and long-sought provisions. As a cosponsor of two bills to correct the inequity in cost-of-living adjustments for military retirees, H.R. 38 and H.R. 2664, I applaud the inclusion of a provision to correct this injustice to our military retirees. Under the conference report, military COLA's will once again match Federal COLA's, as they ought to and as they have traditionally.

The conference report contains two other important provisions: A 2.4-percent basic military pay increase and a 5.3-percent increase in the basic allowance in quarters [BAQ]. By all accounts the quality of life for our military personnel has been declining over the past decade. These two measures will help to alleviate the shortage of quality housing and ensure that military pay keeps up with the annual inflation rate.

Despite my strong support for these provisions, I am unable to support the conference report to S. 1124. Simply put, this bill exceeds what is needed for a strong national defense and even goes beyond what the Pentagon requested in its budget. For example, the bill authorizes \$772.9 million to purchase parts for 20 more B-2 Stealth bombers despite Congress's 1993 vote to limit the number of B-2's to the 20 currently under production or already delivered and despite the Pentagon's desire not to build any more. Moreover, future funding to complete the additional 20 B-2's is by no means assured, making the \$772.9 million a risky gamble.

The conference report also authorizes \$700 million for a third *Seawolf* submarine, an item the Clinton administration requested after the *Seawolf* program was terminated in 1993. According to experts, the *Seawolf* design is already outdated, and this is evidenced by the development of the new attack submarine line

and the fact that the House National Security Committee, in its committee report to H.R. 1530, opted not to build a third *Seawolf* but instead opted to upgrade the second *Seawolf* with a new hull section. I agree with the National Security Committee's original analysis, approved by the House when it passed H.R. 1530, that a third *Seawolf* is unnecessary and the \$700 million could be better spent.

For these reasons, I must oppose passage of the conference report to S. 1124.

CHIEF MURAWSKI BLAZES ON

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, all we need to do is think about the recent snow storms and floods to find real life heroes. Many of those heroes are firefighters, men and women who each and every day risk their safety for that of ourselves, our families, and our constituents. Fred Murawski has served the people of Bay City for the last 30 years as a member of the Bay City Fire Department, including the last 5 as its chief. Fred is retiring from this care of service, and is being honored at a retirement party next Tuesday, January 30.

Fred Murawski has spent his life caring about people. The countless calls, the many moments of anguish when a few more minutes might have meant the difference in saving a home or a life, the moments of joy when property was saved or an injury spared, the flashes of frustration when someone refused to pay attention to the warnings of danger offered by an experienced public servant, all combine to describe a career that no one can forget.

I know the Greek philosopher Heraclitus said "The world, an entity out of everything, was created by neither gods nor men, but was, is and will be eternally living fire, regularly becoming ignited and regularly becoming extinguished." Fred Murawski had a chance to live the observations of that philosopher, knowing that but for the grace of God he might be extinguished by the fire, rather than being the extinguisher of fire. His lifetime membership in both St. Stan's A.C. and St. Stan's Ushers Club, as well as his involvement with the parish council provided him with the solace that he needed after the demands of his work.

His dedication to his community also included service as a member of the Bay County Sheriff's Department, where he rose to the rank of sergeant. It included a proud tenure as a member for 17 years of the Bay County Democratic Executive Committee, including being its past chairman. His dedication to his profession urged him to become involved in a number of associations, including the International Fire Chief's Association, the Michigan Fire Chief's Association, the Southeastern Fire Chief's Association, the Bay County Fire Chief's Association, the Bay County Fire Fighter's Association, the Third District Emergency Management Association, and the Michigan Emergency Management Association.

I am sure that his wife Madeline and his daughters Rebecca and Cynthia were glad when the end of each day came and Fred was able to return home safe from harm. His

grandchildren Gregory, Scott, and Mark Bokhart have probably heard a number of stories of dangerous thrills from their grandfather, and can look forward to years of many more.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of lives who were touched by the dedication to duty of Bay City Chief Fred Murawski, I urge you and our colleagues to join me in thanking this wonderful man for a career of caring for the public, in wishing him the happiest of retirements, and the best for whatever new challenges his life may bring.

THE OFFICIAL MURDER OF
ORPHANS IN CHINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, the world was shocked with the recent release of a detailed report by Human Rights Watch which documented the fact that a majority of children who entered a Shanghai orphanage during the late 1980's and early 1990's died within a year. The report suggests that there has been a deliberate policy of starving these orphans rather than caring for them. This deliberate and unimaginable treatment of one of the most vulnerable groups of Chinese society is both stunning and reprehensible. Tragically, this is consistent with Chinese human rights policies that we have seen far too often in the recent past.

Mr. Speaker, an excellent article appeared in the Washington Post yesterday—Wednesday, January 24, 1996—by Dr. Walter Reich, a physician who is the director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the chairman of the Committee on Human Rights of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Reich draws chilling parallels between the practices that have been observed in China and the horrors of the Holocaust.

I urge my colleagues to read Dr. Reich's most thoughtful article and consider the somber implications of China's appalling human rights record.

HOLOCAUST: THE CHINA PARALLEL

(By Walter Reich)

On rare occasions, historical parallels of contemporary events are so sharp that they pierce decades of time to penetrate our minds and skewer our souls. Accusations of the deaths, by deliberate neglect, of disabled children in Chinese orphanages, made by a credible human rights organization, summon up memories of the deaths, by both deliberate neglect and direct killing, of disabled children in Nazi German institutions. Those memories impose on us a powerful obligation to respond to the accusations against the Chinese orphanages by calling for an international investigation—and, if the accusations are confirmed, to take decisive action to end the medicalized killing of helpless innocents.

Human Rights Watch has reported that a majority of children, who entered a Shanghai orphanage in the late 1980s and early 1990s died within a year; that this high death rate was typical of orphanages throughout China, and that it was a result of a policy, euphemistically called "summary resolution," which selected children for death by starvation, sometimes aided by the administration of sedating drugs. These deaths, the report noted, were attributed to such causes