

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, June 11, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

The case involving Air Force First Lt. Kelly Flinn has refocused national attention on the role of women in the American military. Women have become an integral part of our fighting force over the last 20 years. The percentage of women in the military has increased from less than 2% in the early 1970s to over 13% today. Women today serve in a wide range of occupations in the services, and have participated with distinction in every major military action, including the Persian Gulf War.

There are two main reasons for the increasing role of women in the military. First, our armed forces need women. Our national security would be diminished by excluding half of the talent and courage from the defense of the country. Prior to 1973 the military could rely on the draft of young men to fill positions in the services. But after the draft was abolished in the wake of the Vietnam War, the services have had to recruit women to meet personnel needs. Second, our society has insisted on greater opportunities for women in the workforce, including the military.

The U.S. military has, for the most part, succeeded in integrating women into the armed forces. The U.S. is the pre-eminent military power in the world today, and its fighting force remains the best-trained, best-equipped and most effective. There have, however, been challenges. The first set of challenges centers on the role of women in the military. Women have traditionally filled clerical, support and medical positions in the services, but there has been a push for women to assume new roles, including combat positions. The second set of challenges relates to sexual conduct among service members. The military has strict rules on sexual misconduct, but has arguably enforced those rules inconsistently.

WOMEN IN COMBAT

Current law gives the Secretary of Defense and the service secretaries discretion over whether women may serve in combat positions and over which assignments may be opened to women. In 1994 the Defense Department opened more than 80,000 combat-related jobs to women. Consequently, more than 92% of the career fields and 80% of the total jobs are now open to women. The Defense Department, nonetheless, continues to restrict certain combat assignments for women, particularly service in ground forces where the risk of direct physical contact with the enemy is high. The Air Force has opened relatively more combat positions to women than have the other services.

There continues to be debate about whether the services should open more combat positions to women or restore pre-existing law which barred them from serving in many such jobs. Those who support opening more positions to women argue that women service members cannot advance to the top positions in the military without combat experience, and make the further point that women who have the ability and desire should be given the opportunity to serve in such positions. In contrast, those who oppose women in combat contend that national se-

curity has been and would be jeopardized because women are not as strong or aggressive as men and their presence would impair the effectiveness of the fighting force.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The sexual misconduct cases which have been in the news in recent months have fallen into two general categories. The first group involves cases of sexual harassment and abuse. The most serious scandal has occurred at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, where 12 drill sergeants have been charged with harassing or abusing female trainees. The services have adopted a policy of "zero tolerance" toward harassment, and have prosecuted the Aberdeen and other cases with vigor. Some in Congress are calling for segregating women and men during basic training to reduce the risk of misconduct, while others say such a change would mark a step backward.

The second group involves cases of adultery and fraternization, which generally refers to relations between officers and enlisted personnel. Adultery and fraternization can be crimes in the military, although a commanding officer has broad discretion in handling such cases. Disciplinary actions range from administrative remedies, such as counseling, to court-martials involving possible fines, demotions, and sentences. Several senior officers were charged with both in recent weeks, as was Kelly Flinn, who was also charged with lying and disobeying orders. The Pentagon says that such conduct erodes discipline and order. Critics contend current policy is too harsh, intrudes greatly into the private lives of service members, and is inconsistently applied.

ASSESSMENT

The military, like the civilian workforce, is adjusting to the large influx of women into its ranks. In many respects, the Pentagon has handled effectively this transition to a mixed-sex force. The U.S. fighting force, as demonstrated in the Persian Gulf War, continues to be the best in the world, and, overall, the military has adapted well to a changing society.

The military, however, continues to face difficult questions on the role of women in the armed forces. I believe women deserve the opportunity to serve in certain combat positions if they meet service requirements and qualifications for those assignments and if doing so is in the best interest of national security. I do think, however, that these changes should occur incrementally and with extensive consultation with military leaders.

The cases of sexual misconduct raise difficult questions. It is, of course, appropriate for the services to prosecute vigorously cases of rape and harassment, and take every step to keep our recruits safe. The rules on adultery and fraternization are problematic. The military is a highly structured institution, lacking many of the freedoms of the civilian world, and requiring unusual intimacy from close bunks to showers and a strong emphasis on discipline and morale. My impression, however, is that the rules have been arbitrarily applied and that some individuals are punished for behaving in ways others get away with. The military's purpose in dealing with these relationships must be to ensure the good discipline and morale of its troops, not to try to enforce morality. What is most important is that the rules be clearly explained, consistently enforced, and applicable to all, regardless of sex, race or rank.

SPECIAL PEOPLE PROGRAM OF
IBPOE OF W**HON. LYNN N. RIVERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, for the record, I would like to recognize the Special People Program of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks of the World [IBPOE of W]. For the past 10 years, this program has recognized young persons with physical or mental challenges at the Annual Convention of the Elks Fraternity. This extraordinary program, fueled by the hard work of the IBPOE of W, recognizes the individual abilities and contributions of community citizens with special needs.

The Special People Program selects one youth as the annual Poster Child. Each year financial benefits, raised from donations and raffles, are given to this child and his family. In addition, the program continues its commitment to past Poster Children through annual donations.

This year's Poster Child is Marquise Taylor of Lexington, KY. Fifteen-month-old Marquise was born with a severe congenital heart defect as well as Down's Syndrome. In this particular type of heart defect, the separation between his cardiac chambers were not fully developed, resulting in unstable blood flow. Marquise underwent surgery at the age of 5 months to correct this defect and his prognosis is excellent. Yet Marquise still lives with Down's Syndrome, an incurable condition that will continue to challenge him as he grows.

I would like to congratulate the IBPOE of W for their outstanding community service and dedication to supporting citizens with special needs. I wish Marquise and his parents, Carlos and Roxie Taylor, all the best for the future.

SMALL BUSINESS: THE BACKBONE
OF OUR ECONOMY**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, this country's economy is fueled by a diverse and broad group of smaller companies whose strengths lie in their innovation and flexibility. It is these companies that were recently honored at the 1997 Small Business Person of the Year Award in Washington, DC.

I would like to honor the sole Michigan recipient of this award, Wright-K Technology, Inc., of Saginaw, whose management team of CEO Robert Floeter, President John Sivey and Secretary-Treasurer Constance Kostorzewa was nominated for this distinction by Saginaw Future, Inc. Criteria for nomination and selection included sales and employment growth, staying power, local community commitment, innovativeness of product, and response to adversity.

One of the secrets of Wright-K's success is their strong belief that every single employee of the company is crucial to its ultimate productivity and strength. They value their employees, which comes through in company

policy and the simple way they treat everyone who works at Wright-K. I believe that this attitude of respect comes back tenfold to the company since everyone feels that when the company rises, all boats within the company also rise.

The growth of Wright-K Technology has exploded in the past 4 years, evidenced by over a doubling of employees from 146 to nearly 350 today. This manufacturing company designs, builds, and rebuilds special assembly, test, metal removal, laser, and welding equipment. In fact, its superior performance has placed it among the 100 fastest growing firms in Michigan, moving up to No. 55 after debuting at No. 86 in 1996.

Wright-K's management team also gives back to the community many times over by volunteering their time and resources to support important initiatives like school-to-work programs, hospital and church programs, the Boy Scouts, and chambers of commerce. It is through these types of involvement that a company's dedication and staying power in the community is truly characterized.

I am enormously pleased to commend Wright-K Technology, Inc., and to highlight the accomplishments of this firm and its employees both from an economic and a philanthropic standpoint. I believe that this company serves as a model for aspiring small businesses nationwide and globally, and I look forward to witnessing continued years of growth and success.

SULLIVAN LEADS BY DOING

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot from from time to time about burnout—about people whose constitutions are too delicate to allow them to continue with hard work. Unfortunately, that is a condition which often affects those who have taken on a commitment to serve others, especially recently, when the Nation has, sadly, cut back on the resources it makes available to people who seek to alleviate poverty and injustice.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the next time someone committed to this fight starts to feel sorry for himself or herself and contemplates easier work, they will read the following editorial and take some inspiration from the example of Mark A. Sullivan.

As this editorial in the Fall River Herald News explains, Mark Sullivan has been the chief executive—and chief strategist, motivator, and philosopher—of Citizens for Citizens in Fall River, MA, an effective community action agency.

I was fortunate enough to meet Mark Sullivan 15 years ago when the Massachusetts congressional district lines were changed and I found Fall River and myself in the same congressional district. Throughout the ensuing period, Mark Sullivan has been one of the strongest sources of advice, encouragement, and inspiration to me.

The Fall River Herald News editorial aptly describes the respect in which he is so justifiably held by those who work for him and, perhaps most interestingly, against him. Mr. Speaker I have always felt lucky to hold this

job, and one of the examples I give when people ask me to explain why I feel that way is that I have had the chance to know, befriend, learn from, and work with Mark Sullivan.

SULLIVAN LEADS BY DOING

The row of crock pots lined up along the buffet table at Mark A. Sullivan's silver anniversary celebration just about said it all.

The decidedly casual affair, held at Citizens for Citizens headquarters on Griffin Street, was organized as a surprise to the man who has served as its executive director for the past 25 years.

Clearly, Sullivan's employees know him well. Home-cooked chourico and peppers is more his style than filet mignon and Delmonico potatoes. And that unpretentiousness is the source of both Sullivan's charm and success.

The son of a bus driver/union president and community activist in his own right, Sullivan learned to accept people from all walks of life at a tender age. Sullivan credits both his mother and father with teaching him—by example—to treat all people equally.

That's a quality Sullivan has carried into his work at the community action agency, where he put his own unique and refreshing spin on it.

Renowned—at least in *The Herald News* newsroom—for knowing how to turn a phrase, Sullivan is seldom without an opinion on issues that effect his constituency.

"That designation qualifies us for a grant of \$256,000 to eliminate poverty in southeastern Massachusetts," Sullivan once said, explaining the Fall River City Council's endorsement of the agency. "And that's enough to buy everybody a hamburger and send them home."

Indeed, Sullivan has demonstrated a gift for glibness, but also for putting a human face on dry statistics with irreverent, nonsense—sometimes bordering on offensive—explanations.

The sideburns that dipped an inch or two below his earlobes have long since been trimmed and the thickly pin-striped suit probably placed in mothballs since Sullivan began as CFC director in 1972, but his passion about his job remains undiminished.

Even though Sullivan expresses disdain for what was once known as the war on poverty, pointing to the absurdity of its existence in the greatest economic nation in the history in the world, he has been one of its finest warriors.

The secret to his success, Sullivan says with characteristic modesty, is his talent for hiring good people. "I've hired people of good character and intelligence," he said. None of them, we suspect, doubt where the ultimate authority lies, however. A sign on Sullivan's wall in a 1985 photograph reading, "Never mind the dog—beware of the owner," sums up his philosophy on those who cross him.

His shirt sleeves ever rolled up, Sullivan has well earned his reputation as a hands-on administrator. Having never hesitated to admit his own foibles, Sullivan's empathy for those he serves no doubt comes from having experience in life's valleys himself.

Citizens for Citizens is an apt name for an agency of people helping people. And no one seems better suited to leading the organization than the unassuming Sullivan.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCISCO F. AND GERALDINE LEVINSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Dr.

Francisco F. and Geraldine Levinson on their receipt of the 1997 Merrillville Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award. Dr. and Mrs. Levinson will receive this award at a luncheon held at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN, tomorrow, June 12, 1997. The Levinsons will be joined by friends and family on this special occasion.

The Exchange Club, a national organization devoted to a variety of initiatives involving the Nation's youth, the well-being of its communities, and responsibility of its citizens, bestows the Book of Golden Deeds Award upon individuals who have accepted leadership roles in bettering the communities and/or world in which they live. The Levinsons have been awarded the Book of Golden Deeds Award, the most distinguished award the service club can bestow, for their many contributions to the communities of Gary and Merrillville.

The Levinsons have positively impacted these communities by contributing their time and energy in the areas of health, community organizations, and sports. Dr. Levinson served on the Gary Board of Health for 25 years, and the Indiana State Board of Health for 20 years. Among his many accomplishments while with these organizations was his instrumental role in bringing water fluoridation to the area's filtration system. Dr. and Mrs. Levinson were also essential in the erection of the main building for the Lake County Association for Retarded Children.

In addition, Dr. and Mrs. Levinson have devoted their efforts to numerous volunteer organizations. Dr. Levinson served 5 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, followed by 29 years in the Active Reserves, from which he retired as a lieutenant colonel. He was also an active member of the Gary Exchange Club where he instituted the Toothbrush fund raiser, which successfully raised money for the organization by selling toothbrushes to large corporations. Dr. Levinson has also maintained leadership positions in numerous professional, civic, and community service organizations. Over the years, he has served as president of the Gary Dental Association, the Northwest Indiana Dental Association, the Indiana State Dental Association, Jewish War Veterans, and B'nai B'rith. He has also served on the board of directors for the YMCA, Jewish Welfare Federation, and Consumer Credit Counseling of Northwest Indiana.

Mrs. Levinson has been active in many community organizations, as well, including the Methodist Hospital Auxiliary, the Job Corps Agency, Israel Bond Drive, Jewish Federation, Temple Beth-El, and Temple Israel. She was also a soloist for the Macedonian Choir, and has served on the auxiliary of the Northwest Indiana Dental Society.

The Levinsons have also devoted much time to promoting sports within the community. Over the past 10 years, the Levinsons have been positive influences on the members of the Merrillville High School tennis team, during which Dr. Levinson has acted as a volunteer assistant coach. Creating organizations for community sporting activities has also been a priority for the Levinsons. Some of their endeavors have included the highly successful Gary Junior Tennis Association and the Ross Township Tennis and Racquet Club. The Levinsons were also very active in Club Vida, a social, athletic, and recreational club, where Dr. Levinson was the financial manager of the