

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNCOMMON COURAGE—PROVEN LEADERSHIP

HON. BOB LIVINGSTON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the stunning events of the war in the Persian Gulf had just begun to unfold as American combat crews faced the enemy of the decade.

It was late in the afternoon of January 27, 1991, only 10 days after the war between Iraq and the allied coalition forces began, when then Lt. Col. Jim Gibbons and Major John Fuller of the 192d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Nevada Air National Guard, were called upon to fly north to Kuwait. Their mission was to acquire detailed photographs of open oil manifolds which were draining crude oil into the Persian Gulf at the order of Saddam Hussein. Unarmed and equipped only with special cameras to provide highly detailed photographs of small ground targets, the two RF-4C aircraft took off from Sheik Isa Air Base, Bahrain, without fighter escorts. Relying only on their speed, skill and experience of the aircrew, the "Phantoms" had to enter the heavily defended enemy territory alone and unarmed.

The requested target was located in a 40-kilometer strip of the most heavily defended coastline adjacent to Kuwait City. Approaching the target area, Lt. Col. Gibbons, the flight leader, determined that due to the heavy smoke cover from burning oil wells and low clouds, the planned altitude for the photo run would not work.

Instead, the flight would have to approach the area much closer, parallel to the coast to obtain useable photographs of the target. This would bring the flight just below the clouds and smoke, but now well within the range of enemy and antiaircraft artillery and surface-to-air missile range.

As the RF-4's approached the target area, they were detected by enemy radar. Suddenly golf ball size tracer bullets began snaking their lethal paths toward the aircraft. In addition, the radar warning receiver in the cockpit alerted Lt. Col. Gibbons that two Iraqi surface-to-air missiles had been launched and were streaking toward his aircraft. The enemy antiaircraft shells and missiles would miss their mark, but not the cameras of the two RF-4's. The intense enemy fire and low visibility required Lt. Col. Gibbons to make a second target pass through the same heavily defended area to ensure that adequate coverage and clear photos were obtained. Because of his extraordinary valor and courage and in the face of overwhelming danger, Lt. Col. Gibbons action enabled allied fighter-bombers to attack and destroy the oil manifolds and stop the flow of oil in the Persian Gulf. As a result of his leadership, courage and heroic effort on this mission Lt. Col. Gibbons, Vice Commander, Nevada Air National Guard received one of our Nation's highest recognitions for bravery under fire—the Distinguished Flying Cross.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW CAPANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the selfless and steadfast dedication and outstanding public service of Matthew Capano, to the community of West Paterson, NJ. As Mayor of the Borough of West Paterson from 1994 to 1997, Matt has demonstrated time and again effective responsibility and leadership. Before becoming mayor, Matt served the people of West Paterson as a member on the Borough Council, from 1987 to 1992.

Matt has made significant contributions, politically, to West Paterson through his involvement as a member of the West Paterson Democratic Club, of which he at one time served as the club president.

Matt's involvement both politically and civically, has instilled pride amongst the people of West Paterson. There is a renewed sense of commitment to making the Borough an even greater community for its present and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Matt's wife, Donna, and their family, as well as the people of West Paterson, in recognizing the outstanding achievements and commitment to public service of Matthew Capano.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE FRANK M. TEJEDA

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to our colleague and dear friend, Frank Tejada. Because of an illness I was unable to cast a vote on the legislation in Frank's honor, but I support it wholeheartedly. Frank represented the best and the brightest that America offers. He was a man who never ceases to find ways to serve his country, many times at the risk of his own life. Whether on the battlefields of Vietnam, where he earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for valor, in this body, where he earned the respect of his colleagues, or on the streets of his home town of San Antonio, where he earned the love of his neighbors, Frank gave everything he had every day.

Frank never stopped fighting. Just weeks ago, he vowed to fight the illness that eventually claimed him. We all believed him when he said he'd be back here with us. Frank was a man of honor and integrity. So we believed everything he said. Sadly for us, his last promise was the only one he could not keep.

Frank stood for many things. But most of all, he stood for excellence. He left school at 17

to fight with the Marines in Vietnam. He was fond of saying, "I was a grunt and proud of it. I wouldn't have it any other way." He carried that philosophy throughout his public career. He did whatever need doing in order to serve his constituents.

He matched his heroism on the battlefield scholarship at some of this country's most prestigious universities, earning advanced degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, Harvard, and Yale. But most importantly, he never forgot the people of his beloved San Antonio. And they never forgot him. Over and over again, they called upon him to serve in ever higher office. For 10 years, he represented his neighbors in the Texas House. He served in the Texas Senate for 6 years, until his constituents honored us by sending Frank to serve in this body.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor the memory of Frank Tejada by renewing our commitment to serving the American people. His spirit will be here with us always. We should respect that spirit by following his example.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is truly amazing how many of the problems our country is contending with on a daily basis can be traced directly to the disintegration of traditional family values. Rising juvenile crime rates, an alarming rise in teen drug usage, and the large numbers of people on the welfare rolls are but a few of the symptoms of a society that has ceased to elevate to a place of importance the traditional family structure. In fact, the problem has become so bad that just last year, we in Congress were forced to pass a law affirming a basic principle of society that has never before been called into question: marriage means the union between one man and one woman.

I applaud World Marriage Day, observed February 9th, as a celebration of the traditional family values that have made our country the greatest Nation on the face of the earth. The celebration of love and mutual commitment between a man and a woman is a welcome sign in a world where traditional concepts society are being challenged on a daily basis by all types of extremists. I pledge to continue my efforts to preserve and protect the institution of marriage, and I thank Worldwide Marriage Encounter for all its hard work to preserve an institution that is the bedrock of our society, and for reminding all of us that some things are far too important to take for granted.

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