

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Older Americans Act nutrition programs on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

On March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law the National Nutritional Program for the Elderly. This legislation added one of the most important components of the Older Americans Act.

Over the years, countless numbers of our Nation's senior citizens have benefited from the nutritional services provided through the Older Americans Act.

For homebound seniors, the program provides nutritional assistance which allows them to remain independent in their homes. In addition, in some instances, it can actually save their lives. In my congressional district, for instance, one elderly constituent of mine had become ill. They were unable to respond to the individual delivering their meal. The individual delivering the meal, concerned about the well-being of the client, contacted local authorities, who were able to bring needed medical attention to the homebound senior.

Meals served under the Older Americans Act are also served in congregate settings, including senior centers and senior day care facilities. In these instances, the individual not only receives a nutritious meal but has an opportunity to socialize with their peers.

Studies have shown these nutrition programs to be beneficial to program participants. For example, older individuals receiving benefits through the Older Americans Act programs tend to have better nutrition than similarly situated older individuals who do not participate in these programs.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995, these programs provided 123,000,000 meals to approximately 2,500,000 older individuals in congregate settings and 119,000,000 meals to 989,000 homebound older persons. They have performed a tremendous service in allowing our Nation's senior citizens to live longer, healthier lives and they deserve our support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the first nutrition program for the elderly under the Older Americans Act.

HONORING THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the Older Americans

Act nutrition programs for 25 years of providing nutritious meals to senior citizens.

Saturday, March 22, 1997, marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the law authorizing the nutrition programs under the Older Americans Act.

While nutrition assistance is but one of many services provided to senior citizens through the Older Americans Act, it is one of the most successful in helping senior citizens live long, healthy, productive lives.

Without this nutrition assistance, many seniors would be forced out of their homes and into nursing homes. For senior citizens no longer able to prepare meals in their home, the in-home meals program, often known as Meals on Wheels, assures they receive nutritional meals. Coupled with other in-home services, this program allows seniors to remain in their local community with friends and family and not be forced prematurely into a nursing home setting.

For senior citizens who are not homebound, the congregate meals program offers them meals in a setting with other seniors, allowing them to socialize with other seniors and participate in a variety of other activities.

I am certain the millions of senior citizens that benefit from these programs each year join me in paying tribute to this successful program. The fact that they voluntarily contribute to the cost of their meals is a sure sign that the program is providing them with meals that are not only healthy and nutritious, but appealing as well.

Because of the importance of these programs that serve our Nation's elderly, I am particularly looking forward to working on the authorization of the Older Americans Act this year. It is my intent to pass legislation that improves services to seniors and helps them live fuller, more active lives. We want to improve services by making sure that funds are being sent where they are needed the most, by increasing flexibility for State and local programs and by helping to improve the quality of all programs under the act. These vital programs help keep many of our Nation's seniors healthy and strong and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

TRIBUTE TO COL. NORMAN S. BRINSLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished and dedicated military officer who has served this Nation with great honor and distinction. Col. Norman S. Brinsley will retire on April 4, 1997, after 30 years of commissioned service in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. His career accomplishments reflect the type of military leader this Nation has depended upon in times of

both peace and war. Today I would like to take a few minutes to highlight Colonel Brinsley's career.

Col. Norman S. Brinsley's distinguished career in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve has spanned more than three decades. He enlisted in the Army in May of 1966, during which he attended the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. After earning a commission as a second lieutenant, Colonel Brinsley attended the infantry school's basic Airborne course to learn the fine art of Army parachuting.

Colonel Brinsley served three tours in Vietnam in a variety of assignments. He served in operations and logistics with the 7th Special Forces Group as well as in logistics and administration with the 5th Special Forces Group. He commanded Company E, 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry, with the 173d Airborne Brigade. Colonel Brinsley returned to the 5th Special Forces Group where he was plans officer. His last assignment in Vietnam was as assistant logistics officer with U.S. Army Republic of Vietnam, Special Mission Advisory Group.

Colonel Brinsley became a drilling Army reservist in September of 1971 and held a number of positions of increasing responsibility for 12 years in the 3220th U.S. Army Garrison, the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command and the 12th Special Forces Group. His final assignment as a drilling reservist was as a manpower analyst and Chief of Force Development and Modernization with the 86th U.S. Army Reserve Command in Chicago, IL.

Colonel Brinsley entered the Active/Guard Reserve [AGR] program in 1984 and has held demanding positions in resource management, internal review, and Reserve component support. He was assigned to the 22d Support Command in Saudi Arabia during both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon his return from the Persian Gulf, he assumed command of the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center of Fort McCoy, WI. Colonel Brinsley was later selected as the deputy commander of the Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis and later became the commander.

During his distinguished career, Colonel Brinsley has been a highly decorated officer. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters, the Vietnam Service Medal and seven bronze service stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Service and dedication to duty have been hallmarks of Colonel Brinsley's career. He has served this country with reliability, distinction, spirit of dedication, devotion to duty, and the unflinching bravery that is the legacy of this Nation and its people. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to present the distinguished credentials of Col. Norman S. Brinsley before the Congress today.

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