

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES,
CAPTAIN DOUGHERTY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to praise Captain Michael Dougherty, presently the commanding officer at the Naval Air Engineering Station in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Sadly, we will be losing the fine leadership of Capt. Dougherty at Lakehurst on June 24th. As he moves on to his next assignment as head of the Foreign Military Sales Office at the Naval Aviation Systems Command at Patuxent River, I wish him the very best of success.

Five years ago, Capt. Dougherty came to Lakehurst as the Project Coordinator for Support Equipment. He quickly rose to Head of the Aircraft Division Logistics Group, and in May 1997 after serving as Executive Officer, he assumed his current duties as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Engineering Station at Lakehurst.

In addition to his duties as Commanding Officer, Captain Dougherty is also a family man, and is married to the former Alice Scherer, who works as a school nurse for Independent Child Study Teams of Jersey City. He is the proud father of four children: Maureen, Jill, Claire, and Kevin. Maureen is a graduate of Ithaca College, and Jill is a Midshipman in the Naval Reserves, and a junior at Holy Cross. Claire and Kevin are both students at Monsignor Donovan High School in Toms River.

Captain Dougherty took command of the base in 1997, in the wake of the Pentagon's unsuccessful attempt to close the Lakehurst Naval facility during the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process. It fell to him to reassure Pentagon number crunchers, the BRAC commission and Congress that saving the base was indeed the best course for the Navy and American security interests. Captain Dougherty showed us the way.

Almost immediately, Capt. Dougherty organized the Community Partnership Program with State, County, and business leaders to broaden and deepen public/private awareness of Lakehurst's unique capabilities. Consequently, Captain Dougherty invited countless businesses and local governments to come visit the base to learn ways they can work more closely together on issues of common interest.

Lakehurst is a world-class facility with a priceless base of knowledge about engineering and advanced technologies relating to the successful operation of our aircraft carriers. Through his Community Partnering Program, Captain Dougherty has made available to the business community some of Lakehurst's technology, facilities, and personnel. For instance, under the program, if a business has a problem with a manufacturing process, they can come to Lakehurst for technical assistance in solving the problem. This has been a win/win situation for both the public and private sector. The local community now has increased access to advanced technological know-how and the base has expanded its

solid reputation as a good neighbor. And in some instances the base has been able to reduce expenses as private contractors shared some of the operating costs. This is but a single example of Captain Dougherty's work to connect the local community to the base, and the base to the local community.

Captain Dougherty's partnering initiatives are epitomized by the success of the educational partnering agreement with Rowan University's School of Engineering. This agreement will give students at Rowan University invaluable hands-on experience on how to solve real world engineering problems. Through the interaction with Lakehurst's staff expertise, unique facilities, and equipment related to aircraft platform interface technology at Navy Lakehurst, the agreement will certainly strengthen the quality of engineering students at Rowan who participate in this program.

On the flip side, the Rowan-Lakehurst partnership helps Lakehurst to secure additional engineering talent from within the state to replace engineers at the base when they move on to other jobs or retire. The partnership also enables Lakehurst to tap into a huge network of expertise and knowledge at Rowan University, which will be vital if Lakehurst is to maintain its status in cutting-edge aircraft platform interface technology. This is yet another good neighbor, win-win situation adding to the list of successes Capt. Dougherty has brought to the base under his command.

These successful efforts have produced tangible results. The Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Center is an important and integral part of the Ocean County economy and that of the surrounding region. Lakehurst is a \$450 million dollar business, with about \$10 million going directly to Ocean County. As the county's largest employer, the base provides jobs for 1,900 people. Captain Dougherty also has taken important steps to encourage the base to reexamine its purchases of many categories of goods and services, to see where it can expand its network of local contractors and service providers.

On issue after issue of importance to naval aviation, Captain Dougherty has demonstrated real leadership. He has been an advocate, as I have been, for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art Aircraft Platform Interface (API) laboratory at Navy Lakehurst. In fact, just last week my fellow members here in this chamber joined me in authorizing a new "supertab" for Lakehurst. The \$15.7 million in funding authorization for the construction of a new API laboratory will solidify Lakehurst's status as "the heart of naval aviation." But this giant leap for the base did not occur in a vacuum, I assure you. It happened because of the dedication and hard work of people interested in the base and the critical work performed there—people like Capt. Dougherty.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his command, Capt. Dougherty has had an impressive series of accomplishments for which he can be proud, in both his personal and professional life. It has been my privilege to work with him on the many initiatives that have put Lakehurst at the forefront of naval aviation, and will keep it there well into the twenty-first century. On behalf of the citizens of the fourth district who have benefited from the vital work he has performed while at Lakehurst, and on behalf of

the country he has so diligently served, it is my pleasure to thank Capt. Dougherty for his fine leadership and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD P. MACHEN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mr. Harold P. Machen of Sacramento, California. Mr. Machen passed away on June 11, 1999. He will be eulogized on June 19th and I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in remembering him as a great citizen and attorney.

Harold P. Machen was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 17, 1924. After completing high school, he attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. While in college, he worked as a dining car waiter for the New York Central Railroad.

His plans for law school were interrupted by the military draft. He served in the United States Coast Guard for three years. Upon leaving the Coast Guard, he studied at Los Angeles City College. He eventually earned his L.L.B. and Juris Doctorate from Southwestern Law School.

On July 22, 1953 Mr. Machen was admitted to the California State Bar. He would enjoy an excellent legal career spanning more than forty years. After practicing law in the impoverished area of Watts in Los Angeles County, Mr. Machen moved to Sacramento in 1969.

For the next several decades, Harold Machen established a first-rate reputation as an attorney and Counselor at Law, as well as a good friend to the Sacramento legal community. He was a special member of the Wiley Manuel Bar Association, of which he was a founding member in 1977.

As an accomplished attorney and community servant, Harold Machen rendered legal assistance and financial support to numerous organizations and social causes. Among these were the Volunteer Legal Services Programs, the Sacramento City Unified School District's 4th and 5th R Program, and the 100 Black Men Mentor Program.

Concisely, Mr. Machen demonstrated a long-standing commitment to serving the legal needs of citizens in the State of California and especially in the Sacramento region. On July 14, 1995 he was honored by the Wiley Manuel Bar Association of Sacramento County for his outstanding 40 year legal career, as well as his efforts to improve employment and living conditions for Sacramento's citizens through his service on the City's Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Speaker as Harold P. Machen is remembered in Sacramento, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his outstanding record of quality legal representation, public service, and civic activism. His community contributions will certainly be remembered for many more years to come.