

IN MEMORY OF FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DOWNING

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I take the opportunity to honor the memory of former United States Representative Thomas Downing, who passed away Tuesday, November 6, 2001.

Tom Downing was a strong and effective representative of Virginia's First District, and served the people well. He was a true friend of the military and an American patriot, Tom was loved by both Democrat and Republican alike. His passion was not about partisan politics—it was about Virginia, and he served the Commonwealth well.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the First District, which Tom did admirably with class, passion and an unyielding love for country. Representative Downing will be remembered not only for his service in Congress, but for his devoted military service as well.

A true war hero, Tom will be missed, but we will never forget his contributions to Virginia, and to our nation as a whole.

IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA CONGRESSMAN THOMAS N. DOWNING

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the memory of a former Member of Congress and pivotal Tidewater politician, Thomas N. Downing.

Congressman Downing represented Tidewater Virginia for eighteen years. He was well-known for his affability with his colleagues and his tenacity in representing his constituents. In particular, he was a staunch supporter of Newport News Shipbuilding, which was and is a cornerstone of the Tidewater economy and of our nation's military readiness. It was Tom Downing's support and assistance that helped to expand and improve that company's ability to contribute so much to national defense and local jobs.

His interest in Newport News Shipbuilding was far more than parochial, it was patriotic. Tom Downing was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute (VMI), a decorated veteran of World War II, and a patriot in the truest sense of the word. He graduated from VMI in 1940 and four years later was commanding mechanized cavalry troops and Army reconnaissance during the liberation of France and sweep across Germany. Tom Downing's personal bravery in rescuing two of his men who were injured during a German ambush earned him the Silver Star.

His legacy in Congress is no less impressive. Newport News Daily Press summed his service in these hallowed halls up best: "[In Congress] he truly hit his stride. He was a natural. Few congressmen have served their constituents better. Just ask the shipyard. Or NASA. Or the watermen. Or any of thousands of individuals and institutions that Mr. Downing

helped during his eight terms. Fiscally conservative? Of course. Integrity? From head to toe. But it was the kindness of the man that most recall about Tom Downing. He liked people and vice-versa. . . ."

His memory lives on in Tidewater's strength and in the lives of those his service touched. Tom Downing will be missed, but not forgotten.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN
THOMAS DOWNING

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the life of Congressman Thomas Downing. Congressman Downing served Virginia's First District as a member of this body from 1959 to 1977, and represented parts of the peninsula and the Eastern Shore that will soon become part of Virginia's Second Congressional District.

Congressman Downing brought with him to Congress a keen, first-hand knowledge of the military and the need for readiness. He was a decorated veteran and hero, having commanded some of the first troops to invade Germany. He was awarded the Silver Star for saving two of his company men after an ambush by German troops.

During his service in Congress, he used this knowledge of the military to help create a military more prepared for combat. He helped Newport News Shipbuilding expand and build the North Yard, which allowed them to build larger ships and to allow for a stronger and more prepared American Navy.

Congressman Downing is perhaps best known for his work following the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. During the 94th Congress, he served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Assassinations. His own curiosity in the matters fueled a vigorous investigation and numerous new theories to explain the circumstances surrounding President Kennedy's assassination.

Following his retirement from the House, Congressman Downing continued to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation, as a member of the Board of Visitors for his alma mater, the Virginia Military Institute, and as President of the Board of Directors of the Mariners' Museum.

Throughout his life and during his service as a member of this House, Congressman Thomas Downing was a true public servant and a great Virginian. Our nation, the Commonwealth, and Hampton Roads will all miss him.

THE PASSING OF FORMER VIRGINIA CONGRESSMAN TOM DOWNING

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gracious friend and champion of the citizens of the Virginia

Peninsula, former Congressman of Virginia's First Congressional District, Tom Downing.

Tom was a true gentleman and a great patriot. Representing the Peninsula in Congress from 1959 to 1977, he helped Newport News Shipbuilding gain approval for expansion, which made it easier and more cost effective for the shipyard to construct some of the largest ships in the world.

Tom was also well known for his firm belief that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone in assassinating President John Kennedy. He convinced Congress to open a second investigation into the death of the President. While he retired before the panel began its work, Tom remained convinced until his recent death that the footage on the Zapruder film held the answers.

Born in Newport News, Virginia on February 1, 1919, Tom was a graduate of Newport News High School, received a B.S. degree from Virginia Military Institute and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He served in World War II as a combat troop commander of Mechanized Cavalry with Gen. George Patton's Third U.S. Army and commanded the first troops in the Third Army to invade Germany. He received a Silver Star for gallantry in action in France when his unit was ambushed by a German patrol. He rescued two of his men who were wounded during the initial exchange of gunfire.

Tom Downing was re-elected to Congress eight times, with little trouble and often unopposed. During his tenure in Congress, Tom recognized more than anyone the great economic impact the Newport News shipyard had on his district. He twice considered running for higher office—U.S. Senate in 1966 and governor a few years later—but decided against both. This body benefited greatly from those decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I mourn the recent loss of our friend and former colleague. Tom lived his life with exuberance and passion for serving his beloved Virginia. He was a true leader on behalf of all Virginians and Americans.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD S.
GRYCZYNSKI

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional leader and American Patriot, LTC Edward S. Gryczynski, U.S. Army, Retired, in recognition of an outstanding career in service to his country.

LTC Gryczynski has a truly distinguished record, including over 22 years of commissioned service in the U.S. Army uniform, which certainly merits special recognition on the occasion of his retirement from his position as Director of Personal Affairs for The Retired Officers Association.

He entered the Army in June 1961 through LaSalle College's ROTC Program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery. In 1965, he transferred to the Adjutant General Corps and was integrated in the regular Army in 1966.

Colonel Gryczynski served in a variety of positions in the administrative and personnel management fields, including assignments as

instructor and course director at the Army's Adjutant General School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. His staff assignments included tours as administrative officer in the Defense Intelligence Agency, Chief of Military Personnel at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and Chief of Administrative Services and Executive Officer at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), in Belgium. He served two tours in Vietnam, first as Chief of Administrative Services at Cam Ranh Bay and later as a personnel staff officer at Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam.

In 1975, the Army selected him for full-time graduate study at Ball State University, where he earned a masters degree in journalism and public relations. He next served as editor of the Defense Management Journal, an official publication of the Department of Defense. He is also a graduate of the Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course, the Army Personnel Management Staff Officer Course, and the National Security Management Course of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

At the time of his military retirement in February 1985, LTC Gryczynski was Chief of Retired and Veterans Activities Division in the office of the Adjutant General, Department of the Army. In this position he was responsible for policy development and execution of the Army's Retirement Services Program.

Since becoming the Director of Personal Affairs for The Retired Officers Association, LTC Gryczynski has worked tirelessly and traveled hundreds of thousands of miles to counsel tens of thousands of military retirees, veterans, family members and survivors of those in the armed forces. His professional counseling concerning their entitlements and benefits of military service has assisted those groups tremendously.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Gryczynski's long and distinguished career in service to his country and to the men and women of America's Uniformed Services and their family members is admirable and is to be highly commended. Our best wishes go with him for a long and fruitful second retirement. He has earned our heartfelt gratitude, and our salutes.

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NORMANDY MEDAL OF THE JUBILEE OF LIBERTY PROGRAM

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the honor of recognizing Normandy veterans, who reside in Florida's Fourth Congressional District, with the special Jubilee of Liberty medal during a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport.

The Saturday, November 10, 2001 ceremony I hosted carried special significance since it was Veterans Day weekend and also in light of the fact that we have another set of brave American service members fighting the war on terrorism across the globe.

Mankind has waged many types of war—wars fought for land, wars fought for superiority, wars fought for riches, wars fought for independence. Most wars only impact the opposing forces and are often not remembered long in history. Some wars, however, are of such magnitude that they change the course of history. These wars are usually fought between good and evil. The heroes, who fought World War II, fought such a war. Without victory for the Allies, the world, as we know it, would be a much different place.

There is no doubt that the Normandy Invasion was a turning point in World War II. The Normandy veterans from the Fourth Congressional District were there, but, perhaps, at the time they did not know they were changing the course of history. These heroes were busy fighting, watching their brothers perish and surviving to fight another day. And like the title of the Stephen Ambrose book, they were "Citizen Soldiers". Professional soldiers designed the battle plan but it was implemented by thousands of citizen soldiers. The Battle of Normandy was the ultimate in on-the-job training. It was a simple plan: attack and push the Germans back. The how was left up to those soldiers in battle. I am sure that each Normandy veteran has a story that speaks volumes about bravery, ingenuity and drama.

It was in honor of these veterans that I was pleased to launch the Jubilee of Liberty Program this past summer. Since that time, approximately ninety veterans of the 1944 Normandy Invasion have been identified to receive this medal and we had the privilege of having seventy-nine of these brave men with us for our ceremony.

The medal we presented honors that courageous effort. The Normandy medal was originally minted at the direction of the Regional Council of Normandy and the Governor of Normandy, was first presented to D-Day veterans who returned to France for the 50th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to commend the following men for their service to our country during the Battle of Normandy: Joseph J. Accardi, Edgar G. Aid, Harold V. Aiken, Frank E. Alexander, Henry A. Baughn, Joseph H. Beekers, Ellsworth G. Beer, Richard M. Behan, John W. Bier, Edward T. Binns, Jr., Carl Bishop, Louie M. Blocker, Michael A. Bondanza, George G. Borcharding, Ian R. Bourdo, Forrest V. Brewer, Harry J. Buffone, Santo N. Cascia, Paul W. Caudill, Nicholas M. Celona, Ashley D. Clemmons, Robert K. Clifton, James M. Cooper, Jr., Milton A. Cunningham, Willie B. Douglass, Raymond Q. Ellis, John J. Field, James H. Gaff, Chester F. Galbraith, Edward C. Gandy, Eugene Gaskins, Patrick F. Gavin, Howard F. Gottwals, Edward V. Grant, Frank A. Griffen, Jr., Herbert E. Griffin, Gilbert J. Grout, Jack R. Guest, Jack Hall, Karlob A. Hanson, Charles H. Hardman, Leslie F. Hart, Darrell D. Hilliker, Lloyd R. Hoffman, Raymond D. Hoffman, Forrest W. Howell, Henry H. Hull, Robert L. Jennings, Chester E. Johns, John W. Johnson, LeGrand K. Johnson, Martin L. Johnson, John J. Kelly, Raymond J. Kotchkowski, Charles B. Lane, Warden S. Lee, Esse E. Lewis, L.V. Lewis, Wilmer E. Mann, Harold E. McFee, John Milko, William H. Miller, Hubert C. Mott, John W. Nichols, Morton H. Parks, Annest Partozes, John C. Posluszny, William B. Pou, Sr., Ralph L. Powers, Richard B. Rayl, Henry T. Richardson, Robert L. Richardson, Teaford R. Roe-

buck, Chapman S. Root, Harold Routzong, Gilmer D. Sadler, Angus S. Schmelz, Donald J. Schneider, Lawrence E. Sellers, Eli Sepowitz, Robert W. Sheffield, Joseph A. Shelley, Svend T. Simonsen, Raymond L. Simpson, Donald G. Smith, John I. Smith, Wilbert H. Snively, Frank D. Snyder, Phil Spivack, Ellwood P. Stake, Earl N. Steinmetz, William H. Stewart, John R. Stokes, Sr., James H. Trott, Thomas H. Ursry, Theodore H. Voll, Charles L. Webster, Thomas F. Wilson, Harold W. Wright, Linville F. Young.

FISCAL YEAR 2002 VETERANS AFFAIRS/HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2002, VA/HUD appropriations bill. The Appropriations Committee has put together a bill that is truly bipartisan. I am proud to rise in strong support of this measure which funds such important priorities as veterans health care and benefits, needed housing initiatives, and key environmental programs. This measure also provides resources to assist state and local governments with infrastructure improvement and economic development needs.

The Central Naugatuck Valley in my district has been undergoing a major water/sewer infrastructure upgrade. I am pleased that under the State and Territorial Assistance Grant Program, \$485,000 has been appropriated for this much needed purpose.

The City of Waterbury, which operates the hub of the region's sewer system, has been burdened by the majority of the cost for these improvements. Therefore, \$260,000 (of the total \$485,000) will go to the City of Waterbury for wastewater infrastructure improvements including the cost of the new sewage treatment facility in the City which new funds, together with the \$750,000 made available through the FY 2001 VA/HUD Appropriations Act, are to be used so as to lower the sewer rates charged to system customers.

The Town of Wolcott, Connecticut is partially served by the water system of the City of Waterbury. However, the Clinton Hill Road neighborhood of Wolcott relies on well water and septic systems for their water needs. This area of town has been experiencing well failures and contamination. Under this legislation, the Town on Wolcott will receive \$125,000 (of the total \$485,000) towards the extension of the water distribution system to the Clinton Hill Road neighborhood, together with \$250,000 made available through the FY 2001 VA/HUD Appropriations Act.

The Town of Middlebury is served by dangerously inadequate rock wells. In 1999, several of the town wells went dry and MTBE contamination was discovered. The town has already secured significant state funds to extend a twelve-inch water main to the affected area of the town. \$100,000 (of the total \$485,000) will go to the Town of Middlebury to help complete their project.

Finally, I would like to also point out that \$100,000 has been appropriated for the City