

in this hallowed place, we extend again the thanks of a grateful nation. We extend the promise that their sacrifice will be honored. All of us who serve and wear the cloth of the nation today—we commit, we promise anew to do our duty so that America will remain the beacon of hope, the lighthouse of freedom, and the bastion of liberty. We make this promise in the memory of those who served and gave their lives in this place.

TRIBUTE TO JERRELL NORWOOD

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened recently to learn of the death of a respected and admired individual in my congressional district, Mr. Jerrell Norwood, of Malvern, Arkansas, who lost a courageous battle with cancer at age 64. Today, I wish to pay tribute to his life and achievements.

Jerrell Norwood spent much of his adult life serving his fellow citizens, and his accomplishments were numerous. For over a decade and a half, Jerrell served as County Fire Coordinator and Director of the Office of Emergency Management for Hot Spring County in Arkansas. He was a long-time volunteer and board member with the local Red Cross. For twenty-one years, he served as the first and only Ouachita Fire Chief, and he spent many years on the Resource Organization Service Excellence (R.O.S.E.) Board, a group dedicated to helping needy citizens.

During his career, Jerrell was responsible for building or improving nearly all of the bridges in Hot Spring County, and in 1994, he helped establish a water rescue for users of the nearby Ouachita River. His accolades include being a two-time Volunteer of the Year for Hot Spring County as well as being named Emergency Coordinator of the Year in 2000.

Jerrell Norwood was regarded with esteem and appreciation by all those who knew him well. His friends, neighbors and co-workers alike praised not only his ability to quickly assess and tackle an emergency situation, but more importantly his energy, dedication, common sense and genuine compassion for helping others. He was truly a man of integrity who gave himself to his work and his community. While his passing is a tremendous loss to the Malvern community and our state, his life and legacy of public service will be remembered for years to come.

I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Carolyn, his children, and all his family and friends during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO WEBERWOOD
ELEMENTARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Weberwood Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Weberwood Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia.

"Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Weberwood Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to Join me in honoring Weberwood Elementary.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STERLING
ALEXANDER ROAF, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of a constituent and friend, Dr. Sterling Alexander Roaf, Sr. who passed away recently in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

A native of Pine Bluff, Sterling Roaf, Sr. was one of nine children born to Rev. Arthur Roaf and Charlotte Boughton Roaf. After graduating from Southeast Senior High School in 1962, he spent two years working on the Cotton Belt Railroad. In 1966, he graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He obtained his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1972 and moved to Los Angeles to complete his residency at Martin Luther King Hospital.

Following his residency, Sterling returned to Pine Bluff in 1976 where he established the Roaf Clinic with his brother Clinton Roaf, a dentist, and practiced obstetrics-gynecology until his death. In 1998, he was recognized by the Arkansas Times as one of Arkansas' Best Physicians in gynecology, obstetrics, and oncology. According to his brother, Sterling delivered some 600 infants a year. He truly brought into the world an entire generation of children and touched the lives of countless others in the Pine Bluff area, and he will be greatly missed by the thousands of patients and families who were impacted by his caring and dedicated work.

Sterling Roaf Sr. was not just a great doctor. He was an active and giving member of his community, a devoted member of the church, and a loving father and grandfather. My heart goes out to his children, his brother and five sisters, and all of his friends and relatives in their loss.

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN HIGGINS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Memorably described by President Franklin Roosevelt as "a date

which will live in infamy," Pearl Harbor Day has taken on added significance since September 11, when America was again "suddenly and deliberately attacked."

Last week, I had the opportunity to participate in the 60th anniversary memorial services at Pearl Harbor. I was particularly struck by a moving speech given at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific by Robin Higgins, Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Higgins, from my home state of Florida, was herself a victim of terrorism when her husband, Marine Colonel Rich Higgins was murdered in Lebanon 13 years ago. She and her husband have dedicated their lives in service of this country, and they are two true American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the brave survivors of Pearl Harbor and the men and women serving in our military around the world, I salute Rich and Robin Higgins, and I ask unanimous consent that Secretary Higgins speech be inserted into the RECORD.

The Honorable Robin Higgins, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

KEYNOTE ADDRESS PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS,
60TH ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 7, 2001 THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL
CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

Medal of Honor recipients Mr. Hayashi, Mr. Kellogg and Mr. Firin; Congressman Bill Young from my great state of Florida; Congressman Neil Abercrombie from the great state of Hawaii; Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, from the great state of New Jersey; Chairman Myers; distinguished military and civilian guests; most honored members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association; World War II veterans; and all fellow veterans and their families . . . Good morning, and thank you Gene for that kind introduction.

I want to add a special acknowledgement of some special visitors with us today from New York who are here as guests of the State of Hawaii—325 family members of men and women who were lost in the World Trade Center on September 11.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, had very much hoped to be here—and were it not for extraordinary events in Washington, he would have. But he asked me to send you his best wishes. I appreciate and am humbled by the opportunity to represent him and the more than 219,000 men and women of the Department of Veterans' Affairs who stand ready to honor your service to America.

Few occasions merit words like "horrific," "devastating," and "tragic." Fewer still cause a speaker to follow those superlatives with words like "magnificent," "awesome," or "heroic." Yet today—as I stand here in this most sacred of places, this shrine to the sacrifices of so many honorable men and women—I am struck by the notion that what happened on this morning 60 years ago brings into play all those words and probably more.

Let me say that I do not believe we need to replay the events of that morning; I am convinced that no movie, no documentary made today, no well-meaning attempt to recreate for today's generation the horrific events of December 7, 1941, can ever do justice to what you as survivors already know . . . already lived through . . . already redeemed through your own selfless service to America.

I take my cue from the words of Abraham Lincoln who stood on the soil of a great battlefield in 1863 and said, ". . . we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and

dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.”

Here on the gentle slopes and broad fields of Puowaina, rest the heroes of another tumultuous conflict. As magnificent as any National Cemetery could be, it is but a humble gift from a grateful nation to honor those of you who stood for—and those who fell for—freedom that Sunday morning. But it does not pay the full tribute due to the sacrifices offered up on December 7th.

Pearl Harbor . . . NAS Kaneohe . . . Ford Island . . . Battleship Row . . . Hickam Field . . . Wheeler Field . . . Scofield Barracks . . . the Arizona . . . ; these were the grounds that were truly hallowed by your sacrifices, consecrated by your blood, and dedicated to your bravery and to the bravery of your friends and countrymen.

Your lives were forever changed by an event so devastating that it would not be for another 60 years—September 11, 2001—that America would again feel the tragic shockwaves of an attack on our home soil.

Perhaps the events of September 11 resonated in your lives in ways that did not resonate among other, younger Americans. Having lost my husband, Marine Colonel Rich Higgins, to a violent act of terrorism 13 years ago in Lebanon, I felt the old wounds . . . still pink from healing . . . open up again when I saw the Trade Center in flames, and the Pentagon—my former duty station—torn asunder.

It is possible, then, that on September 11th, old scars of the heart and mind were once again exposed among your generation of soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen and coastguardsmen.

But I know and you know this: these two seminal events—December 7th and September 11th—struck America hard but they did not bring her down. No terrorist—no early morning raiding party—has the power to overcome the will and determination of the American serviceman or woman.

I am reminded of a recent editorial cartoon of the Statue of Liberty in which a stern-faced Lady Liberty is cradling a child in her arms. The caption reads, “No one comes between a mother and her children.” How true that is for our Nation and for the men and women who, for 225 years, have risen in her defense in the face of the greatest personal risk.

Today is a good day to take a clear look at both our past and our future. It is a day when we acknowledge the debt we owe to those men and women who—because they so cherished peace—chose to live as warriors.

Could anything be more contradictory than a warrior's life? Warriors love America, but they spend years on foreign soil far from home. They revere freedom, but they sacrifice their own. They defend our right to live as individuals, yet yield their individuality for the cause. They value life, yet so bravely ready themselves to die in the service of our country.

But why are some Americans so seemingly willing to fight and, it need be, to die? We fight because we believe. Not that war is good, but that sometimes it is necessary. Our soldiers fight and die not for the glory of war, but for the prize of freedom.

On that December morning, many of you took up a torch that you would not put down for four long years. You valued freedom, and you were willing to sacrifice for it.

And through your selfless sacrifices, you guaranteed a lifetime of liberty to your families, your communities, and your Nation.

It is fitting and proper, then, that those of us who've worn the uniform remember our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters—but it is crucial that we

share what we feel today with those who have never taken that special risk for their country—so that they may understand.

Soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen, coastguardsmen, World War Two Merchant Mariners and veterans understand the duty to country that causes a man or woman to risk his or her life to try to make a difference. There is nothing that can take the place of that selfless devotion.

My husband used to have a small plaque on his desk; it's on nine now and it says: “War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing he cares about more than his own personal safety; is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.”

There is a fabric that weaves people of conscience through the ages and around the world. That fabric is bound with the moral and spiritual lineage of men and women of honor, courage and integrity; those who value something more than their own personal safety.

Bound into this fabric are the lives and loves of soldiers and their families from all times, those who came home and those who didn't and those whose fate remains unknown.

The Courts of the Missing here at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific are inscribed with the names of more than 28,000 missing soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen and coastguardsmen whose names are held in honor along with the more than 38,000 servicemen and women who lie at sacred rest among us today.

Heroes all, they speak to us of patriots' hopes and patriots' dreams, of lives lived to the fullest measure, lives nobly offered as payment for the fabric of a free society.

It is popular today to speak of the Greatest Generation—your generation, the generation of my father, who also served in World War II—but I think the phrase ignores a basic truth about Americans.

I believe every generation of Americans has been, is, and will be, great. We all have the potential for greatness, if by greatness it is meant that in times of trial, we will meet the challenges of the times with honor, dignity, arid sacrifice.

But make no mistake; let those who would terrorize us today remember the fate of those who violated our shares once before. And let the 9-11 generation carry the torch of courage and determination you carried in order to rid the world of the evil of the 21st century.

The colonists who fought for liberty in 1776, the citizens who defend a new nation in 1812, the families torn apart by Civil War, the green troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force, the 16 million men and women who wrested freedom from evil during World War II, the Korean War soldiers and their Vietnam colleagues, the young men and women of Desert Storm and, today, the troops fighting to bring terrorist to justice and justice to terrorists.

If we consider that each of these generations of Americans stood firm against the whirlwinds of tyranny to secure liberty for their times and their posterity we must call them all great.

But the generation of the men and women who survived here 60 years ago does merit a special measure of thanks for your contributions to America.

You returned from the battlefield, put aside the tools of war, and took up the tools of industry and technology, of medicine, of

science and education, an of community service. In return for all you had accomplished in war—a many of you carried the evidence of sacrifice still fresh on your bodies—you asked only to return to the peace, to the lives and loved ones you left.

And by your humble example you inspired our Nation to move forward on its path to a righteous destiny. Your contribution will not be forgotten. Your generation's greatness will be treasured and remembered.

Such a contribution should be sufficient for one generation—but I don't believe your contribution is yet complete. The next generation will need guidance . . . the next generation will undoubtedly face new challenges and they will wonder how to face those challenges with the courage and strength of character that is the hallmark of your generation.

I encourage our beloved World War II generation, and all our veterans, to share with your children and your grandchildren—with students and scholars and historians—the experiences of your service to America. You have a story to tell . . . you have thousands of stories to tell . . . and in the telling will be the inspiration for the next generation's response to tomorrow's challenges.

Pearl Harbor survivors specifically—have a unique perspective on this kind of brutal assault on America. You can help the rest of us better understand and come to terms with the values that are threatened and the resolve we must have to overcome our fears.

I am honored to share this day with you . . . and to be here in a place that speaks of the Nation's commitment to recognize the sacrifices of those patriots who were ready to give the last full measure of devotion so that we could gather in peace.

May God continue to bless our Pearl Harbor survivors, our World War II veterans, their families, indeed all our Nation's veterans and—especially today those in harm's way. And though I might conclude by asking God to bless America, I need not. Because of you, he already has.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO CHAMBERLAIN ELEMENTARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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