HONORING HAROLD ''HAL'' WEYGANDT, JR.

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2001

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor my good friend, Mr. Harold W. ''Hal'' Weygandt, Jr., who at the age of 81 years is retiring from Weco Aerospace Systems, the company he founded 30 years ago.

Hal was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1920. Raised in this traditional mid-western environment, he learned the entrepreneurial spirit at an early age. Hal attended Joplin High School in Missouri where he excelled in football and boxing. After high school, he left Joplin and enrolled in the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Throughout his high school and college years, Hal worked at several jobs to help support his family and pursue his education goals through the depression years.

After college, Hal moved to Southern California, where he joined Lockheed Aircraft in 1941. Just prior to America entering World War II, he volunteered with 2,500 other civilians in a Douglas Aircraft sponsored project for a top-secret mission in Africa. At the time, England was near the threshold of disaster when Winston Churchill requested help from President Roosevelt. This assignment, named ''Project 19,'' was created to assist England in its war efforts against Germany. The voyage on the USS *Chauteau Thierry* from the West Coast to Africa was a precursor of challenging times to come. The ship, which was originally constructed for a passenger list of 200, carried over 2,000 men to their remote destination. Project 19 established an entire town, American City, in east Africa that helped supply and repair fighter aircraft for the war effort.

In 1943, well after America joined the Allies in the war, Hal volunteered for the Army Air Corps in Cairo, Egypt. He spent the next several years touring the European theater in a classified position in armament inspection. By the end of the war, Hal had been awarded several citations, as well as the Bronze Medal, and he ascended to the rank of Second Lieutenant. His most significant reward, however, was an English girl named Ann Sawtell. They were married in New Milton, England, in October 1945.

After World War II, Hal returned to Southern California and embarked on his first business endeavor. In 1947, Hal and his uncle started RWS Electrical Accessories, Inc. This company supported the then-emerging aircraft industry with component sales and service. By early 1961, Hal and his family had moved to the foothill region of the Sacramento Valley, where they still reside. The Weygandts maintained a ranch, while Hal developed his career in aviation. Hal's company became a benchmark for independent successes in the aviation field. He participated and became close friends with many of the pioneers of today's modern aviation industry. By 1968, RWS merged with another aviation company that subsequently formed Aviall, a multinational industry leader in commercial aviation sales and support.

Mr. Speaker, at a phase of life when some people begin looking forward to retirement, Hal formed Weco Aerospace Systems, Inc., in 1971 with his sons, Bill and Robert. This new company based in the Sacramento and Burbank areas focused its attention on supporting corporate aviation. This company has grown with the industry and now employes over 60 people in California and throughout the nation. It supports aviation operators internationally.

Hal is the proud father of three children and eight grandchildren. It is worthwhile to note that he has raised a family of good and productive citizens. The Weygandts have been very active in civic affairs and have contributed much to their community. Hal's own activities have included involvement with the Masonic Lodge and Shriners, his church, the National Business Aircraft Association, the Helicopter Association International, and the Airborne Law Enforcement Association. He has also stayed active with yearly meetings of the Project 19 Association, in which less than 150 of 2,500 participants are still alive.

While Hal is now retiring from active business life at the age of 81, he will continue as an advisor and Board member at Weco. And just to prove it is tough to keep a good man down, he and his wife, Cherie, plan to maintain their 80-acre ranch in the foothills of Lincoln, California, as well as traveling and enjoying many outdoor activities.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in commending Hal Weygandt for his outstanding service to our country as a member of the Armed Forces, an innovative business leader, and a good family man. After all that has been said about him, he is simply a good and decent man, and I am personally thankful for his support and friendship.

UNITING AND STRENGTHENING AMERICA BY PROVIDING APPROPRIATE TOOLS REQUIRED TO INTERCEPT AND OBSTRUCT TERRORISM (USA PATRIOT) ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2001

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that a provision earlier included in money laundering legislation, which would have inhibited RICO liability for foreign excise taxes for tobacco companies, has been dropped from the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, the final version of comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation. The sections of the final version of this bill which expand the definition of Specified Unlawful Activities for Money Laundering are a crucial component of the USA PATRIOT Act. We all know that in order to crush terrorism in all its forms, it will be necessary for us to put an end to the money laundering which is essential to the financing of terrorists' networks. In order for our legislation to be effective, our laws against money laundering must have the widest possible scope. Just as criminals continually are finding new and creative ways to subvert and circumvent our laws, our laws must be broad enough and flexible enough to allow our courts to fight against money laundering in any form we find it. In response to United States requests, many of our allies, including the European Community and its Member States have strengthened their money laundering laws in a cooperative effort to battle money laundering and terrorism. It is our intent to recognize and assist the efforts of our allies in our joint effort to fight fraud and money laundering wherever and in whatever form we find it. If our allies are victimized by fraud, smuggling or money laundering emanating from U.S. soil, they should have the benefit of U.S. laws and U.S. courts to combat those offenses. The expanded definition of Specified Unlawful Activities will ensure that money laundering associated with crimes or fraud committed against our allies shall constitute violations of U.S. law thereby giving the United States and our allies the maximum capability to utilize U.S. laws to combat the money laundering. Just as the United States has always recognized the fundamental right of friendly nations to have access to our courts to enforce their rights, we shall continue to give our full cooperation to our allies in their efforts to combat smuggling and money laundering, including access to our courts and the unimpeded benefit of our criminal and civil laws.

RECOGNIZING BETH GRAFTON-CARDWELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beth Grafton-Cardwell for being named an Extension Specialist Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. The Friends of Agricultural Extension will recognize Beth at their annual awards dinner.

Beth is a U.C. Riverside Extension Entomologist at the Kearny Agriculture Center in Parlier, CA. She conducts a multifaceted program to help citrus growers reduce their pest problems while maintaining fruit quality, a positive economic return, and a reduction of broad-spectrum pesticide use. An important contribution to California's citrus industry has been her ongoing evaluation of continually changing insect pest problems. Beth is currently in the process of developing a mobile laboratory to use as an onsite research and teaching aid.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Beth Grafton-Cardwell for being named an Extension Specialist Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Beth Grafton-Cardwell many more years of continued success.