

or Iraqi efforts to get us back into the same swamp they took the United Nations into."

Access to Saddam eight palaces is crucial because they are large sprawling complexes that cover a combined total of 12 square miles. The sites contain sumptuous living quarters with vistas of man-made lakes and waterfalls. Authorities also suspect they contain bunkers, quite possibly military control centers and perhaps laboratories for experimenting or manufacturing nuclear devices and other weapons of mass destruction.

Before weapons inspectors were pulled out of Iraq, they were permitted to visit the palaces only with advance warning and in the presence of a diplomat. These rules often were stretched so that Iraqis had days to move, conceal or destroy evidence.

In the last two years during which inspectors were active in Iraq, inspectors were barred entry to more than 60 sites. More than 40 of those sites were Saddam's presidential compounds.

Despite the constant delays and harassment, inspectors were successful in finding evidence of four nuclear weapons projects and manufacture of high toxic nerve gas VX.

Their success should have given the United Nations ample reasons to take a strict line with Saddam.

Ultimately his foot-dragging and posturing paid off. He was able to peel away support on the U.N. Security Council for a tough response on inspections. The temporary suspension of weapons inspections stretched into years.

It had not been for the challenge President George W. Bush presented the United Nations earlier this month to force Saddam to live up to its own resolutions, resumption of weapons inspections still would be a forgotten issue.

It's discouraging that United Nations officials seem to have so quickly forgotten their previous misstep with the crafty dictator.

The Bush administration is amply justified in taking a hard line against concessions that would permit Saddam to renew his old tactics. The United Nations has been there and done that. This time is member nations need to insist on inspections that truly are unfettered.

RECOGNIZING APPLAUDING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE ARMY AVIATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, based in Hampton, Georgia, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation is devoted to promoting the history of military aviation. The foundation is an all volunteer non profit organization composed of veterans and civilian supporters acting to connect the American soldier to the American public through the story of Army Aviation. They are not a part of the U.S. Army and receive no governmental funding assistance. Their funding comes entirely from donations made by private individuals and organizations. These volunteers are committed to preserving the aircraft used by our military in securing the freedom we so enjoy as a nation.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation volunteers devote a significant amount of their personal time, resources, and money to bring

the story of our country's military and the legacy of our veterans to the American people through their "living history" programs, displaying and flying World War II, Korean, and Vietnam-era planes and helicopters. These "living history" programs presented at major public venues and air shows are designed to honor our country's military and its' veterans while inspiring the public and giving them a glimpse of military life, service, and devotion to the next generation.

Since 1997, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has devoted more than 150,000 volunteer hours and \$5.3 million in donated funds, aircraft, and equipment in 35 air shows and public presentations to more than 5.5 million people.

The foundation is acting to provide America's veterans a voice with which to tell their story and the tools with which to share their legacy of service and devotion with the American public.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has four primary purposes:

(1) Educate the American public to their military heritage through the story of U.S. Army Aviation's soldiers and machines.

(2) Connect the American soldier to the American public as an active, accepted, and admired member of the American family.

(3) Inspire patriotism and motivate Americans everywhere toward service to their community and country by involving them in our nation's larger military legacy.

(4) Preserve authentic examples of Army aircraft and utilize them in educational "living history" demonstrations and presentations so that the symbols of America's military legacy may always remain in our skies for future generations.

House concurrent Resolution 465 recognizes and applauds the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation for their efforts to educate, connect, inspire, and preserve our proud military heritage for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, and their hundreds of volunteers and supporters, and urge passage of House Concurrent Resolution 465.

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS FEDERAL PRO- CUREMENT PREFERENCE ACT OF 2002

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5583, "Service-Disabled Veterans' Small Business Federal Procurement Preference Act of 2002." This bill would provide service-disabled veterans and "other handicapped" individuals who own small business firms a time-delimited preference in the award of Federal contracts.

This legislation is clearly needed. While the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 established a 3 percent goal for the award of Federal contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small business firms under the Small Business Act, no practical means exists for Federal agencies to achieve this goal under existing statutory

authorities. Not surprisingly, Federal agencies have failed to achieve the 3 percent goal.

Compared to their non-veteran peers, veterans have postponed the opportunity to begin a small business while serving the nation in uniform. During their military service veterans have forgone establishing essential business credit and contacts which are pivotal to successfully starting a business. Due to their military service, our veterans are technically, an economically disadvantaged group compared to their non-veteran peers. Veterans have willingly sacrificed their lifetime earning potential to serve our nation in uniform. This is particularly so for service-disabled veterans who have sacrificed their mobility, health and well-being serving this country.

Service-disabled veterans are additionally economically disadvantaged given the reluctance of many lenders to extend lines of business credit to handicapped individuals. Regardless of their abilities, when financial institutions perceive a service-disabled veteran to be a greater risk, service-disabled veterans are further disadvantaged. Service-disabled veterans and handicapped individuals, in general, are often perceived by society to be less capable. Like others, service-disabled veterans and handicapped individuals simply need the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities. This legislation provides that opportunity which for many is not otherwise available.

Service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals are discriminated against both in financial markets, relative to their access to capital, and in the marketplace, relative to opportunities to equally compete. It is therefore in this sense, and in no other, that service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals are economically and socially disadvantaged.

To provide service-disabled veterans real opportunity, this legislation provides a time-delimited preference in the award of Federal contracts. The existing statutory vehicle which provides a time-delimited preference is the 8(a) program under the Small Business Act. 8(a) was specifically established to assist economically and socially disadvantaged small business firms compete in the Federal marketplace. This bill adds both service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals to the list of identified individuals presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged under the Small Business Act 8(a) Program.

In order to not lessen the opportunities for individuals already presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged under the Small Business Act 8(a) Program, this legislation retains the existing 5 percent goal for these groups. It also provides a separate 3 percent goal for service-disabled veteran owned small business firms and a separate 2 percent goal for other handicapped individuals. These changes increase the aggregate goal for the award of Federal contracts to socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms to 10 percent.

Paralleling the newly specified goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by both veterans and other handicapped individuals, the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns is increased. The total value of all prime contracts and subcontracts awarded to small business concerns each fiscal year is increased from 23 percent to 28 percent.

Last and not least, the Service-Disabled Veterans' Small Business Federal Procurement Preference Act of 2002, requires all Federal agencies to establish agency-specific procurement goals for small businesses, and each category of small businesses, that are at least equal to legislatively specified government-wide goals. Currently, all goals specified for the award of Federal contracts under the Small Business Program are to be achieved collectively by all Federal agencies on a government-wide basis. Each Federal agency, on the other hand, is only required to establish goals which reflect the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns to participate in the contracts that it awards. It is therefore of little surprise that the achievement of SBA procurement goals, both across government and by individual Federal agencies, are significantly less than those specified in existing statute.

Again, this legislation will benefit service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals without adversely impacting any other preference group. This legislation can help open the door to opportunity for service-disabled veterans which has been closed too long. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I also gratefully acknowledge the assistance Pam Corsini has provided with the development of this legislation. A Brookings Institution LEGIS Fellow, Pam has been working with the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and has made many invaluable contributions to the work of the Committee and Congress. We are fortunate to have received her contributions and assistance. Thank you, Pam, for a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB CHAFFIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep appreciation that I rise and pay tribute to the life and passing of Mr. Bob Chaffin of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Mr. Chaffin recently passed away in September and as his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to his life and memory and the outstanding way in which he lived it.

Mr. Chaffin served the Glenwood Springs community as an attorney specializing in corporate and real estate law. As a lawyer, Mr. Chaffin served his clients and his profession with honor, dignity, and sincerity. He was voted by residents throughout the community as the best honest attorney and was either the winner or the runner up, from 1999 through 2002. Many citizens throughout the community believed his heartfelt intentions were based out of genuine respect and regard for those whom he served and who sought his counsel.

Despite the time constraints of a very demanding career, Mr. Chaffin found the time to give back to his community through many types of volunteer activities. Mr. Chaffin was one of the founding members of Defiance Community Players, a local theatrical group that performed plays for the residents of Glenwood Springs. He participated in the group by painting and moving sets, managing the schol-

arship fund and serving on the board of directors. He was also a very talented actor, the most noticeable role he played was Teddy Roosevelt and he was able to capture personality of our 26th president to perfection. Mr. Chaffin was also active in other volunteer activities including the Glenwood Springs Lions Club, the Frontier Historical Society, the Mountain Valley Weavers and many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with respect that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Bob Chaffin before this body of Congress and this nation for all the wonderful contributions he has made to the community of Glenwood Springs. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Joan and his son David during this trying period. Mr. Chaffin truly was a unique and remarkable person and his years of service as both a lawyer and a community activist has touched the lives of countless individuals throughout the Glenwood community and the entire state of Colorado.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN LARRY F. LUCAS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Captain Larry F. Lucas, United States Army. Captain Lucas, originally from Marmet, West Virginia, served his country bravely in Vietnam as an Army Pilot. Sadly, while on a reconnaissance mission over Laos, Captain Lucas' plane was shot from the sky by anti-aircraft fire in December of 1966. Following military regulations, Captain Lucas ordered his co-pilot to eject from the plane first. Regrettably, other pilots who witnesses the crash saw only one parachute. Despite appearing to have remained in the plane, the Army would not conclude that Captain Lucas had perished.

Captain Lucas never returned to the United States alive. After many years his remains were miraculously found near the crash site a few months ago. His remains have been transported back to the United States and on November 1, 2002 he will receive a full military burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that our nation's strength as a world power comes from citizens like Captain Lucas. From an early age, he displayed signs of strong leadership. As an eagle scout in his childhood and then as an ROTC cadet at West Virginia University, Captain Lucas further developed these strong qualities. Captain Lucas' service to his nation will never be forgotten.

It is an honor to commend Captain Lucas on his service to the United States and to the state of West Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2002, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes Nos. 442-444. For the

record, had I been present, I would have voted: No. 442—"yea;" No. 443—"yea;" and No. 444—"yea."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE THOMAS-DALE BLOCK CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the immeasurable contributions made by the Thomas-Dale Block Club to the Thomas-Dale neighborhood throughout its twelve years of service. The Block Club encouraged neighbors to get to know one another, to welcome and respect each others' differences, and to work together to make the neighborhood safe and clean. Through coordinating individual block clubs, organizing community meetings, facilitating communication between residents and local government, and developing programs for youth and seniors, the Thomas-Dale Block Club helped transform a once neglected neighborhood into one of the most vibrant communities in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It is my sincere pleasure to extend congratulations to the Thomas-Dale Block Club on its numerous accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LELAND PAT DURAND, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Leland Durand Jr. of Cortez, Colorado. Mr. Durand, known to his family as Pat, recently passed away in September and as his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to his achievements and the irreplaceable contributions he made to his community and to his country.

Mr. Durand was born on February 14, 1923 in Bozeman, Montana. As a young man, Mr. Durand enlisted in the United States Army and served in our nation's military with honor, courage, and distinction. Mr. Durand was one of the first of those heroic individuals who stormed the beach at Normandy on D-Day in 1944. He was later wounded in Germany in another engagement and received a purple heart in recognition for the service and sacrifice he had made to his country. Mr. Durand also received the Medal of Freedom from the French Government just two years ago at a ceremony in Cortez, Colorado.

After the war, Pat continued to serve his country in a variety of other ways. In 1949, he began working in oil explorations and in 1966 opened his own oil and uranium exploration business, the Durand Drilling Company. He was a member of the American Legion for 50 years and was a member of the NRA throughout his entire life. A lifetime gun enthusiast, Mr. Durand became a skilled gunsmith and built and repaired guns at his own business in Cortez, Colorado.