

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEN DAVID, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER FOR LIMESTONE COUNTY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished citizen and soldier on the occasion of his retirement from the post of Veteran Service Officer for Limestone County, in my district.

Ken David served his country honorably, first in Vietnam, and later in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. For the past ten years, he has been invaluable in assisting other veterans of Limestone County with a wide range of needs and requests.

Ken is a highly motivated and community oriented individual. Several years ago, he founded the Limestone County Veterans Museum and Archives. Ken organized and guided a committee of dedicated volunteers, and worked tirelessly himself, to renovate the historic depot in Athens, Alabama, where many Limestone County veterans disembarked for a war in years past. The museum is now a resource for veterans, their families, school groups, and the public, where they can learn about the tremendous sacrifice of North Alabama residents who proudly served their country in wartime during the 20th Century.

I want to thank Ken today for his immeasurable contribution of time, energy, and enthusiasm on behalf of his fellow veterans and neighbors. I also want to congratulate Ken and his family, and wish him the best during his well-deserved rest in retirement.

IN HONOR OF VONETTA FLOWERS, RECIPIENT OF AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Vonetta Flowers, a gold medalist in the women's bobsled event during the nineteenth Winter Olympiad in Park City Utah. On Tuesday, February 19, 2002, Ms. Flowers became the first African American to win a Winter Olympic Gold Medal.

Vonetta's journey to Olympic triumph is one that is analogous to that of many other famous tract stars who have come before her. While competing at the 2000 Olympic track and field trials in the long jump event, she saw a flyer for the bobsled team. As a lark she decided to try out and quickly mastered the six-event test that includes sprinting, jumping, and throwing a shot thus earning her a trial on the Olympic bobsled track. With only 2 weeks of training on how to push a bobsled, Vonetta and her teammate broke the world start record in Oc-

tober 2000. Later that season the team won four World medals and finished the year ranked third in the world.

A 4-year letter winner at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Ms. Flowers is a seven time NCAA All American. During her college career she competed in long jump, triple jump, 100 meters, 200 meters and relay teams. She competed in the 2000 Olympic trials in long jump, where she finished 12th. She also won a Gold Medal at the 1994 Olympic festival in the long jump. Currently, Vonetta is an assistant track coach at UAB.

A native of Birmingham, AL, Vonetta attended Jackson-Olin High School where she was an All-State basketball player and member of the Birmingham Striders Track Club. She is married to Mr. Johnny Mack Flowers and is the daughter of Jimmie and Barbara Jeffrey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vonetta Flowers for her monumental achievement and superior athletic performance.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of the USA for their prestigious service. The Royal College was created in 1984 and is located in Detroit, MI.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, an international organization, longs to provide continuing medical education to physicians and surgeons around the world. The Royal College campuses spread around the globe in Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and South Africa. The College prides itself on its commitment to the science and arts of medicine and surgery. Further, the College is supported by private organizations, however it receives its charters from individual governments.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the renowned organization, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as they celebrate their 20 years of service.

A TRIBUTE TO HADASSAH ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invited my colleagues to join me in commending and paying

tribute to Hadassah—the Women's Zionist Organization of America, on the occasion of its 90th Anniversary. This extraordinary organization, founded in February 1912 by Henrietta Szold, has worked throughout its nine decades to ensure the unity of the Jewish people.

Hadassah's American activities cover the map from Anchorage, Alaska, to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Bangor, Maine. In more than 800 communities around the United States, Hadassah volunteers undertake programs and activities that change and improve people's lives. These include the "Check it Out" breast cancer detection and awareness campaign and sponsoring Jewish family programs across the country. Members of Hadassah are also on the forefront of important public policy debates on a diverse range of issues including, women's health, church-state separation, and U.S.-Israel relations.

Mr. Speaker, the wonderful work of Hadassah does not stop at our nation's borders. The organization's greatest achievement is its network of world-renowned medical and educational institutions in Israel. The Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem provides the highest quality of health care to more than 600,000 people a year. Since 1984, the Hadassah Medical Organization has also been involved in global outreach programs to other countries, particularly those in Africa. Included in these initiatives are new treatments for eye diseases, AIDS education, post-natal care and public health.

Numbering more than 300,000 throughout the United States, the devoted membership of Hadassah embodies the spirit of volunteerism and community service. These women are our mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and aunts.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Hadassah—this outstanding community service organization—and its many dedicated members, who have made outstanding contributions to our nation and to peoples throughout the world over the past 90 years.

DEFENSE BUDGET STATEMENT

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6th, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld testified before the House Armed Services Committee and asked for a record increase in defense spending. He pointed to the brave new world post-September 11th as justification for the largest hike in defense spending in 20 years. Sadly, Secretary Rumsfeld thinks that the brave new world of post-September gives us amnesia about 9/11 and the events before 9/11. He also mistakenly believes that all of his destabilizing proposals can be justified as a reasoned response to 9/11. An incredibly, both

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Vice President and the President placed calls to TOM DASCHLE asking that the fog of ignorance around the events prior to and the day of 9/11 not be lifted.

The fact, however, is that September 11 was not a failure of our nation's defenses. Rather, September 11 was a colossal intelligence failure—a failure to act on timely and accurate warnings predicting massive terrorist attacks against our nation. The LA Times and other leading press agencies have identified some of these missed warnings. And this was not the first time that our intelligence agencies have let us down. The same failure to act on critical warnings happened with respect to the terror attacks against our embassies in Africa.

Even the CIA, the FBI and other senior Capitol Hill figures all now agree that there were serious lapses in the handling of perishable and highly significant warnings preceding the September 11th attacks. But instead of examining what went wrong with respect to these warnings and then trying to prevent it from ever happening again, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY now seek to actually prevent the Congress from investigating these and other events surrounding September 11th. Indeed, Senator RICHARD SHELBY, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee told CNN: "It was a real massive failure . . . In my judgment too many bureaucratic failures, not enough coordination between the Agencies." The active efforts to prevent a Congressional investigation into the events surrounding September 11 not only violate the principles of good government but are an affront to the memories of all those who perished in the September 11 attacks. But sadly, the Administration now chooses to direct us on a path of war while refusing to allow us to know how we got there.

I have been asked by my constituents to explain to them why and how September 11 happened. Indeed, the whole world community continues to search for answers to those exact questions. That cannot be done if the Executive Branch will not cooperate with the Legislative Branch in answering important questions about what was known before, during, and after the tragedies in New York and Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Why doesn't the Executive Branch want us to know answers to these questions? Is there something that they don't want the American public to know?

Instead of working with the Congress to search for answers to these questions the Administration has now become obsessed with finding ways to expand the U.S. military budget. The White House is now using our new War Against Terror as a means of siphoning public attention away from the events surrounding September 11th in order to generate widespread support for the largest increase in defense spending in a generation. The Administration has even identified a dubious "axis of evil" to further justify this increased spending.

The President has requested an increase of \$48.1 billion in defense spending. Sadly, many commenters have already pointed out that his father stands to personally gain immense profits from the President's proposals because of the former President's relationship with The Carlyle Group, a leading defense conglomerate. One particular defense contract, for the development and purchase of a mobile howitzer, the Crusader, exists with the Carlyle Group. Though the company has received millions for this, the Crusader is too hefty to

transport, has not yet reached its production phase despite years of engineering and re-engineering, and is far from fulfilling its purpose or need.

In his testimony before the Congress Wednesday, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that America can afford this increase just fine. This comes after defense spending snared a whopping 62 percent of all new spending for the year 2002. This accounting is specious, as Rumsfeld himself noted on the eve of September 11th, that "according to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions." Increased spending should occur under no circumstances without increased financial accountability. Does Arthur Anderson keep the Pentagon's books?

Rumsfeld's trick of throwing bones to would-be critics in the form of pay raises for the troops should not obscure the fact that the bulk of this budget hike goes not for pay raises, but for expensive gadgets such as missile defense, three new, separate fighter planes and space-based lasers. Of the \$48.1 billion requested in more funding, less than 5 percent of that increase is for soldier pay raises. And let us not forget that the President's first act in this war on terrorism was to waive the high-deployment overtime pay for our troops who are on the front line of this war.

I might remind Mr. President that we still have veterans from the Vietnam war suffering from the ill effects of Agent Orange, we still have Vietnam veterans impoverished and sleeping on the streets of our Nation's Capital, we still have veterans from the Gulf War suffering the ill effects of Gulf War syndrome and we still have service men and women in our armed forces living on food stamps and residing in poor housing. How in good conscience can the Secretary of Defense come before this Committee and ask for yet more money for aircraft, ships and missiles and not adequately address these critical issues concerning the personal welfare of our veterans and serving men and women?

Sadly, however, at the same time that the President proposes the largest defense spending hike in 20 years, his budget also proposes to cut funds for programs that bridge the digital divide, reducing funds for highway construction and urban development and cutting funding for the EPA by \$300 million. And despite the down-turned economic situation, the President has also proposed to cut back on job training, assistance for low income home heating, and rural housing and utility improvements. Moreover, funds to cleanup the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex are sliced, and abroad, international food aid and peacekeeping funds are also shrunk.

At \$379.3 billion, the President's proposal will not tell us how just a few months ago during the trial of suspects charged with initially bombing the World Trade Center in 1993, a suspect told U.S. officials that bin Laden's group was trying to make war on the United States and in particular would bomb an embassy, yet we did nothing and lost hundreds of lives in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. Nor will this budget explain the Mossad warning of a major terrorist force of 200 individuals entering the U.S., which apparently again fell on deaf ears. What of the supposed warning to German police by an Iranian in Hamburg of an impending attack on the U.S. using hijacked planes? And nor will this budget illuminate for

us who performed the unusual stock trades on the Friday and Monday before September 11th, but has since decided not to pick up the tidy profit that was made. The U.S. Government is now being sued by survivors of the African embassy blasts because it has become clear that the United States had ample warning but chose to do nothing rather than prevent the loss of life. Given the prior warnings, insider stock trades, and convoluted financial interrelationships, September 11th represents yet another wasted chance to save innocent lives.

The most shocking aspect of the President's request involves the New Defense Strategy to be implemented now. Secretary Rumsfeld testified that a major role now for the U.S. military will be to occupy an opponent's capital and replace his regime. In as much as the Secretary has identified some 60 countries, including our own, that host terror cells, and publicly stated his intention to "drain the swamp," we can only surmise that the U.S. military is now in the business of taking over capitals around the world and replacing regimes . . . starting with Washington, DC.

IN MEMORY OF LOWELL F. RUPP

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay homage to a man of my district, Lowell F. Rupp, who passed from this life on Monday, January 7, 2002 at the youthful age of 73. Mr. Rupp was a long-time and much loved civic and business leader in Fulton County, Ohio.

Born on a family farm still operational in Fulton County, Mr. Rupp eventually purchased the farm from his father. He produced corn, soybeans, and wheat, selling the seed as well. Even though I came to know him through politics, for me the picture of Mr. Rupp remains with the land, for he was a farmer in his very soul.

Entering German Township politics, he "sought elective office out of a love for people and a desire to make a difference in their lives." That, indeed, he did. After serving for ten years as a German Township Trustee, Mr. Rupp was elected a Fulton County Commissioner. He served in that position for sixteen years, retiring at the end of his final term in 1994. His tenure as commissioner brought a great deal to the residents of Fulton County: he most assuredly did make a difference in their lives, improving their livelihoods, bringing positive progress to the county and always moving forward. Under his stewardship, the Fulton County Courthouse Plaza, a new county health department building and senior centers in four regions of the county were established. He helped to obtain expansion for water lines into the county and improvements to its fairgrounds.

Those who worked with Mr. Rupp in pursuit of projects benefiting the county—myself included—found him to be a most able and honorable man. One of his colleagues describes him as a "rock-ribbed Republican" who never let partisanship get in the way of doing the best job he could for the public good and noted, "He was a gentleman to work with. We were both opinionated and agreed to disagree." Mr. Rupp practiced a style of politics