COMMENDING THE REVEREND CHARLES WILLIAMS FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Reverend Charles Williams for his exceptional leadership. Indiana Black Expo celebrates 33 years of extraordinary service in Indiana, the last 20 under the dynamic leadership of Reverend Williams. Reverend Williams' work dates back to the late 1970's when he was special assistant to the Mayor of Indianapolis. During that time he was responsible for creating and organizing the first city-wide Black History Month Celebration. In addition, he was very vocal in making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a legal holiday in Indianapolis, and organized and promoted the first Annual Indianapolis Jazz Festival.

In the early 1980's Reverend Charles Williams became president of Indiana Black Expo, Inc and Founder of Circle City Classics, Inc. Throughout various entities, Reverend Williams promotes harmony among people of all races. He was instrumental in raising public awareness about prostate cancer when he discovered he had become a victim and that it was in advanced stages. Although he has extensive knowledge about health issues he had neglected to follow his own advice.

In his book entitled, ''That Black Men Might Live,'' Reverend Williams uses his own personal battle against cancer to address the important, but often neglected, issues of Black men and prostate cancer. It is particularly important to African American men, a segment at special risk for the disease. They have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world. In fact, the incidence rate in African Americans is 60 percent higher than in white males and double the mortality rate, according to a report done by the National Prostate Cancer Coalition.

He encourages men to get early and regular physical exams to prevent or detect the disease while in its early stages. We must join Reverend Williams in this mission to save humanity. Reverend Williams exudes the type of leadership that is both rich and rare. He is worthy of high praise.

TRIBUTE TO DOTTY ALDRICH ON THE OCCASION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding woman, and friend, Mrs. Dotty Aldrich, on the momentous occasion of her 80th birthday.

An Old Fort citizen, Dotty possesses a vast amount of civic pride and dedication to societal causes. After raising her seven children, Dotty decided to return to school and earn her B.A. in Education from Defiance College. After graduating, Dotty went on to receive her Masters Degree in Education from Bowling Green State University.

Dotty is a retired school teacher who taught masterfully for numerous years. In addition to raising her children, Dotty has been a mother to many foster children. Today Dotty enjoys volunteering in various sectors of her community, including nursing homes and the Church. Furthermore, Dotty is an active member in such organizations as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Association for Professional College Women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dotty Aldrich. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and selfless citizens, like Dotty, who care about the well being of their communities. We wish Dotty all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE 3RD BRIGADE (GOLDEN BRIGADE), OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 35th Anniversary of the deployment of the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Divisions to the Republic of Vietnam. In late January 1968, the United States had 500,000 soldiers deployed in the Republic of Vietnam. The Soviets had become increasing belligerent on the Inter-German boundary, and the North Koreans had fired on the *USS Pueblo*, seized the ship and held the crew hostage. The world situation was tense and the United States military was stretched thin in many locations. On January 31st, 1968, the Vietnamese New Year, North Vietnamese forces initiated a coordinated attack throughout South Vietnam. The largest enemy offensive of the war was later named the Tet Offensive. General William C. Westmoreland, Commander of American Troops in Vietnam, was facing a direct attack on his headquarters in Saigon, the Marines were surrounded and in danger of being overrun at Khe Sanh and the communists had captured the Imperial City of Hue. In conversations with President Johnson, Westmoreland requested additional troops be sent from the States immediately. Westmoreland clearly stated his preference for ''airborne troopers''.

During the Vietnam War, the 82nd Airborne Division was the nation's strategic reserve, though during the early winter of 1968 it was manned at only about 60% strength. Recognizing the criticality of the situation, President Lyndon Johnson approved orders committing a brigade of the 82nd. A decision was made to send the 3rd Brigade, though it took substantial numbers of soldiers from 1st and 2nd Brigades to bring the 3rd Brigade to full strength.

The alert came at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12th, 1968 and the advanced party, led by Colonel Alexander R. Bolling, Jr., departed 24 hours later with the main elements beginning their departure on the following day. The lead combat element, the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was engaged in hostile operations by that Sunday, the 18th of February—only six days after the initial alert. It took 155 C–141's and a number of C–130's to lift the 3,600 men and equipment of the Brigade 12,000 miles to Chu Lai, a trip that took 30 hours.

Over eighty percent of the soldiers in the Golden Brigade had already served at least one tour in Vietnam. Additionally, many had also served in WWII, the Korean War and in the Dominican Republic conflict.

The Golden Brigade fought bravely and successfully to open Hai Van Pass, driving the communists from Hue, opening the roads to the A Shau Valley to control Nui Khe Mountain. Following the Brigade's redeployment to the southern part of the country in September of 1968, they took the war to the enemy in the Michelin Rubber Plantation, the Iron Triangle and along the Song Be River.

In twenty-two months of combat, the Golden Brigade won eight campaign streamers for the battle flag. 228 men paid the ultimate price and gave their lives, and another 1,200 men were wounded in action. The youngest troopers are now in their mid fifties, and some of the officers and noncommissioned officers have departed this world. It is fitting and proper that during this 35th anniversary year, a grateful nation acknowledges their sacrifice, valor and selfless service. Airborne—All The Way!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, on July 14, 2003, my plane was delayed during rollcall votes 354, 355, 356, and 357; had I been present to vote, I would have voted ''nay'', ''aye'', ''nay'', and ''aye'', respectively. Please let the RECORD reflect how I would have voted.

I voted ''nay'' on rollcall vote 354, but I would like to share my support for country of origin labeling, though I have concerns regarding the cost of the program and its current ability to be implemented. In 2000, the Government Accounting Office studied the question and found that ''it is difficult to quantify the cost of labeling meat by country-of-origin or to put a value on the potential benefits.'' Allowing voluntary labeling of the meat industry for one more year will allow the United States Department of Agriculture time to streamline the implementation process. Producers meanwhile will be able to voluntarily label their meat and consumers will be able to pick which meat they prefer.