

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN, SYMBOLIZED BY "ROSIE THE RIVETER," WHO SERVED ON THE HOMEFRONT DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support of H. Con. Res. 413, which honors the contributions of Rosie the Riveter—the brave women who served on the home front during World War II.

Over six million women served this country during World War II by taking on jobs that had been traditionally held by men. They served as welders, and engineers, and helped produce planes, trucks, guns and ammunition that were crucial to helping the U.S. achieve victory.

These brave women opened the doors toward equal rights and new employment opportunities, and highlighted the needs of working mothers, which in turn led to the creation of child care programs. Their efforts helped change social attitudes of traditional gender roles and allowed the women greater opportunities and independence.

I would like to join my colleagues in honoring the life and work of these great women and thank them for their contributions to this nation.

ON OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DWIGHT (SPIKE) HELMICK

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the retirement of Mr. D.O. 'Spike' Helmick Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Mr. Helmick has served the state of California in the California Highway Patrol for 35 years. Mr. Helmick has served as commissioner for the last 9 years and was appointed as the State's first director of Homeland Security.

Born in Texas in 1945 and raised in California, Commissioner Helmick graduated from Oroville High School. He is a graduate of the FBI's National Executive Institute and has completed graduate work in public administration through Golden Gate University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Golden Gate University and received Associate of Arts degrees in Police Science and Business Administration from Yuba and Glendale Colleges. Mr. Helmick, who left his job in a clothing store in his Northern California hometown of Oroville to join the California Highway Patrol, graduated from the training academy in 1969. His first assignments were patrol duty in Glendale and other parts of Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Helmick has held every rank from Cadet to Deputy Commissioner. Prior to appointment as Commissioner in 1995, he served as Deputy Commissioner for six years. Before that he served as Chief of the CHP's

Coastal Division, which encompasses ten area offices and two inspection facilities from Santa Cruz to Ventura. Prior to being appointed Chief of the Division he served as Assistant Chief of Coastal Division from December 1986 through February 1989. From 1975 through 1986, Commissioner Helmick was assigned to the Office of Special Representative to the Legislature and commanded that office beginning in 1981. He also served in the South Los Angeles and Glendale Areas. On November 1, 1995, 'Spike' Helmick was appointed Commissioner of the CHP, commanding 6,730 uniformed and 3,200 nonuniformed personnel, located in 8 field divisions, 99 area commands, 16 commercial vehicle inspection facilities, 6 communications centers, and headquarters staff and executive offices. Mr. Helmick's duties ranged from heading up the state's homeland security programs in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, to assisting in riot control and aiding local departments in the fight against street gangs.

As Commissioner, Mr. Helmick initiated the concept of High Performance Policing within the CHP. Under his guidance, each CHP commander assesses the needs and expectations of the community served by their command. Delivery of service is tailored to satisfy both community and statewide needs.

Commissioner Helmick has continually emphasized the importance that the CHP workforce be representative of the state's diverse population so that the best services will be provided to all Californians. To this end, recruitment, hiring and promotion of women and ethnic minorities have been established as departmental priorities.

Support for Commissioner Helmick is widely based throughout California. His genuine concern for the needs of our state's citizens is evidenced by such diverse Department programs as Spanish language instruction of CHP employees, inclusion of cultural awareness training modules in recurrent training, and direction of Department resources to address specific crime and public safety issues.

There is no doubt that D.O. 'Spike' Helmick has been an outstanding public servant for the people of California. His distinguished career record speaks for itself. It has been my honor to work with Commissioner Helmick as both a State Senator and now as a Congressman. He is my friend and a friend to everyone in the California Highway Patrol. For these reasons I move that we recognize and honor D.O. 'Spike' Helmick for his outstanding achievements and service to the people of the State of California.

AMERICA'S BEST VA CLINIC

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the nation's attention to the exemplary work done by the staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in Bennington, Vermont. Recently, the Federal Executive Association gave its "Federal Employee of the Year Award" to the entire Bennington VA Clinic staff.

As the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) housed at the Vermont Veterans

Home in Bennington, the facility and its staff serve the primary health care needs of eligible veterans in the region of southwestern Vermont. Over 1800 veterans in Vermont get exceptional medical care from Dr. Peter King and his colleagues in the clinic. As a sign of their remarkable dedication to the health and well-being of veterans, the Bennington VA Clinic was rated among the top ten clinics in the nation in ten of twelve categories. Ranking so highly among the more than 850 community-based VA clinics is a clear indication of the extraordinary work done by the Bennington staff.

Established in 1998, the Bennington VA Clinic affords veterans a single primary care provider to coordinate their care on an ongoing basis. It, along with the Fort Ethan Allen CBOC in Colchester, the CBOC in Rutland, and the CBOC in Littleton, NH (which serves veterans in the St. Johnsbury area), makes primary medical care more accessible to those who cannot always make the long journey to our excellent VA facilities in White River Junction.

We in Vermont are proud both of our veterans, and of the dedicated people who honor them by meeting their medical needs.

HONORING KEN HAMLIN

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the members of American Legion Post 18 of Bay City, Michigan to pay tribute to their past Commander and life-time member, Mr. Ken Hamlin. The Legion will honor Mr. Hamlin during a special recognition ceremony to be held in Bay City.

Ken Hamlin was born in Bay City on June 15, 1928. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II and the Korean War. He retired honorably from the Reserve in 1966. Ken has spent the majority of his life serving and protecting. His commitment to the U.S. Navy and American Legion Post 18 is without doubt commendable. Ken has been a member of the American Legion Post 18 of Bay City for 29 years. During his 29 years of service with the Post he has had the honor of being a post service officer for 23 of those years. Ken's dedication to the post and its veterans have not gone unnoticed. In 1994 he was named Post 18 Commander, and later was granted Life Membership status for outstanding service. Also during 1994 he was awarded the Bay County Veteran of the Year award. Aside from Post 18, Ken is also a member of VVA Chapter 494 and a lifetime member and Past Commander (5 times) of AMVETS Post 22. He was the Past Chef DeGear Voiture 690 Bay County, and Past President Bay City Bowling Association. He was elected to the Bay City Bowling Hall of Fame in 1998, is a member of Post 18 Baseball committee, and a member of the Bay County Naval Ship Committee. One of his most noted contributions to the Bay City Veterans Council was the assistance he provided in forming the Bay County Color Guard with the late George Rowell. Ken's strength, pride and steadfastness in getting the job done whenever and however will always be remembered. He is a leader of high moral standards.

Many veterans are thankful for his generosity and kindness. Without his guidance and the assistance that the many veterans' organizations provide, many of our American Heroes would be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute to an outstanding veteran, Mr. Ken Hamlin, for his past service to our Nation and his continued commitment to assisting veterans.

**NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2003**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in enthusiastic support of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003, and I want to thank my distinguished colleagues from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, for their leadership on this legislation.

The bill before the House, S. 1233, provides key funding for an important Baltimore institution. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum will help preserve our nation's history. Located in East Baltimore, the Museum features nearly 200 exhibits and commemorates Black Americans in the fields of government, law, military service, science and religion. More than 300,000 visitors each year view its exhibits and participate in its programs. I have visited the museum several times, most recently for the unveiling of the image of our friend and former House colleague, Kweisi Mfume.

In the words of noted historian Carter G. Woodson, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." If Dr. Woodson were alive today, he would applaud the work of Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin. Back in 1983, these two pioneers recognized the importance of going beyond textbooks to expand the horizons of young minds, to stimulate their imaginations, to bring historical figures to life. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum has helped preserve and celebrate the legacy of Black America, which I would emphasize is important for all Americans, including nascent immigrant communities.

Enactment of this bill will also expand the educational opportunities provided by the Museum, which works in coordination with religious and art groups to offer after-school and community activities in East Baltimore. This bill also authorizes \$15 million for expansion of the Museum's existing facilities through a grant from the Department of Justice, and it will establish the Justice Learning Center.

This bill has passed the Senate unanimously and I look forward to its passage in the House and enactment. I urge my colleagues to visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, to recommend it to their constituents, and to vote in favor of S. 1233.

**IN HONOR OF MICHAEL W. DAVIS'S DEDICATION TO THE BURBANK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Davis for 35 years of dedicated service to the Burbank Fire Department.

Mike Davis joined the Burbank Fire Department as a probationary firefighter in 1969. He promoted through the ranks of the Fire Department and has served as Fire Chief for the past 14 years. He has held positions including Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Fire Battalion Chief and finally Fire Chief. He has worked in all divisions of the department including Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, Fire Training, Emergency Medical Services, Disaster Preparedness and Fire Administration.

His education includes an A.A. Degree in Fire Science from Los Angeles Valley College, and a B.S. Degree in Fire Protection Administration and Technology from California State University Los Angeles. His background also includes seven years of experience as a football player while at L.A.V.C. and Utah State University. He played professionally with the Toronto "Rifles" of the now-defunct Continental Football League as well as the New York "Jets" organization of the American Football League.

Chief Davis is a proud member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs where he serves on the Elections Committee. He is a member of the Western Fire Chiefs' Association and has faithfully served on the board of directors for the California Fire Chiefs' Association for 11 years. In addition, he maintains a membership in the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs' Association where he serves on several subcommittees, the Foothill Fire Chiefs' Association, and the Burbank Chapter of Rotary International. Michael Davis is one of Burbank's shining role models and outstanding citizens. He has brought prestige to the Burbank Fire Department's past, present, and future.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Michael Davis for an exemplary professional and public service career, and for his immense commitment to the City of Burbank and its residents.

**HONORING U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT KEN BALLARD**

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Lieutenant Ken Ballard who was tragically killed on Sunday, May 30th in Najaf, Iraq. Lt. Ballard served as a platoon leader in the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

Lt. Ballard grew up in the Bay Area of California. After graduating from Mountain View High School in 1995, he joined the Army where he served in Germany, Bosnia, and Macedonia. He won an ROTC scholarship to

Middle Tennessee State University and earned a bachelors degree in international relations prior to his deployment to Iraq.

Lt. Ken Ballard comes from a proud tradition of military service. He is the fourth generation on both sides of his family to serve our country in uniform going back to World War I. Lt. Ballard served courageously and with honor through unimaginable circumstances, acting bravely to protect the lives of those with whom he served.

Ken Ballard gave his life at the age of 26 with a bright and promising future ahead of him. It is with both sorrow and pride that we remember Lt. Ballard. As many in his hometown of Mountain View and across the Bay Area gather to mourn his loss, we honor Lt. Ballard's leadership, selfless sacrifice, and courageous service to our nation. Lt. Ballard was an outstanding American and a great Californian.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his mother Karen Meredith and father Tom Ballard and all his family.

**RECOGNIZING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIED LANDING AT NORMANDY DURING WORLD WAR II**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II by American, British, Canadian and other Allied troops. Our nation's enduring gratitude goes out to the courageous veterans whose foresight and sacrifice brought the Allied forces perhaps the most crucial victory of World War II.

The 60th anniversary of D-Day commemorates a pivotal point in the war and a unique moment in time when coordination and valor forged unprecedented advancement of the Allied forces against the Nazis and their Axis powers. Operation Overlord, the most extensive amphibious operation ever to occur involved 153,000 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force who stormed five separate beaches at Normandy. It was a battle labeled 'The Great Crusade in Europe' by Allied Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower. Facing exceptional danger, 800 planes, full of airborne paratroopers carrying ninety to one hundred twenty pounds of extra weight on their back, invaded occupied Normandy with a mission to secure crucial high grounds, roads and bridges. In close succession, 30,000 vehicles charged the five separate beaches at Normandy, carrying soldiers who became the first to cross the formidable English Channel since 1688.

Poised to attack the disciplined German Army and seized with the loss of most of their radios and 60% of their supplies during landing, the men at D-Day could not rely on superior technology. In one of history's defining moments, the liberation of occupied France depended on human skill and will power, on anticipating the enemy and charging courageously forward. Ultimately, on D-Day, bravery in combat changed history. The soldiers of six valiant divisions met the most uncertain of