

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY TOOL AND
DIE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to commend Sidney Tool and Die on its 50th anniversary. Under the ownership of Sergeant and Bensman families, Sidney Tool and Die has been a distinguished corporate citizen in the Sidney community since 1954. It has demonstrated its commitment to its customers by developing state-of-the-art tooling and assembly equipment and speciality machines for rubber and plastic product manufacturers. It takes exceptional leadership to maintain a business that prides itself on high quality products, hardworking employees and superior customer service.

Sidney Tool and Die has also given so much back to the community whose name it bears. Its owner, employees, retirees, and their families can be rightfully proud of this anniversary. Ohio is rightfully proud of its industrial base, and businesses like Sidney Tool and Die help to keep this tradition strong.

HONORING COLONEL MATTHEW
DAPSON, USMC

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has served his country proudly for over 26 years. Colonel Matthew Dapson, United States Marine Corps, is a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and a 1978 graduate of Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

After graduating from Rider with a Bachelor's degree in finance, Colonel Dapson chose to serve his country as one of the few and the proud, a United States Marine. He enrolled in Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant on the 203rd birthday of the Marine Corps, November 10th, 1978.

Upon completion of the Basic School at Quantico, Colonel Dapson was ordered to Pensacola, Florida for pilot training. He excelled at Pensacola, reached his goal of becoming a Naval Aviator, and was given the opportunity to fly the CH-46 helicopter. Colonel Dapson's reputation as a pilot, and as a Marine were such that he was subsequently invited to serve as an aviation instructor.

Throughout his career, he emphasized the importance of attention to detail in all endeavors. It is no small feat that Colonel Dapson flew for over 18 years without a mishap, amassing over 3,000 hours of flight time. This is even more impressive when one considers the age of the CH-46 aircraft. This is a testimony to Colonel Dapson and to those many fine Marines who put in the long hours to ensure his helicopter brought him and his crew home safely.

Having established himself as one who demonstrated extraordinary diligence, Colonel Dapson was assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon for three years. While there, he was

given responsibility for several key strategic and doctrinal documents. He helped write the initial national military strategy on counter-proliferation in 1994, and wrote the capstone joint doctrine for services and combatant commanders on troop welfare issues and casualty reporting in 1997.

Colonel Dapson was not to be kept long out of the cockpit. Once again, in 1998, his reputation resulted in his selection for one of the most competitive billets in the Marine Corps, command of an operational squadron. Colonel Dapson commanded HMM-268, a CH-46 squadron based at Camp Pendleton, California. His record was again one of meticulous attention to detail, combined with compassionate concern for the Marines who served under him; exactly the right mix for the inherently dangerous business of flying military aircraft.

For the last three years, Colonel Dapson has been instrumental in enhancing communication and understanding between the Marine Corps and the Congress. As the Marine Corps Liaison to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, he has worked tirelessly alongside the Professional Staff of both Committees to ensure they had the best possible information on which to base resource allocation and legislative recommendations. From coordinating visits to the Hill by Marine Corps subject matter experts, to traveling the globe with Members and Staff, Colonel Dapson always put in whatever extra effort was necessary to make things go smoothly, and to gain access to crucial pieces of information.

Twenty-six years is a long time to serve, and to put others first. Colonel Dapson is to be commended for the legacy he has left behind, and all those whose lives he has enriched along the way. I hope all Members, especially those who serve on the Armed Services Committees, will join me in saying, "Thanks, Matt," and in wishing this fine American fighting man much success in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ON ITS
NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of its forthcoming National Day. This day commemorates the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911, which led to the downfall of the Qing dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912. The day is celebrated in Taiwan with parades, festivities, and fireworks displays throughout the island.

Over the past 93 years, Taiwan has increasingly become more democratic. Its 2004 presidential election is a testament to this fact. More than 80 percent of eligible Taiwan voters turned out to participate in a free and fair selection of the next Taiwanese President. This commitment to democracy is consistent with the deeply-held values of the American people.

The alliance between the people of Taiwan and the United States is of great importance.

Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and is a valued ally and friend. I wish the Taiwanese people well as they celebrate their National Day, and I am hopeful that the U.S.-Taiwanese relationship will continue to develop well into the future. Taiwan is truly a success story for democracy in Asia and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF MR. LORON HODGE

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Loron Hodge, the Executive Director of the Kern County Farm Bureau. Mr. Hodge will be retiring this fall after 25 years of advocating on behalf of the agricultural community in Kern County.

Loron Hodge was born in Arkansas in 1939, where he lived until his father accepted a job as a foreman on a ranch in Tulare County, California. It was here that Mr. Hodge first learned about farming by working on a family farm with his brother. After working in the Central Valley's agricultural economy, Mr. Hodge worked in sales in Porterville, California until 1970. In 1970, Mr. Hodge moved from Porterville to accept a job as the Assistant Manager at the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hodge was promoted to Manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1979, Mr. Hodge became the Executive Director of the Kern County Farm Bureau. Since that time, his hard work and dedication have made him a valuable advocate for farmers and ranchers in Kern County, California. In his 25 years as Executive Director, Mr. Hodge made many contributions that improved the Farm Bureau's operations and expanded its activities. Mr. Hodge played a vital role in the acquisition of the former Chamber of Commerce building, which is now the current home of the Kern County Farm Bureau. In addition to helping to improve the infrastructure of the Farm Bureau, Mr. Hodge helped to expand the Farm Bureau's agricultural education programs, including Farm Day in the City and the Teacher's Ag Seminar, which educates students and teachers throughout Kern County and America about the importance of the agriculture industry. As a result of his hard work, the Farm Bureau's membership reached an all-time high in 2001.

In addition to his role on the Kern County Farm Bureau, Mr. Hodge is a manager of the Water Association of Kern County and member of the Kern Taxpayers Association, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and the Committee of Industries. In the past, Mr. Hodge has served on the boards of the Kern Historical Society, Project Clean Air and is former secretary of the Coalition to Protect Private Property Rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Loron Hodge for his dedicated service to the San Joaquin Valley and wishing him well upon his retirement from the Kern County Farm Bureau.