

COMMENDING THE BRAVE MEN
AND WOMEN OF THE NAVAL RE-
SERVE CENTER IN BALTIMORE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the brave men and women of the Naval Reserve Center in Baltimore for their bravery and unselfish sacrifice; especially on the afternoon of Saturday, March 6, 2004, when a water taxi carrying 25 passengers suddenly capsized. I would also like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of those who lost their lives as a result of this tragedy.

Last Saturday, on a sunny Spring-like afternoon, a large group, including many related family members, boarded a water taxi near Fort McHenry, in Baltimore, Maryland. These families were calmly crossing the water, when the dark clouds of fate appeared on the horizon. Suddenly, without warning, a violent micro-burst of wind tore through Baltimore's Inner Harbor. On that day, it was reported that winds blew at a rate of more than 55 miles per hour.

Eyewitnesses report that the water taxi, filled with people, was pushed upward and flipped on its belly. One witness, Command Master Chief Melvin Johnson, was going about his regular duties at the nearby Naval Reserve Center. Master Chief Johnson gazed at the sky and noticed the sudden appearance of dark storm clouds approaching. He looked across the harbor from the dock of the Naval Reserve Center and realized that the water taxi carrying 25 passengers would be overtaken by the wind from the approaching storm. In a flash, he saw the boat turned upside down and he immediately sprang into action. He and other members of the Naval Reserve team quickly contacted emergency personnel. At the same time, some of the team members boarded their vessel, a mechanized landing craft (LCM), and rushed to the site of the overturned water taxi. I have been told that the Naval Reserve team reached the overturned vessel within minutes to help the 25 passengers onboard.

The brave men and women of the Naval Reserve team plunged themselves into the frigid waters and used their boat and ingenuity to rescue twelve (12) of the passengers of that over-turned water taxi. The remaining ten who were rescued or recovered were the result of the bravery of the Baltimore City Fire Department team. Sadly, two people died as a result of this horrible tragedy and three people have yet to be recovered. Our prayers are with their families.

Many of these reservists also administered life-saving CPR. As an example of the overall bravery of the Naval Reserve team, Commander Peterson Decker jumped in repeatedly to rescue the passengers and actually lost consciousness many times from the frigid water temperatures. His acts and those of the other reservists can be described as nothing short of completely selfless. They embody the best of the mission of the Naval Reserve Center, an integral part of our military forces.

By all accounts, however, the loss of life would have been much greater if not for the

quick action and unselfish acts of the men and women of the Naval Reserve Center.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many individuals from the Naval Reserve Center who always work tirelessly to reach out to their neighbors in times of emergency. I want to applaud and recognize these heroes by name: Commander Jim McGovern, Command Master Chief Melvin Johnson, Commander Peterson Decker, Senior Chief Vincent Scardina, Petty Officers Jerry Neblett, Sean Tate and Jeffery King, Mr. Arthur Eisenstein, Mr. Jerome Stoney, Chief Ricardo Duncan, Chief Petty Officer Asa Johnson, Petty Officers William Elwood, Patrick McKenna, David Romano, Carlos Andrews, Gregory Baccula, Garren Diggs, Quenton Dixon, Walter Volkman, Henry Zecher, Arturo Spencer, and the triage team, Lt. Commander Phillip Reed, Petty Officers Yolette Scott-Wilson, Stephen Speegle, Cassandra Fish, Wendy Cruse, Gary Harder, Joey Mercer and Renfro Smith. Again, thank you for your bravery and dedication to duty.

**HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR
TIMOTHY C. DUNN**

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Timothy C. Dunn NCOA Commandant of the 124th Regiment of the Vermont Army National Guard, a former member of the Alabama Army National Guard and Alabama native recently returned from Kabul, Afghanistan.

While stationed in Afghanistan, his duties included mentoring and advising the Sergeant Major of the Afghan National Army. During his travels throughout the Afghan Army Battalions, he noticed that the Afghan Army was wearing different rank insignia from the American, French, British and Korean. Sergeant Major Dunn along with two other Sergeant Majors decided to create the insignia of the Afghan National Army. He wanted to create something that the Afghan National Army would be proud to wear.

After the new rank insignia was completed, Sergeant Major Timothy Dunn met with the Afghan Ministry of Defense to see if they liked the idea. To the Sergeant Major's surprise, they liked the new insignia and immediately adopted the new insignia. It is still to be determined as to where the insignia will be located on the uniform. This will soon be decided by the Afghan National Army.

It is with great honor and pride that Sergeant Major Dunn has served our country. To this day his exemplary service has represented our area and moreover this great nation. I applaud him for his courageous and meritorious efforts while serving in the United States Military.

I want to publicly say, not only to Sergeant Major Timothy C. Dunn, but to all the troops serving our country, thank you for your hard work and dedication to this country.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LT.
GOVERNOR HENRY E. MILLIN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual that was not only a leader to the people of the Virgin Islands but a political role model for me and many of us who have chosen a life of public service to the people of the United States Virgin Islands. Former Lt. Governor Henry Allan Millin, one of our most revered public servants, passed on into eternity on February 4, 2004, on St. Thomas.

Henry A. Millin was destined for a life of public service. The son of the pioneering woman senator, Lucinda A. Millin, Henry Millin's contributions to the 20th century modernization of the U.S. Virgin Islands have been significant. He led the way in public housing development, having been appointed Assistant Executive Director of the newly established Virgin Islands Housing Authority in 1950. Mr. Millin later assumed the position of Executive Director.

During his tenure at the Housing Authority, he oversaw the construction of the first public housing units in the Territory. He was commended by President John F. Kennedy for administering one of the outstanding housing operations under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Henry Millin later assumed the distinguished position as a Senior Vice President for First Pennsylvania Bank N.A. This period of distinguished service in the private sector of our community was followed by an even more momentous four-year term (1978-82) as the third elected Lt. Governor of the Virgin Islands during a tumultuous period for Virgin Islanders, following the death of Governor Cyril Emmanuel King.

Mr. Speaker, I fondly remember Mr. Millin as being one of my first bosses, when I interned with the Virgin Islands Housing Authority as a high school student. He was also a close friend of my father, the former District Court Judge Almeric Christian. I consider myself fortunate to have had such a personal relationship with Mr. Millin. He was certainly an inspiration and a role model for me.

Mr. Millin was also a dedicated husband and father. He was married to Graciela G. Millin and was the father of five children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, it is an honor for me to immortalize the memory of Lt. Governor Henry A. Millin by entering this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I want to close with a quote from this great leader and public that exemplifies the spirit with which he served:

The people have the right to look forward to changes, not made hastily, nor on the basis of political spleen nor political favoritism. Rather, changes must be on the basis of careful planning, objective thinking, and the interests of the people being the main and determining factor.

May his memory evoke the legacy of progress that he worked so tirelessly to establish for Virgin Islanders.