

IN RECOGNITION OF MERYL
MENASHE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Meryl Menashe, who was recently named a Museum Teacher Fellow for the 2005–06 academic year by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Meryl, one of only fifteen teachers from across the Nation chosen to be a Museum Teacher Fellow this year, demonstrated extensive knowledge of Holocaust history, a record successful teaching experience, and a history of participation in community and professional organizations. She joins over 200 Museum Teacher Fellows in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's program, all of whom continue to serve as community leaders in Holocaust education.

As a Museum Teacher Fellow, Meryl will create an outreach project to bring Holocaust education to groups outside the walls of the traditional school environment. This may include distance learning, working with adult groups, or conducting programs in schools, the community, or other professional organizations. Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress enough the importance of Holocaust education. We must never forget. We must teach and remember the Holocaust because genocide is real. It is not history, it is reality.

Meryl will be returning to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum throughout the year for further training and to report on her outreach project. Once the 2005–06 academic year is over, she will continue to advance American Holocaust education by supporting future fellows, and, of course, continuing to lead the effort in our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great pride that I rise to commend Meryl Menashe. Her dedication to Holocaust education, a sad but necessary task, is extraordinary and she is well deserving of her appointment as a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teacher Fellow. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Meryl for her efforts and wishing her many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL BAYARD "VIC" TAYLOR

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding American who has given so much to our nation, yet asks for so little—former U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Bayard "Vic" Taylor.

Vic did not just wear the uniform of a United States Marine. From the beginning of his Marine Corps career, he lived the life of a Marine, dedicated to serving his country and improving the primary responsibility of each Marine—to understand and execute the tactics of the rifleman.

Vic first enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1957 and served in Hawaii and the Far East until

his release from military duty in 1960. With the war in Vietnam intensifying, he reenlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967 to fight during what many consider to be the war's darkest years. The Second Battalion, Fourth Marines were fortunate to have Vic as both a rifle platoon and company commander, where he was awarded the distinguished Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Combat V, two Purple Hearts, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

In the jungles and battlefields of Vietnam, Vic quickly became familiar with intense and close quarter combat. Aside from leading a number of attacks against North Vietnamese Army fortifications along the Cua Viet River, he fought in the infamous battle for Dai Do. For many Vietnam veterans, the battle for Dai Do is not only a story of extreme heroism and courage, but also remains a testament to the brave men and fighting spirit of the United States Marine Corps. The victory at Dai Do can be credited to the extraordinary bravery, competence, initiative, toughness, and selflessness of individual Marines and small unit leaders like Vic Taylor who carried the day.

Vic's demonstrated knowledge of infantry tactics, techniques, and weaponry led to an assignment as an instructor at the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, where he was later tasked with the responsibility of creating an improved Infantry Officer's Course (IOC). The need for such a course was predicated on the threat posed by our Cold War enemies and its purpose was to ensure Marines possessed the knowledge and training beyond basic infantry courses that were completed by officers in all occupational fields.

With the first class scheduled for May of 1977, Vic immediately gathered two equally creative and knowledgeable Marines, Terry Paul and Will Oler, as partners in this endeavor. They first determined the course should prepare newly acquainted infantry officers for the realities of combat. This meant managing a rifle platoon, obtaining increased weapons proficiency, and leading a rifle company in the event the Captain is either wounded or killed. However, during the course's development, it grew beyond expectations and featured not only tactics and weaponry, but also communications, demolitions, rough terrain skills and operations. While part of the instruction was derived from existing Marine Corps field manuals, much of it was original, drawn from Vic's personal experiences.

The IOC was completed on schedule and graduated its first class in June of 1977. The Marine Corps had a new Lieutenant, schooled to confront the dangers of combat and lead his fellow Marine through its peril.

The course has since increased in breadth and length, and rather than a six week curriculum as originally planned, it has expanded to 13 weeks and now includes an instructive desert operation course that has undoubtedly prepared our Marines for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Vic took great pride in knowing that this course would challenge each infantry officer with extreme circumstances and unique environments, similar to what he faced in the battle of Dai Do.

The infantryman shares a common bond that unlike many other service occupations, strengthens amongst trial and adversity. Their necessity, coupled with their sacrifice, should never be forgotten in the minds of Americans

and will surely never be forgotten in the mind of the Marine. For each distinguished graduate leaving the IOC, nothing is more appropriate than expressing appreciation for this type of warrior's accomplishment than honoring him with tools of the trade. Knowing that the respect and history of the infantry lives in its weaponry, Vic thought it essential to provide each distinguished IOC graduate with a .45 caliber automatic Colt pistol—the weapon he often resorted to in combat and the weapon many of these Marines will continue to rely on in similar circumstances. He took it upon himself and endowed the Marine Corps University Foundation to maintain this distinguished award in perpetuity, citing each of these Marines as "the Lieutenant I'd most like to have on my flank."

Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." While I fully believe this to be true, I also feel that it is the service and dedication of Marines like Vic Taylor that validates this statement. Without his contribution and concern, it is likely that our fighting men and women on the ground would not have the knowledge and experience they possess today.

Despite Vic's retirement from the military in 1985, his leadership and guidance continues to serve the Marine Corps and will do so for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in giving the thanks and respect Bayard "Vic" Taylor deserves for his service to the Marine Corps and to our nation.

CONGRATULATING CWA PRESIDENT
MORTON BAHR ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Morton "Morty" Bahr, on his retirement as President of the Communications Workers of America after over 50 years of service to the union and the nation.

Morty Bahr has been with CWA for longer than I have been in Congress, and together we have fought and won many battles on behalf of working men and women. After his service as a radio operator for the Merchant Marine during World War II, Morty joined CWA in 1951 as an in-plant organizer for Mackay Radio and Telegraph in New York. In 1957, he joined the staff of CWA and succeeded in his first assignment: organizing 24,000 plant workers at New York Telephone. He later served as vice president of District 1 covering New York, New Jersey and New England, and was elected CWA president in 1985.

When Morty assumed the top leadership role, CWA was still reeling from the breakup of the AT&T Bell System, a system that employed half a million union workers. After the split, both labor and management recognized that workers would need to develop new skills to remain competitive within AT&T and throughout the industry. Under Morty's leadership, the union formed the Alliance for Competitive Growth and Development, an innovative partnership dedicated to the career success of each individual union-represented

worker. I am happy to say that the Alliance has been a great success, with 170,000 participants, nearly 1 million course enrollments and over 12.5 million hours of training.

Morty Bahr is a pioneer of the Information Age. His effort to furnish workers with the tools they need to improve their lives not only created the telecommunications technicians who are integral to our economy, but it also made America the leader in all manner of communications. This effort is of particular importance today, as America faces the daunting task of maintaining its role as a global leader in the research and development of new science and technology.

The Alliance is only one of the many revolutionary partnerships and programs Morty has guided and nurtured throughout his career. Others include the National Coalition for Telecommunications Education and Learning (NACTEL), one of the first partnerships of major telecom companies working together with their unions to advance education. NACTEL is an online learning partnership with CWA, IBEW, Verizon, SBC, Qwest and Citizens/Frontier.

Morty and his wife Florence recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and have two children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. As Morty begins his retirement, I hope you will join me in wishing Florence and him a healthy and relaxing journey. His heartfelt dedication to the workers of this nation will not be forgotten.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAGNA
CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Campagna Center, the leading nonprofit human services organization in the city of Alexandria, Virginia. For 60 years, the Campagna Center has served low-income citizens in my district, providing both Early Head Start and Head Start programs to over 300 income-eligible families. The center also provides child care, tutoring, and mentoring programs to school-aged children, and meaningful volunteer opportunities to older members of my district.

The work of organizations like the Campagna Center is crucial to the development of children who come from lower-income households, offering the opportunity to truly level the playing field for these children and prepare them for school. The programs offered at the Campagna Center include early childhood education, as well as health and nutritional services. The Campagna Center, however, recognizes that family is the most important influence in a child's life, and parents and other family members are strongly encouraged to be active contributors to these programs.

Recognition of this wonderful organization is especially poignant as this body debates HR 2123, School Readiness Act of 2005. It has been said that Education is the great equalizer in a democratic society, and we must ensure that programs like these continue to receive the funding required to help children achieve. The impact of Head Start programs is not measured in dollars, but in the faces of children who finally have the opportunity to excel in their education.

The Campagna Center has provided such opportunities to students in my home district, and the impact on these children is significant. I congratulate the Board of Directors, staff members, and all of the selfless volunteers that make this organization such a success. Under their leadership, hundreds of young children go to school prepared for the challenges that lie before them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PETS
EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION
STANDARDS (PETS) ACT
OF 2005

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by my colleagues, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut, Mr. DON YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JAMES OBERSTAR of Minnesota, and Mr. BARNETT FRANK of Massachusetts to urge our colleagues to join with me in introducing H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2005. This common sense legislation would simply require state and local preparedness groups to include

plans for evacuating pet and service animals in the event of a major disaster.

The destructive force of Hurricane Katrina exposed many flaws in our nation's emergency preparedness programs, and any disaster plan's top priority must be to save citizens from the affected areas. One easily correctible issue that has come to light, however, is the fact that many of our cities' plans do not incorporate a protocol for rescuing pet owners. Without a corrected protocol, pet owners are unnecessarily forced to choose between their own safety and the safety of their pets.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, in order for a state to qualify for FEMA funding, state and local emergency preparedness authorities are required to submit a plan on how they will deal with a disaster. This legislation does not transfer any funds from planners or rescuers, but rather requires states to include how they plan to accommodate their incumbent pet population as well as people with disabilities that are aided by service animals. FEMA will require the jurisdictions to submit their emergency preparedness plans in order to be eligible for FEMA funding assistance in the event of a disaster.

In hurricane-ravaged New Orleans, the lack of planning added to the burden and stress of both rescuers and residents. In a city of 500,000 as many as 69 percent of the people are pet owners and, by some estimates, there are as many as 600,000 pets and animals affected by the devastation of hurricane Katrina. Private rescue organizations estimate they have saved about 5,000 animals so far and have reunited only 600 animals with their owners. Estimates indicate there are an equal percentage of pet owners nationwide. Given these statistics, we hope you agree an emergency plan that incorporates pets is warranted.

Mr. Speaker, the faces of the men and women stranded in flooded New Orleans will be forever etched in my mind. The images of little children with nothing in the world other than the shirts on their backs still disturb me at night. But I cannot help but wonder how many more people could have been spared the wrath of Hurricane Katrina if only they could have taken the family pet.