

The historic clash of these two titans of college football, is more than just a ball game between two rivals, the event itself, themed a “salute to our military troops” is an opportunity for us to pause and celebrate the tremendous role that we as African Americans and as former, current and future leaders of men and women play in the success of our great nation.

As many of you know, African-Americans have a proud and rich tradition of service to our nation. From Crispus Attucks, born a slave, who was the first casualty of the Revolutionary War to the oldest Buffalo Soldier and Calverlyman, Sergeant Mark Matthews, who fought under General Pershing in the Spanish American War and recently died at age 111; from the Black Union Soldiers who volunteered and fought in America's Civil War, to July 19, 1941, when during World War II, a program began in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots, a squadron of fighter pilots that we now know as the Tuskegee Airmen.

We honor and recognize those African-American servicemen and women who have served in the Korean War, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm, as well as the brave soldiers, sailors and marines who continue to serve in our Nation's global war on terror. Officers and soldiers trained by institutions such as Morehouse College and Tuskegee University have and continue to fight for freedom. We pay tribute to them today, as we honor the courageous men and women, here at Fort Benning and around the world who dedicate their lives for their country.

Therefore, I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as those present at this year's 70th Annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Football Classic to join me in saluting our military troops. We pause in celebration and in recognition of their service and sacrifice on our behalf.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of the Republic of China's (Taiwan) Independence Day, a day commonly referred to as Double 10 Day. Double 10 Day celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911, which led to the collapse of the Qing dynasty. It is therefore also known in Chinese as National Celebration Day. I am proud to join with the people of Taiwan and their leader President Chen Shui-bian in commemorating the Chinese people's struggle for independence.

Double 10 Day offers those of us in Congress an opportunity to recognize Taiwan's friendship and unwavering alliance with the United States. This strong alliance is predicated in part on shared values. In fact, Taiwan has nurtured a stable democracy and vibrant economy that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit. Taiwan has also become a model society. It has excellent schools, outstanding medical care, a strong economy, and many of its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living. Taiwan's social welfare programs have been making laudable efforts to raise the standard of living for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would also take this opportunity to praise the good work of Taiwan Representative David Tawei Lee. He is a fine diplomat who has kept those of us in Congress well informed and well briefed on all of the latest developments in Taiwan.

Again, congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their Independence Day and I wish the 23 million people of Taiwan continued progress and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE SLIGER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and an outstanding Central Florida businessman, Stephen Blair Sliger, passed away on October 4, 2005.

He is a native of Deland, Florida where was he born on November 21, 1952. Steve Sliger was preceded in death by his brother, Gus A. Sliger. Gus, also a close friend, lost his life 10 years ago in a tragic motorcycle accident. Steve headed Sliger and Associates of Port Orange, FL founded by his late brother.

A wonderful father and husband, he was dedicated to his family, his community, and his business.

To Steve's wife, Sonia, his sons Adam and Noah, his father Gus A. Sliger, II and all of his family, we extend our deepest sympathy. They have lost a loved one. I have lost a good friend and our community has lost a great American.

HONORING LIMA COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 25TH REGIMENT UPON THEIR RETURN HOME FROM IRAQ

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Ohio has shouldered an enormous share of the sacrifice, but no one has shouldered a greater share than the Marines and families of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, based in my hometown of Columbus. On August 3, 2005, this brave group of soldiers lost nine of their brethren in western Iraq. Since its deployment in March, Lima Company has lost fifteen of its 160 men.

The 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines' reputation is legendary. First activated on May 1, 1943, “3/25” captured a key airfield at the Battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific. The battalion fought heroically in the battles of Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan, Tinian, and Colonel Justice Marino Chambers received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery as Commander of the 3/25 at Iwo Jima. After being deactivated at the end of WWII, the battalion was reactivated in January of this year, and headed to Iraq in March.

It truly is impossible for us to fully comprehend the dangerous mission these valiant Marines have undertaken in Iraq. They've

been tasked with the most strategic yet risky assignments, often moving from town to town, door to door, in search of armed insurgents along the Euphrates River. And as desperate insurgents have been staging more frequent and deadly attacks on our armed forces, Lima Company endured the brunt of these attacks on that fateful day in August and laid to rest nine brave soldiers.

When confronted with a loss as great as this, we all search for some perspective, trying to balance the sacrifices made by these brave Marines with the vital mission our soldiers are carrying out in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We take some solace in knowing that because of the commitment and dedication to freedom by America's soldiers and those of our allies, more people in the Middle East region are living in freedom under democratically elected governments than at any point in the history of this region. We have witnessed free elections in Palestine and the election of a leader committed to achieving lasting peace. Saudi Arabia has held elections, and Syria has ended its occupation of Lebanon. Libya's nuclear program has been dismantled, and Egypt is allowing for challengers to compete in a public election against the sitting president. This democratic domino effect portends a safer, freer future for the people of the Middle East and the rest of the world.

As Lima Company returns home to Ohio, the Iraqi people are about to embark on a monumental endeavor—casting a vote on their very own Constitution—drafted by officials they selected just ten months ago in a free and fair election. I have to think that the crossing of these two meaningful events is not coincidental. There is far too much symbolism. This Constitution is a tangible and lasting symbol of freedom and liberty in a part of the world that for centuries has known neither, yet without the brave sacrifices of Lima Company, and all of America's armed forces, they would probably never know. Thank you, Lima Company, for your bravery, heroism, and sacrifice. We welcome you home.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN KREB OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin Horton Kreb, deputy director of the California Conservation Corps and a distinguished citizen of Humboldt County, CA. He is being honored for his contribution to one of our Nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. His commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mr. Kreb, a graduate of Humboldt State University, has served with distinction at the California Conservation Corps since 1980. He began his career as a conservation administrator and spent many years as the district director for northern California. In the past year he was singled out to become the chief deputy director in the State of California.

Mel was a founding member of the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and the Salmonid Restoration Federation. He has received numerous awards for his restoration

work, including the Renew America Foundation Award and the Chevron Times Mirror Conservation Award. From the Salmonid Restoration Federation he was presented with the distinguished Nat Bingham Restorationist of the Year award.

Mel Kreb has been unflagging in his commitment to his community. In addition to his long and distinguished career in the California Conservation Corps, Mel has served on numerous boards of directors, including the Humboldt State Alumni Association, the Backcountry Horsemen of California and the Humboldt Democratic Central Committee. He was a charter member of the Fortuna Certified Farmer's Market and is active in the Fortuna Kiwanis as well as serving as the chair of the Redcrest Volunteer Fire Department.

Mel's dedication to his community has been shared by his wife Hollis and passed along to their children Gabriel and Helena.

Mel is being recognized this year for his outstanding contributions to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as the "Democrat of the Year, 2005."

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Melvin Horton Kreb for his contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made our country a great nation.

TRIBUTE TO MARY RITA GENDRON

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Mary Rita Downing Gendron. Mary passed away on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, at the age of 84. Mary was born in Lowell on December 24, 1920, the daughter of John and Rose Purcell Downing. For 60 years, she was the beloved wife of the late Arthur W. Gendron, a former Lowell firefighter.

Mrs. Gendron is survived by three daughters and two sons, Geraldine R. McSwiggin and her husband Jack of Dracut, William A. Gendron and his wife Paula Skrekas, Patricia A. Tobin and her husband Kevin, Christine G. Florence and her husband William, and Stephen J. Gendron and his wife Katherine Kijanka, all of Lowell, as well as a son-in-law Bruce G. Johnson, also of Lowell.

She is also survived by four sisters-in-law, and three brothers-in-law, Barbara McSweeney Downing, formerly of Lowell, Leo and Terry Gendron, Francis and Jane Gendron, both of Lowell, and Gerald and Terry Gendron of Salem, NH.

She was the mother of the late Mary R. Gendron Johnson, sister of the late John W. Downing, Harold Downing, Christine Downing Lisien, Gertrude and Madeline Downing, and the sister-in-law of the late Elizabeth Armstrong Downing, Walter Lisien, Gladys Gendron Lowell, Leighton, Leonard and Raymond Gendron.

Mrs. Gendron leaves 20 grandchildren, Meredith Johnson Wall, Kirsten Johnson, Katie McSwiggin Cochran, Laurie McSwiggin Tirado, Maureen and John McSwiggin, Daniel, Tricia and Kristina Tobin, William, Maggie and Patrick Florence, Kathleen, Elena, William, Paul, Stephen, Matthew, Michael and Christopher

Gendron, 3 great-grandchildren, Julia and Hannah Cochran and Alex Tirado, and many nieces and nephews.

I ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eloquent words that Steven Gendron, Mary's son, wrote and delivered at his Mother's funeral.

It is an honor for me to stand here today and share the collective reflections of my brother and sisters, Gerry, Billy, Patty, Chrissie and me, about the life of my Mom. I have to tell you, that everyone of us wanted to do this, but, I'm the baby, and I usually get my way.

I stopped into a photo store a couple days ago to get copies of some pictures that we wanted to display at the wake and funeral. I explained to the saleswoman what I wanted, and I didn't notice an old acquaintance of mine standing at the counter just a few feet away. When the sales lady stepped away, the old friend surprised me by saying "Are you having a celebration Steve?" "Oh Hi," I replied, "No, actually, my Mom passed away yesterday and we just wanted to display some pictures at the wake." Now the woman felt bad and said, "oh, I'm sorry to hear that." The sales lady returned and I finished my business, and as I walked out of the store, the old friend said, "Steve, you know, it will be a celebration . . . a celebration of her life." I was touched by the comment and I said, "you're right, it will be a celebration."

So, we're happy to see all of you here today, to help us celebrate the life of a woman we all loved.

And Mary loved to celebrate. She loved to dance, and she loved to sing. We can all remember her singing around the house all the time. I have a vivid memory of her when I was about 6 years old, one of those memories that is so clear it's like a little video clip in your mind. She's walking across the kitchen, while I'm eating breakfast, snapping her fingers and singing, "Nothing could be finer, than to be in Carolina, in the morning". I don't think she'd ever been to Carolina, except maybe for a stopover on the drive down to Florida, but she liked the song, singing it made her happy, and it made us happy too.

And she loved to be with her friends. Back in the old days there were the Bon Ton Girls, a group of high school friends that would hang together and go to dances. I saw a few of the Bon Ton Girls last night, and one of them told me how they would run their own fundraisers, to rent a place at the beach during the summer. Kay McCabe can give you more details on that little group if you're interested.

And then there was the "Club," the group of Gendron sisters-in-law, and a few honorary sisters-in-law, that would get together on Saturday evenings when the boys were off playing cards. We can remember them meeting in the "parlor", or front room, of our house on A Street. They'd bring their knitting, they'd sit, they'd chat and laugh up a storm.

And then later in life there was the Clark Rd. knitting group that would get together for much the same type of thing on a regular basis.

Mom was completely, and totally dedicated to her family. She could teach our politicians a few things about family values. And she probably learned those from her own close family growing up. Her brother Johnny was like a father to her, and Uncle John and Aunt Sis were like grandparents to us. She adored her sister Tina, and her brother Harold meant the world to her.

In our family, she was our foundation; always in the background—always there to support us. Growing up my brother and sisters and I never really worried about any-

thing. There was no problem that seemed too big, no hurdle that seemed too high, nothing we couldn't accomplish. Because our foundation was strong—Mom was always there to support and encourage us.

Mom taught us many things. She taught us about love and commitment through her relationship with my father. For 60 years most everybody knew her as half of either Mary & Arthur, Ma & Dad or Nana & Grampy. It was a true lifelong love story. She waited for him while he fought the Nazis, and when he returned there was no turning back. Oh, don't get me wrong, they had trying moments like any couple, but in the end they cared more about each other than they did themselves. And there was never any question that they would be together to the end.

Mary was truly a professional wife and mother. She had all the qualifications:

Cooking: Mary would best be termed an Irish Cook. There was never a recipe book in our house, yet there was always a stew or spaghetti in the big silver pot on the stove, and if a few extra people showed up, well a can of soup and a bottle of ketchup could stretch it a long way.

And you know, Arthur was one of those guys who expected dinner to be on the table and hot when he arrived home from work. In the morning, coffee was to be percolated, never that instant stuff. Well, Billy tells the story of how one morning he caught Mom reaching deep into the cabinet for a bottle of Taster's Choice. She gave him a wink and a "Shhh" as she poured it into the coffee pot. That morning, and every morning, Arthur thought the coffee was delicious. I wonder how many times it really was fresh brewed.

Sewing: Mom's sewing machine was always humming, but her sewing skills mirrored her cooking skills. She was no seamstress but had functional sewing skills. She was good at modifying what she had. Gerry remembers her hemming and altering everything, and it wasn't uncommon for this year's new dress to be an updated version of last year's.

Ironing: You haven't worn a shirt until you've worn one ironed by Mary Gendron. Never a wrinkle. She even put starch in your underwear. Except there was the time that she burned an iron-sized hole into Chrissie's bridesmaid dress, 2 days before Patty's wedding. Fortunately her functional sewing skills kicked in and she patched it up, and nobody knew the difference.

Home Decorating: With the change of seasons Mom would make new curtains, rearrange the furniture or paint the room. It used to drive my Father crazy because she'd usually end up painting the windows shut.

Shopping: Mom was the ultimate bargain hunter. She loved nothing more to spend the days with Mrs. Barrows or one of her other "chums", as she would call them, out sifting through the bins in search of a good deal. She was always in search of something nice for her kids or grandkids at a price that fit her budget.

Typing: My mother was actually an accomplished secretary. She could type like the wind and she was an excellent speller. She never obtained a college degree, but based on the number of college papers she proofread and typed, we figure she's earned at least six.

Mom was so proud of her kids and her grandkids. She'd beam when she told you that we were all college educated and successful in our careers. And her pride only increased as our own families began to blossom. She treated her daughters and sons-in-law as if they were her own, and she always made time for each of her 20 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, making each one of them feel special.

As you all know, for the last 10 years or so, my mother has been a victim of Alzheimer's Disease. It is a terrible disease that my father once termed a "living death". At first,