

service and contributions deserve to be recognized and commended, and I hope my colleagues will join me today in honoring these two American heroes.

TRIBUTE TO BEDFORD SPRINGS RESORT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the Bedford Springs Resort, a historic landmark in Bedford, PA. Founded in 1796 by Dr. John Anderson, the Bedford Springs served the Nation as a place of peace, tranquility and healing until its doors closed in 1990. The resort has been completely restored and will host its grand opening in August.

In its prime, the Bedford Springs Resort served many of our Nation's leading citizens, including U.S. Presidents, heads of state, and celebrities. President James Buchanan was a frequent guest of the resort, using it as a summer White House during his presidency. In 1858, President Buchanan received the first Trans-Atlantic cable from Queen Victoria in the resort's lobby. The Bedford Springs Resort is also the only place outside of Washington, DC, that all of the Supreme Court members stayed together. During their visit in 1855 the Justices discussed the Dred Scott case. In addition to its service to national figures, the resort was also utilized by the United States military. During World War II, Bedford Springs served as a Naval Communications Training Center, hosting over 7,000 Navy personnel. It was designated a national Historic Landmark in 1984 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The resort's rich history is matched only by its grandeur, newly restored after a multimillion dollar renovation.

The Bedford Springs restoration began in 2005, when developers began combining history with luxury, adding modern day amenities to its original features. The springs will no doubt draw thousands of visitors to the Bedford area, showcasing Pennsylvania's beauty and serenity. The Bedford Springs Resort will provide a soothing atmosphere in which visitors may relax and enjoy the majestic scenery of the countryside and the Allegheny Mountains. I look forward to the grand opening of the Bedford Springs Resort, as it will bring a greater appreciation to our area and will surely be an asset to the community.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN GOODIRON

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a fallen soldier, Corporal Nathan Goodiron.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN GOODIRON

(By Albert Caswell)

An eagle above our nation soars on high,
With but his courage and character and
Goodiron, the very bed of freedom he so
provides,

All so in peace and liberty, all so we may
lead our lives!

Goodiron, of great heart,
A Young Eagle, of this earth . . . of the
Mandan . . . a work of art,
Of the best, of great Native American Indian
. . . of great value,
As his fine true worth . . . this man, his
heart.

A good man,
Of warm heart and character, of great atti-
tude . . . who to our world so lent his
hand,
Who gave his life, of iron in the midst of
strife . . . where strength begins, and
ends . . .

Of good heart, where brave men stand.

Forever, a hero first
Strength in honor, of dream time fame . . .
lies Goodiron . . . as is your fine life's
verse,

Of brave warrior fame of old, who loved the
land . . . who loved the earth,
And all its great soul here first.

Your smile, than one . . . a great American
son,

Who went off to war, this one . . . to cast the
light of freedom's sun . . . as yes did
you,

Our most splendid of all ones,
For when we think of you, Goodiron . . . it
warms our souls, just like the great
bright sun of old,

And a breeze from above,
Running throughout the mountain tops, into
the valley runs . . . you and your love
. . .

Out on the river it flows,
Your spirit, Goodiron so . . . we see you, we
hear you, we feel and touch you . . . as
ever it grows.

To heaven my son, you have gone . . .
With all of those true of heart, with all of
those fine souls of iron . . . who so do
belong . . .

Goodiron, a man of heart . . . an American
hero with your ancestors, you are now
a part . . .

As ever living on . . .
Goodiron, Goodheart, American's son . . . our
Lord's work of art

Good Iron
In honor of a great American hero . . . Na-
than Goodiron . . . and may your fam-
ily find peace, bless them!

INTRODUCING THE "PORT CHICAGO NAVAL MAGAZINE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 63rd anniversary of America's worst home-front disaster of World War II. This weekend, the National Park Service will join the community in commemorating the anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion and honoring those who were injured and gave their lives for their country.

I am introducing legislation today that honors the anniversary of Port Chicago by improving and enhancing the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, in my district in California.

Thousands of tons of ammunition exploded on the night of July 17, 1944, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in the east San Fran-

cisco Bay area. The blasts instantly killed 320 sailors, wounded hundreds more, and damaged and destroyed merchant ships, the pier, a train, and the buildings of Port Chicago. Less than a month after the tragedy, three divisions were ordered to resume work at a new site a few miles away. Most of the men refused to continue their dangerous tasks until supervision, training, and working conditions were improved. In response, the Navy charged fifty men with conspiring to mutiny; all were convicted.

The majority of the men killed while handling ordinance at Port Chicago, and all of those convicted of mutiny, were African-American. This injustice had clear racial implications, and was a turning point in our Nation's history. Following the conviction, Thurgood Marshall, then a lawyer with the NAACP, took up the case. The Port Chicago disaster and its aftermath strongly influenced America's move towards racial equality, including the Navy's move toward desegregation in 1945, and President Truman's 1948 Executive Order desegregating the Armed Forces and guaranteeing "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

Recognizing the importance of the site to our Nation's history, I sponsored legislation in the 102nd Congress to designate the site of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine as a national memorial. Since the bill became law in 1992, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial has been managed by the National Park Service to remind Americans of the contributions made by the Port Chicago sailors.

Today, to honor the anniversary of the 1944 disaster, I am introducing the "Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007," a new bill designed to increase the National Memorial's accessibility, provide additional visitor services, and preserve the site for future generations.

The legislation enhances the memorial in several ways. First, it directs the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System. Second, when the site is determined to be excess to military needs, this new bill would transfer the property to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

In order to improve public access to the Memorial, this legislation authorizes the Interior Department to work with the City of Concord and the East Bay Regional Park District to establish and operate a facility for visitor orientation and parking, administrative offices, and curatorial storage for the Memorial. Finally, the legislation directs the Defense Department and the Interior Department to work together to repair storm damage to the site.

I am including for the record a letter I received today in support of the Act from the president of the National Parks Conservation Association. As Mr. Kiernan says, the story of Port Chicago "deserves commemoration at the highest possible level, and clearly is worthy of being fully vested in the care of the National Park Service, the guardians of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage."

This new bill will protect and enhance the memorial, and will allow future generations to honor this important moment in American history. I urge my colleagues to support the Port

Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007.

NATIONAL PARKS
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2007.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MILLER: On behalf of the 330,000 members of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), I am writing to express our strong support for your bill changing the designation by the Port Chicago Memorial from an affiliated NPS site to a full unit of the National Park System. This legislation brings the nation one step closer to fully honoring those whose service and sacrifice exacted such a heavy toll in blood and honor.

As you know, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine was the scene of a deadly explosion on July 17, 1944, which claimed the lives of 320 sailors and civilians and wounded 400 more. The blast, felt up to 500 miles away, occurred as merchant ships were being loaded with 5,000 tons of high explosives. Unaddressed concerns about safety led to a refusal by African American sailors assigned to an ordnance battalion to load or unload other ships. The subsequent court martial of 258 of these men on charges of bad conduct and mutiny was a highly controversial decision with decidedly racial overtones.

Establishing the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial as a fully-fledged unit of the National Park System will complete work first started in 1990, when formal efforts to create a memorial first began. The explosion, work stoppage, and mutiny trial, provide invaluable insights into the injustice of racial discrimination, the African American

experience in the U.S. military, and home front life during the Second World War.

You are to be commended for the many years you have championed this cause and honored the legacy of the surviving veterans. This story deserves commemoration at the highest possible level and clearly is worthy of being fully vested in the care of the National Park Service, the guardians of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. We pledge to do all we can to help see your bill enacted into law.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. KIERNAN,
President.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HERBERT WOODARD, SR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on July 4, 2007, Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr., a resident of my home community of Wilson, North Carolina will celebrate his 100th birthday. And on July 8th, Mr. Woodard's family, friends and members of the community will join together to pay special tribute to this extraordinary man.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Woodard all of my life as a family friend and neighbor. A remarkable person with an entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Woodard was born during a period in our history when significant educational opportunities were not available to Af-

frican-Americans. As a result, Mr. Woodard only received a fourth grade education. Notwithstanding this tremendous obstacle, Mr. Woodard's work ethic demonstrates that diligence and determination produce lifetime rewards. As a self-employed businessman, Mr. Woodard's businesses have ranged from that of a gas station to baseball parks and hotels. He sold and delivered coal to local businesses, and has even cleaned septic tanks. As an accomplished and humble businessman, he has gained the respect and admiration of his community.

Madam Speaker, although a skilled and savvy businessman, Mr. Woodard always makes a practice of giving back to the community. Each holiday season, Mr. Woodard gives turkeys to senior citizens at his church. He also donates to charitable organizations that provide services to children and veterans.

Mr. Woodard and his devoted wife of many years, Mrs. Georgia Battle Woodard have nurtured a strong and loving family. During a recent visit to the Woodard home, I asked Mr. Woodard to what does he attribute his longevity, and he said "I took care of my family." What a powerful statement in so few words.

Madam Speaker, It is with great pride that I acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr. His many accomplishments have made him a well respected person in our community. It is with extreme pride that I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in marking this monumental occasion in the life of Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr.