

He set the tone for his team with his enthusiastic leadership. He wrote detailed Standards of Operating Procedure that are still used today and will be for the duration of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I salute the great work done by Lt. Col. Altiery under exhausting conditions while maintaining his extraordinary technical skill and expertise. As well as thank him for his meritorious service to our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast floor votes during the week of October 8, 2007, and on October 15, 2007, because of a death in the family.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 958, 960, 961, 962, and 963, and "no" on rollcall votes 956, 957, 959.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Monday, October 15 through mid-day Tuesday, October 16, due to an illness in the family.

If I were present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 961, "yea" on rollcall vote 962, "yea" on rollcall vote 963, "no" on rollcall vote 964, "no" on rollcall vote 965, "no" on rollcall vote 966, "no" on rollcall vote 967, "yea" on rollcall vote 968, "yea" on rollcall vote 969, "yea" on rollcall vote 970, and "yea" on rollcall vote 971.

#### HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALTRANS STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND INVESTIGATIONS

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated professionals of the California Department of Transportation's Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations, which is marking its 80th anniversary of service to the people of the Golden State.

In 1927, while Babe Ruth swatted 60 home runs and Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic Ocean solo, the State of California showed the wisdom and foresight to create a special branch of engineering experts to ensure the safety and reliability of its State highways and bridges.

Babe Ruth's home run mark fell in 1961 to the bat of Roger Maris and air travel over the

"pond" became a routine occurrence. All the while, California's bridge maintenance program has stood the test of time and continues to deliver on its mission of providing Californians with a safe and dependable network of bridges carrying traffic and pedestrians over rivers, canyons, railroads, highways and city streets all across the Golden State.

That effort is still paying dividends for California and the Nation. More than 24,000 State and local agency bridges in California reliably serve millions of travelers and billions of dollars of commerce because of the ongoing care provided by Structure Maintenance & Investigations staff. These structures run the gamut from the majestic San Francisco-Oakland Bay and San Diego-Coronado bridges to the historic arch spans along the scenic Monterey Coast and the tens of thousands of unassuming concrete, steel and timber bridges dotting the California landscape.

The safety and reliability of California's bridges has been instrumental in fueling one of the world's largest economies. More than 160 million vehicle trips are recorded on California's transportation system each day.

Caltrans Structure Maintenance & Investigations engineering personnel have conducted more than 650,000 routine inspections and thousands of special hydraulic, steel and underwater bridge inspections since 1927. They look for any signs of deterioration, fatigue or distress in bridge decks, superstructures and substructures, and the office has initiated tens of millions of dollars in repairs to ensure the safety and structural integrity of each public agency bridge in California.

Thanks to the ongoing dedication of the Structure Maintenance & Investigations professionals no public agency bridge in California has ever collapsed due to neglect. The bridge inspection program pioneered by Structure Maintenance & Investigations has become the model for transportation agencies around the Nation and the world.

As part of its ongoing bridge maintenance program, Structure Maintenance & Investigations maintains a library of more than one million documents, some dating back more than 100 years, documenting the history of each public agency bridge in California.

Structure Maintenance & Investigations personnel have responded in a timely and heroic fashion to a myriad of natural and manmade disasters to protect public safety and complete any needed repairs to California's transportation system. While their efforts have been well chronicled in major disasters such as the 1989 Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, SM&I personnel routinely answer the call to protect public safety. Such a case occurred last year in California's Sonoma County where two engineers risked their own safety to inspect the Highway 128 bridge over the rampaging Russian River near Guerneville. The engineers determined that the floodwaters had compromised the integrity of the bridge. They closed the structure and initiated a project that resulted in construction of a new bridge.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate for us to convey to all the dedicated professionals at the California Department of Transportation Office of Structure Maintenance & Investigations the thanks of a grateful state for years of dedicated service ensuring the safety and reliability of our transportation system.

#### HONORING ROSAMOND BEATRICE OCTOBER

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Rosamond Beatrice October is 100 years old and the United States was fortunate to woo her from her native Guyana. She was born there on November 6, 1907 and has lived through perhaps the most remarkable age in the world's history.

In 1928 she and William October were married and had two children before they adopted several more. She was a successful caterer in Guyana and in 1973, at an age when most people have retired; she came to America and continued her successful catering operations.

She is a grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 14, and aunt of several nieces and nephews. She lives with her daughter, Claudette Cox, in the Bronx and is the oldest member of the Eastchester Presbyterian Church. She attributes her long life to her faith and trust in God. And we thank God for allowing Mrs. October to remain with us and share her gifts of love and experience with us all.

I offer her my sincere wishes for the happiest of birthdays and congratulate her for a long and successful life.

#### THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Free Flow of Information Act, H.R. 2102, legislation that would prevent journalists from being forced to reveal their confidential sources in legal proceedings.

This important bill has strong bipartisan support and the endorsement of countless news organizations and the Newspaper Association of America.

The "press shield" is critical to the functioning of our democracy. Compelling reporters to testify and reveal the identity of confidential sources hinders the free flow of information. Many people with important information about government wrongdoing would rather stay quiet than reveal their identities. Sometimes the only way a reporter can gain access to a source's information, and bring it to the public's attention, is by guaranteeing that source confidentiality.

H.R. 2102 strikes a common sense balance between the public's need for information and fair justice. It would compel reporters to reveal the identity of a source if the court finds it necessary to prevent "imminent and actual harm to national security" or "imminent death or significant bodily harm."

The First Amendment states that, "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The Founding Fathers clearly envisioned a free press that would enable the electorate to make informed decisions and hold the government in check. That's precisely what this bill would do.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2012 and protect the free press that our Founders envisioned.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
CAREER OF REPRESENTATIVE  
LOUIS W. STOKES

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a former Member of this body, Louis W. Stokes, for his contributions both in service to our Nation and to the State of Ohio. Representative Stokes has made significant strides in increasing benefits to veterans in the Cleveland area, and through his work on the Appropriations Committee, he brought significant increases in revenue to the Cleveland's East Side. He was recently inaugurated into the Karamu House Hall of Fame for his contributions to the continued legacy of Cleveland's black settlement house and theatre.

Louis Stokes was born in Cleveland and grew up in one of the Nation's first federally funded housing projects, the Outhwaite Homes. He served in the Army during World War II, attended Western Reserve University and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and began practicing law in Cleveland in 1953. In 1968, Stokes argued the seminal "stop and frisk" Terry v. Ohio case in front of the United States Supreme Court. He was elected to the House in 1968, representing the 21st District and then the newly created 11th District, both on Cleveland's East Side. He was Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, charged with investigating the murders of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. He also served on the House committee that investigated the Iran-Contra Affair and was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. By the time of his retirement in 1999, Stokes had represented the people of Cleveland for nearly 30 years. He was dean of the Ohio delegation and one of the most senior members of this body.

Madam Speaker, Louis Stokes' contributions to public life have been celebrated in many ways, not least of which is the Louis W. Stokes Health Policy Lecture at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. Today, October 17, 2007, Representative Stokes was honored at Meharry for his pioneering contributions to the field of health policy and law. And today I rise to extend my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Louis Stokes, to celebrate his long career of public service and to encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring him. May his words inspire new generations of leaders to follow in his footsteps and serve their country.

"THE WAR" AS OPINED BY WINSTON GROOM OF POINT CLEAR,  
ALABAMA

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, earlier this week one of my constituents—nationally-re-

nowned author and historian, Winston Groom—wrote an op-ed piece for the Mobile Press-Register offering at least one theory as to why the reviews of Ken Burns' recent documentary series, "The War," have been panned by several of America's leading and supposedly "most respected" national publications.

As you may know, "The War" recently aired throughout the Nation on PBS. While admitting that the "Second World War was fought in thousands of places, too many for any one accounting," Mr. Burns and his extraordinarily talented team tell the story of four American towns and how some of the citizens from those towns experienced and remember "The War."

The personal accounts of these men and women in their own unique dialects and accents tell an important and powerful story of World War II and the men and women that Tom Brokaw, among others, has deemed "The Greatest Generation."

This documentary shows the significant sacrifices made by the brave men and women of the American military, as well as the millions of American families whose loved ones were fighting the forces of evil during the Second World War.

As Mr. Groom so eloquently explains in his article, the underlying complaint of "The War," shared by many in the mainstream media who reviewed the film, is "grounded in the new liberal fad of 'moral relativism'" and self-hatred. Unbelievably, some of these critics appear to believe that Mr. Burns' documentary was simply too "pro-American" and not sympathetic enough to the Germans and the Japanese.

After watching this fascinating documentary with my wife and children, I, personally, could not be more proud to be an American. Moreover, I believe this film should be required watching in every school in America.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that this op-ed piece be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety, for I believe Winston Groom may be on to something:

HATCHET JOB ON "THE WAR"

(By Winston Groom)

Many of you who enjoyed Ken Burns' "The War" may or may not be surprised that much of the mainstream media trashed the series.

At the simplest level, their complaints illustrate the common literary fallacy in which the critic reviews not the film (or book) that was written, but the one that he wanted to see written. But this is merely one technique of doing a hatchet job.

The underlying complaint against Burns' film by such revered organs as "The New York Times", "The New Yorker", "Slate" magazine, etc., is grounded in the new liberal fad of "moral relativism" or "moral equivalency," a doctrine that seeks to have us believe that in the real world, there are in fact no "good guys" or "bad guys."

Instead, everything is "relative" (i.e. Oh, poor Adolf. He was simply misunderstood.).

Thus, Alessandra Stanley of the Times felt compelled to inform her readers that, "Examining a global war from the perspective of only one belligerent is rarely a good idea."

I myself had a similar run-in with that kind of thinking when the Times trashed my history "1942: the Year That Tried Men's Souls," so I know whereof I speak.

In that instance, the Times for some reason assigned the hatchet job to its theater editor, who carped that I was "cheerleading"

for America and "conducting a pep rally for the Allies." It made me wonder just who she wanted me to cheer for—Hitler? Tojo? Or were we all of us—Japan, Germany, America, England, Russia—equally at fault for the war?

In the online magazine "Slate", Beverly Gage was constrained to label "The War" "manipulative, nostalgic and nationalistic," and lamented that it offered "no commentary from the German or Japanese" side.

To be fair, she also complained that it offered no commentary from the British or Canadians, to which she might also have added that we didn't hear about the Norwegians or the Peruvians—or the Ugandans, for all it matters.

The point is, that was not what the film was about. It was about America and Americans in World War II, as was plainly stated at the beginning of each episode. To be fair again, Ms. Gage acknowledges this, or, in her words, "Burns admits this," but then she goes on to complain about it anyway.

Ms. Gage also spears the film for offering "fantastically sentimental stuff—Ken Burns at his most indulgent."

I, for one, didn't see anything particularly sentimental about pictures of dead American Marines floating face down on the beaches of Tarawa or being carted off the battlefield.

Ms. Gage also hints in her review that the story told by Mobile's Eugene Sledge about some Marines pulling gold teeth from dying Japanese soldiers smacks of American racism, since in the European Theater, the absence of that unpleasant custom presumably denied similarly situated Germans their experience of a lifetime.

In The New Yorker, Nancy Franklin's objection, rather than moral relativism, is that "The War" is just plain bad film-making.

"They've taken a subject that is inexhaustible and made it merely exhausting," she writes, before going on to complain about the sound track and narration and that a lot of the footage Burns selected had been used before—as if Burns, being unable to conjure up some stash of unused footage, was somehow obligated to use old bad footage instead.

She also found tedious Burns' style of using real participants in the war to describe their experiences rather than, one supposes, using analysts, historians and politicians. Myself, I rather enjoyed hearing from such contributors as Dwain Luce, Sid and Katherine Phillips, Maurice Bell, Willie Rushton and others who actually lived it.

As Ms. Stanley writes in her review, "'The War' gives generous voice to a wide variety of voices, but they are all American voices," which, she complains, "is the only tale Burns wants to tell."

The strange implication here is that surely Burns could have dug up a Hiroshima survivor or a fugitive Nazi SS man to tell his side of the story—or better yet, a Kamikaze pilot.

What really underlies this "moral relativism" is the fetish of self-hatred that has become so pervasive in the mainstream media and the halls of academia. Whatever the issue, "America is at least no better than the rest of them, and probably worse" is their mantra, and anything that smacks of patriotism is automatically suspect.

Heaven help us if this had been the bunch in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July, 1776, when they were trying to find people to sign the Declaration of Independence.