

HONORING LORRAINE C. MILLER,
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lorraine C. Miller of Fort Worth, Texas on her appointment as Clerk of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 30, 2007.

As Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Miller's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the Page Board, congressional travel reports and disclosure forms, the voting system, and oversight of the legislative operation of the House floor. She has worked at the highest levels of government, which have contributed to her leadership abilities and knowledge of management. The role of the Clerk is demanding and requires someone with great intellect. Mrs. Miller will bring strength and diversity to the Office of the Clerk as the first African-American woman to hold this top House position.

Mrs. Lorraine Miller first worked in the House for Representatives for U.S. Congressman Jim Wright (D-Fort Worth) when he was Majority Leader. She moved on to work for then-Speaker Tom Foley (D-Washington), U.S. Congressman JOHN LEWIS (D-Georgia), and finally for current Speaker NANCY PELOSI. Mrs. Miller also worked as Deputy Assistant to the President of Legislative Affairs for the House of Representatives during the Clinton Administration. She additionally held positions at the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mrs. Lorraine C. Miller for decades of hard work and selfless dedication. I want to join her friends and family, both in Fort Worth and in Washington, in congratulating her on this prestigious milestone. She has been an inspiration and role model to many, and I am proud to represent her in Congress and look forward to working with her.

INTRODUCTION OF LTC JAMES
MEGELLAS MEDAL OF HONOR
BILL

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I am reintroducing legislation to honor a true American hero by awarding him the Medal of Honor. Sixty-two years ago this past Sunday, on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, then Lt. James Megellas led his platoon of the 82nd Airborne Division on a surprise and devastating attack on a much larger advancing German force, killing and capturing a large number of the enemy and causing others to flee. In an act of fearless courage, Lt. Megellas single-handedly destroyed an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades. He then led the charge of his men and seized Herresbach, Belgium, during this fierce action of the Battle of the Bulge. Due to his aggressive, fearless and superior leadership, Lt. James Megellas inspired his men to excel.

After serving four years as a rifle platoon leader during World War II, including many combat jumps into Italy and Holland, James Megellas left the active Army and served for 16 years in the Army Reserve. He retired after 20 years of service as a lieutenant colonel.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and he is credited with being the 82nd Airborne Division's most decorated officer. During World War II, General James Gavin selected one 82nd officer—Lt. James Megellas—to receive the Military Order of Willhelm Orange Lanyard from the Dutch Minister of War on behalf of his division.

To this day, James Megellas continues to inspire. In February 2006, 61 years after that momentous battle, James "Maggie" Megellas set foot on a battlefield with fellow 82nd Airborne Division soldiers, this time in a current theater of war—Afghanistan. James Megellas was impressed with what he saw of the paratroopers and their work. He listened to their stories of the past year of deployment and shared with them his own experiences during World War II. "Maggie" continues to inspire by speaking to groups across the country about his experiences and is planning to observe his 90th birthday in Iraq this March with the 82nd Airborne troops.

I urge my colleagues to recognize James "Maggie" Megellas by supporting this bill to authorize and request the President to award him the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge. As time goes by, true heroes should not be forgotten, so please join me in honoring this outstanding American hero.

HONORING COLONEL PAUL M.
KELLY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American hero. Colonel Paul Kelly, of Stafford, Virginia, and a former member of the South Carolina Army National Guard, died in Baghdad when the Black Hawk helicopter he was in crashed.

Colonel Kelly served as a South Carolina guardsmen from April 1986 until June 2001. During his tenure, he held key leadership and staff positions within the aviation program rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Colonel Kelly later transferred to the Virginia Army National Guard, with which he was serving at the time of his death. To date Col. Kelly is the most senior officer to die in the Iraqi theater of war. He was a mentor to many coming up through the ranks of military service.

Colonel Kelly would have celebrated his 46th birthday today. According to the Dayton Daily News, Colonel Kelly was nicknamed "the Senator" because he was always shaking soldier's hands, no matter their rank.

Colonel Kelly is survived by his loving wife Maria, his two sons, Paul and John, his parents, John and Mary Rose, and his five siblings. Colonel Kelly honorably served America and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with them all.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lend my support for House Concurrent Resolution 5—supporting the designation of "Hire a Veteran Week."

In each and every generation, a class of men and women stand out amongst their peers for their courage, their dedication and their patriotism. They have willfully defended our Nation and our principles when they were threatened, all the while reminding us about what is good about our Nation through their compassion and their citizenship. Although they have accomplished great things while in uniform, I support this measure not for what they have done to protect our past, but for what they are capable of doing to build our future. Our veterans have gained the kind of working skills and on-the-job training that is beyond comparison. They possess the qualities that any employer would find desirable: dedication, commitment and honor. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 5 and help bring attention to this worthy endeavor.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT
GENERAL WARREN D. JOHNSON

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, LTG Warren D. Johnson of Winnetka passed away on January 23, 2007, leaving behind a legacy of personal contributions to his family, colleagues, and the nation.

General Johnson was born in 1922, in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He entered military service in April 1942 and graduated from officer candidate school with a commission as second lieutenant in November 1942. He was first assigned to advanced training for the B-17 and then sent to Tokyo, Japan where he served from December 1946 until June 1949 as a personnel officer in the Pacific Air Command and the Far East Air Forces.

Johnson was next assigned as a B-36 crew member with the 11th Bombardment Wing of Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. There he began his long association with Strategic Air Command. At Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas from May 1955 to July 1959 he served as a B-47 aircraft commander and director of operations for the 70th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.

General Johnson was assigned as chief of transportation at Torrejon Air Base, Spain and in January 1962, became commander of the SAC base at Sidi Slimane, Morocco.

In 1963, he became deputy director of Eighth Air Force Headquarters at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts. In 1966, Johnson became commander of the 380th Strategic

Aerospace Wing, SAC and in 1967 was given the responsibility for SAC wings.

In September 1969, he assumed the dual assignment of commander, U.S. Forces, Azores, and commander, 1605th Air Base Wing, Lajes Field, Azores.

In June 1971, General Johnson became deputy chief of staff for personnel at Strategic Air Command Headquarters and later became chief of staff.

He joined the Defense Nuclear Agency in May 1973 as deputy director for operations and administration, and in October 1973 was appointed as the director. General Johnson also served as a member of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

General Johnson received numerous military decorations and awards. He was quadruplerated as pilot, navigator, bombardier and radar operator, and had more than 17,000 hours of flying time in fighters and bombers.

Retiring from the United States Air Force in 1977, Don Johnson joined Baxter International as a corporate officer. His activities were varied ranging from facility planning, telecommunications, and aviation to Baxter's operations in South Africa, finally recommending divestment of the company's interest in that country. General Johnson chaired Baxter's Crisis Management Team before retiring in 1990.

On a personal note, it was to my great pleasure and honor that "The General," as we called him, served on my Service Academy Select Screening Board to make recommendations for nominations for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He took delight in the many fine young people that our district produced and their sincere desire to serve our country.

General Johnson was a giant among men, having served in three wars, flying fighters and bombers, going from prop planes to the Strategic Air Command, and serving as Director of the Defense Nuclear Agency. He continued making contributions in civilian life by sharing his leadership and understanding of the world. We will never comprehend the influence and inspiration that General Johnson provided to those who had the opportunity to make his acquaintance. To his wife Judy and his four surviving children, I extend my deep condolences. To General Don Johnson's many friends at the North Shore Senior Center, it was our pleasure to know such a fine individual and family man who will be missed by all.

TRIBUTE TO ROCCO J. SOCCIO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rocco J. Soccio of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, who passed away Saturday, December 16, 2006, at the age of 71 years. This distinguished man is survived by a wife of almost 50 years, Barbara Kaley Soccio, whom he married in 1957 and had three children, Jan, John and Vincent.

Lewistown is lucky to have had such a devoted citizen to the community such as Rocco, or "Rocky", as everyone knew him. For 30

years, he owned and operated the Parkway Service Store and was a partner in the operation of Riverside Wholesale for 13 years. He was also a manager and salesman for L&G Athletic Retail Sports Store. But those are just his contributions to the business community.

Rocky Soccio also spent time as an educator and coach at Kishacoquillas High School. He taught history and driver's education, and served as the wrestling coach and athletic director at the high school. The young lives he contributed to were many and did not go unnoticed. As recognition of his achievements, in 1965, Rocky was named the winner of Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Public Teacher Award.

Rocky Soccio also had a strong hand in the local government. He served on the Blue Cross Consumer Advisory Board for 34 years and also spent six years as a board member on the Mifflin County Housing Authority. Rocky became chairman of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown as well as the Mifflin County Republican Party. He was a former auditor for the Mifflin County Board of Elections, and also found time to belong to the Knights of Columbus, the Lewistown Jaycees, the Kiwanis, and the Lions Club.

To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Rocco J. Soccio was involved in would be nearly impossible. His involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable. Rocky Soccio selflessly dedicated himself to the Lewistown area, and we are all very grateful for his effort toward positive enrichment of the community, as he has certainly deserved this distinguished honor.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ANTONIO AND IDA FRISSORA

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to offer my best wishes to my aunt and uncle who recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Antonio and Ida Frissora first met after Ida moved to Columbus, Ohio from Niagara Falls in 1955. They were married on January 26, 1957 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and have now spent 50 years together.

Antonio and Ida have been wonderful parents to Christina, Tony and his wife, Caroline, and Don and his wife, Robin. They are the proud grandparents of eight.

As loving parents and grandparents, they continue to set a wonderful example for others to follow. I join with their family and many friends in wishing Antonio and Ida all the best on this joyous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND JOHN "JACK" WEAN, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Raymond John "Jack"

Wean, Jr., Chairman of The John Wean Foundation in Warren, OH. The John Wean Foundation was established in 1949 by Raymond John Wean, Sr., an inventive and enterprising industrialist, who was devoted to improving the quality of life and education in the Mahoning Valley. The John Wean Foundation would serve the communities in which he had achieved enormous success.

A native of Warren, OH, Jack was the son of Raymond J. Wean, Sr., who founded Wean Engineering Company in 1929. After graduating from Yale University, Mr. Wean served as a Naval Officer in the South Pacific during World War II. In 1946, he went to work for his father's business in Warren at a time when the steel and aluminum industries were booming.

Jack started in an executive position and was elected president and chief executive in 1966. He became chairman in 1979. Jack retired in 1992, but continued to chair The Foundation. He traveled extensively and was an avid sport fisherman.

Jack Wean was married to the former Adeelaide McCracken and they have three sons and a daughter. They also have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Since 1949, The John Wean Foundation has raised over \$85 million dollars. It was through Jack's generosity that a broad range of nonprofit organizations would benefit. I would like to remember Raymond John "Jack" Wean, Jr., for his sense of obligation and commitment to the residents here in the Mahoning Valley.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SKATING MONTH

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Skating Month. This event has run throughout the month of January 2007, sponsored by the United States Figure Skating Association. It highlights contributions of U.S. figure skaters such as the wonderful competitors who participated in this month's U.S. Figure Skating Championships held in Spokane, WA, from January 21 through January 28, 2007.

Recently, from November 28 through December 2, 2006, my home city of Cleveland, OH, hosted the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships. This event featured young skaters from across the country. Significantly, efforts of the Cleveland Sports Commission, the Greater Cleveland Council of Figure Skating Clubs, and the United States Figure Skating Association resulted in an economic impact of over \$1 million in Cleveland, OH.

In January of 2009, Cleveland, OH, will again host the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. This will be Cleveland's fourth time hosting the senior championships, previously held in the city in 2000, 1964, and 1940. This competition is one of the most significant events that a city can host. The 2000 championships had an economic impact in Cleveland calculated by the Cleveland Sports Commission at \$19.5 million.

Figure skating is not only a wonderful sport to watch but is an activity that can be enjoyed by people throughout their lives. The sport is