

Dr. Baker is fondly remembered by the residents of Southwest Fresno as one of the few dentists who would not hesitate to care for those less fortunate who were served only by publicly funded dental programs. His goal was to ensure that people in rural areas had access to good, affordable dental care. It was this commitment to caring for the underserved which led Dr. Baker to author the initial grant request in the mid 1970's to establish the Firebaugh-Mendota Dental Clinic. Dr. Baker was also a strong supporter and advocate of the UCSF-Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research, a program built to address the persistent shortage of Latino physicians in the community and amongst the medical school faculty. He helped create the dental clinic at the Valley Medical Center and was closely involved in managing and ensuring that indigent families had access to dental services there at all times.

The establishment of a scholarship in his name for entering students at the UCLA School of Dentistry demonstrates the high regard in which Dr. Baker is held. It recognizes the long and outstanding contributions he made to the dental profession and to education in the field of dentistry.

Dr. Baker was a man of great principle and integrity and continues to be a role model for our Valley's newest dental professionals. Along with the memory of his work, his scholarship will enable more dentists to help those in need, as Dr. Baker did for so long. George was my friend and a mentor during my early years in health care for our valley and the political process. His son Tim and daughter Bethany carry on this spirit of community service. It is with great pride that I posthumously honor him for all that he did on behalf of Western Fresno and congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award.

#### MARINE CORPS MARATHON CONTINUED

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rose last week to share some of the heartwarming stories I heard while competing in the Marine Corps Marathon, and to pay tribute to some of the extraordinary people who participated in the Marathon. I rise today to recognize more brave souls who finished the Marine Corps Marathon and are affiliated with the Marine Corps' Congressional liaison office and the Capitol Hill Running Club: BG Michael Regner, MAJ Tom Wood, MAJ Gerald Thomas, MAJ Toby Patterson, Sgt Hector Rodriguez, Cpl Scott Caudill, 2nd Lt Ingrid Rivera, RADM Mark Ferguson III, CDR Audrey Monish, Dr. Mike Moses, Riley Scott, David Cleary, Tom Sheehy, Michael Hermann, Amy Porter, and Mark Smith.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on November 7, I was unavoidably detained and

was not able to record my vote for Rollcall #1058.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall #1058—"yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer the reason I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1059 through 1072 on November 7 through 8, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of Sgt. Daniel L. McCall.

If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 1059, H. Res. 801—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3688) to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1060, final passage on H.R. 3688—United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1061, H. Res. 806—Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3222, making appropriations for the Department of Defense "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1062, Ordering the Previous Questions on H. Res. 806 "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1063, H. Res. 806—Rule for Department of Defense Conference "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1064, final passage on H.R. 3222—Department of Defense Appropriations for FY 2008 "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1065, Ordering the Previous Questions "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1066, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3355) to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners' insurance coverage for catastrophic events "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1067, On Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 3074 "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1068, Klein Amdt. to H.R. 3355 "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1069, Roskam Amdt. to H.R. 3355 "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1070, Roskam Amdt. to H.R. 3355, "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1071, Manzullo Amdt. to H.R. 3355, "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1072, Shays Amdt. to H.R. 3355, "nay".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably absent during rollcall votes 1061 through 1076. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 1061, "yea" on rollcall 1062, "yea" on rollcall 1063, "yea" on rollcall 1064, "yea" on rollcall 1065, "yea" on rollcall 1066, "yea" on rollcall 1067, "yea" on rollcall 1068, "nay" on rollcall 1069, "nay" on rollcall 1070, "nay" on rollcall 1071, "nay" on rollcall 1072, "nay" on rollcall 1073, "yea" on rollcall 1074, "yea" on rollcall 1075, and "nay" on rollcall 1076.

I was also unavoidably absent on October 30 for rollcalls 1018, 1019 and 1020. Had I

been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three rollcalls.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 53RD VETERANS DAY

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, it was the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the guns fell silent on European battlefields, echoing the cease-fire agreement between the Allied Nations and German Forces and America's first victory in a battle for freedom in a world at war.

One year later, on November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed and commemorated the first Armistice Day. Thirty-five years later, this day would come to be known as Veterans Day—a day in which our Nation takes the time to recognize the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have heeded the call to service in defense of our Nation.

Over the years, our Nation has fought many battles, on many continents, amongst many enemies, and in defense of those who cannot defend themselves. Throughout these battles, our country has seen some of our best and brightest commit the ultimate sacrifice for a cause that they believe in, a cause called freedom.

To many across the world, freedom is a work in progress, a quest toward the ability to do and say what you feel, and live in a world of peace, to provide for your family, and to live without the fear of persecution for your beliefs and ideas. As Americans, we enjoy these freedoms many others do not, because of the unyielding sacrifice made by our brave men and women in uniform who have served our Nation over the course of history to defend our liberty.

Let us take this day to remember those who have served and those who have fallen, who selflessly gave of themselves, knowing that they were protecting and representing the greatest Nation on Earth. Let us remember that it is our duty to see that our veterans have access to quality and affordable healthcare. And let us remember to always honor and recognize all veterans with the respect and admiration that they have earned.

Our veterans, as our soldiers fighting today, remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of West Virginians, and will always remain one of my top Congressional priorities. May God continue to bless all those who have returned and those who have not on this Veterans Day.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2007, FIRE IN OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our deepest sympathies go out to the families

and friends who lost loved ones in the fire that took seven young lives on October 28, 2008.

As parents, we grieve with the parents who grieve. As siblings, we mourn with those who mourn the loss of sisters and brothers. As friends, we weep with those friends who weep.

In the midst of grief, we point to hope. We hope that our words bring some comfort, and we pray that these everlasting words will bring peace to the family, friends and loved ones of Cassidy, Lauren, Justin, Travis, Allison, William, and Emily:

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53: 4-5)."

Thank you, Representative CLYBURN, for offering this resolution. South Carolina and the nation unite in our sympathy and support for those affected by this tragedy.

#### VETERANS DAY: A GRATEFUL NATION REMEMBERS

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to this Nation's veterans, a distinguished group of Americans which I am so proud to be associated with.

Prior to my election to public office, it was my privilege to work on behalf of veterans for more than 15 years as a chief psychiatric nurse at the Dallas VA Hospital, Day Treatment Center, as well as the Day Hospital in Dallas, TX.

Our 25 million living veterans need Congress' continued support for health care and compensation for those with service-connected disabilities. Educational support, counseling, and employment-assistance programs for those readjusting to civilian life also must be sustained. These programs and others to assist the survivors of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, help acknowledge a debt we can never truly repay.

We cannot hide from the truth that close to 25 percent of our Nation's homeless are veterans, many of whom suffer from chronic mental illness. We also cannot ignore that unemployment rates among service-connected disabled and recently discharged veterans remain unacceptably high, and that it is estimated that over 10,000 Iraq and Afghan veterans suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

I will proudly join millions of North Texans to honor our veterans on November 11th—many of those just returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, others who long ago returned from Europe, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and all those brave men and women who served elsewhere during the years between these conflicts.

TRIBUTE TO BG PAUL W. TIBBETTS, JR.

#### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, each Veterans Day we recognize and pay tribute to the extraordinary courage of those who have served in our nation's armed forces. The sacrificial service of these brave men and women committed to God, family, and country has preserved the freedom of this great Nation and granted freedom to millions around the world. Though, we must never forget that freedom is not free. The price of freedom is paid for with the lives and blood of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Just 8 days ago on November 1, 2007, our Nation lost retired BG Paul W. Tibbetts when he died at the age of 92 surrounded by family and friends in Columbus, OH. At a time when our Nation witnessed the rape of Nanking, the Death March to Bataan, and the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, General Tibbetts fulfilled his call to duty and today we honor him for his service.

February 23, 1915, was a significant day in history as it marked the birth of Paul Warfield Tibbetts, Jr. to Mr. Paul and Enola Gay Tibbetts. Just 30 years later their son would command the most famous single military air strike in world history over Hiroshima, Japan, in a plane carrying his mother's namesake.

In one of his very rare interviews, General Tibbetts, offered his perspective on his role in the bombing of Hiroshima. "I'm not proud that I killed 80,000 people, but I'm proud I was able to start with nothing, plan it and have it work as perfectly as it did," he said years later. "You've got to take stock and assess the situation at that time. We were at war, and you use anything at your disposal."

This gives us great insight into the life and legacy of BG Paul W. Tibbetts, whose unwavering commitment epitomized the words of the 18th Century British philosopher John Stuart Mill, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—CON- FERENCE REPORT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation.

The Defense Appropriations conference report for fiscal year 2008 provides \$459 billion in funding for our military operations, an increase of \$39 billion over this year's enacted levels. This report begins to address this country's military readiness crisis, modernizes our forces to meet future threats throughout the world, and ensures that our troops get the benefits they have earned.

This bipartisan bill invests in equipment, training, and weaponry—including body armor and armored vehicles to save the lives of our soldiers. It restores depleted equipment for our National Guard and Reserve, provides a 3.5 percent pay raise for all military personnel, and fully funds the \$1.9 billion TRICARE shortfall without cost to our troops. The bill provides an increase in funding for wounded warrior assistance and funds programs to improve coordination between the Defense Department, DOD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, improve DOD's health record-keeping, and enhance preventative medicine programs.

The bill strengthens the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which helps to secure loose nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union. It also provides accountability by increasing funding for additional Inspector General civilian personnel to oversee DOD's contract services, and establishes a clear set of rules-of-engagement for contracted security personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also includes language that I advocated for prohibiting funding for permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

The bill includes much that benefits Colorado. Section 8119 mandates that work to destroy chemical weapons stockpiles at Pueblo Chemical Depot be completed, preferably by the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of 2012, and in any event by no later than 2017. The bill also includes funding to help meet this deadline—\$142.4 million for chemical demilitarization activities. This funding will accelerate weapons destruction activities already underway and will supplement \$35.1 million for the construction of on-site chemical destruction facilities already provided in the fiscal year 2008 Military Construction spending bill.

I strongly support these provisions because I think we need to continue to do all we can to safely and expeditiously remove the mustard agent remaining at the Pueblo depot. The sooner we clean up these weapons, the sooner the surrounding communities will be safe—and a clean-up by the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of 2012 will come at a lower cost to taxpayers.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes provisions I fought for to help Colorado's educational institutions—\$3.2 million for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs to help UCCS, working together with NORTHCOM, to offer the Nation's first federally funded Ph.D. program in homeland defense; \$1.6 million for UCCS, working with the national Space Education Consortium, to advance science, technology, engineering, and math education; and \$2 million for Colorado State University's DOD Center for Geosciences/Atmospheric Research to continue providing research on priority environmental problems to the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force.

As a co-chair of the Bi-Cameral Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, I am also pleased that