

THE SIKORSKY'S FALLEN HEROES
COMMITTEE

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee who supports the families of Connecticut soldiers killed in the line of duty. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see the work of this committee first hand. They have given so much to the families of our fallen service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

When families learn of their service member's death, they enter a very painful and sad period of their lives. The Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee has supported these families, acting as a pillar of strength for them when they needed support the most. Their dedication to these wives, mothers, fathers, daughters and sons has been truly remarkable and has been a testament to their patriotism and love of humanity.

In addition to supporting the family of fallen service members, the Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee has reached out to members of the community through events they hold. In June of this year, the Committee held their fourth annual softball tribute game to honor Jordan Pierson, Philip Alexander Johnson and Nicholas Madaras, three courageous young men who gave their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Next June, they plan to honor six more fallen soldiers. Their commitment and dedication to the fallen is truly remarkable and is an inspiration to all of us.

The Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee are heroes in their own right. They are courageous people reaching out to those in need. We are honored and privileged to have people like them in the community. The unwavering dedication and support they show the families of fallen service members will always be remembered for making a difference in so many lives.

It is my hope we can all learn from the example of the Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee to support the families of the fallen who have also sacrificed in honor of our nation's freedom.

HONORING VIC CIBELLI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Victor H. Cibelli, who passed away on Monday, November 12. I consider myself privileged to call him a friend, and I extend my condolences to his family on their loss.

Vic was a leader. A Navy veteran of the Korean war, he spent decades fighting for veterans as an officer in the VFW, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois. I was fortunate to be able to rely on Vic for advice on a range of veterans' issues, and he always stood ready to help me organize an event to honor veterans or to promote their causes.

From teaching school children about citizenship and history, to organizing a service to honor the World War II warship *Dorchester's* four chaplains who gave their lives so others could survive, or running a Patriot's Pen student writing competition, no task was too big or small for Vic to help enrich his community.

People cherished the opportunity to work with Vic, and took pleasure in coming together for a good cause at his invitation. While Vic took the work of improving the lives of veterans and their families seriously, his generosity of spirit and infectious humor made the work enjoyable for him and everyone around him.

Madam Speaker, the Veterans community and the Fifth District of Illinois have lost a great advocate and a true friend. My deepest sympathies go to Vic's widow Mary, to his children and grandchildren. We will all miss him.

HONORING VICE ADMIRAL JOHN
SCOTT REDD, U.S. NAVY (RET.)
FOR FORTY YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dedicated public servant who devoted nearly four decades to protecting this great Nation. Vice Admiral John Scott Redd, U.S. Navy (Ret.), retired last week after serving as the first Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC).

Admiral Redd's accomplishments are many, having served thirty-six years in the United States Navy, which culminated in his assignment as the Director of Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff. Retiring from the Navy in 1998, Admiral Redd was again called to serve in 2004, this time as the Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, Iraq. He went on to serve as the Executive Director of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction where he influenced Community-wide intelligence reforms and made lasting improvements to America's national security.

Under his superior leadership, the National Counterterrorism Center developed into the Nation's premier intelligence and law enforcement fusion center, bridging all elements of the Intelligence Community to develop a national common intelligence picture. Admiral Redd tore down walls between Intelligence Community members and replaced a "need to know" philosophy with a "responsibility to share" environment.

Some of the Intelligence Community's successes are known such as the thwarted terrorist attacks against the Sears Tower, a Chicago-area shopping mall, military forces at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and multiple targets in New York, D.C. and elsewhere. Others remain classified. However, in each instance, the National Counterterrorism Center played a key information sharing role which led to the successful prevention of these attacks against our citizens.

Admiral Redd is to be commended for his contributions to the Nation, but such a perse-

vering service is not without a cost. For that I offer my personal thanks to his wife of over 37 years, Donna Redd, and their children Ann, Scott, and Adam, without whose support such service would not have been possible.

ANNIVERSARY OF MARSHALL
UNIVERSITY PLANE CRASH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, for each of us, there are a handful of moments in life that stay with us forever, moments that years later we can still recall with clarity and conviction. Moments that shook our core and move our hearts still. For the people of Huntington, West Virginia, a rainy evening in 1970 is one of those moments.

On November 14th, 1970 the Marshall University football team, coaches and supporters were returning home from their game against East Carolina University when their plane crashed into a hill just short of the Tri-State Airport. All 75 people on board were killed. In an instant the lives of everyone at Marshall and within the community of Huntington were changed.

Every November 14th, the Marshall University Student Government Association hosts a memorial ceremony to honor the victims of the crash by laying a wreath at the base of the Memorial Fountain in the center of Marshall's campus. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the plane crash. This annual ceremony draws together the families of those who died that night, as well as members of the community, the school and the football team, who attend the memorial service every year. At the end of each ceremony, the fountain is turned off until spring.

The fountain was dedicated in 1972 in front of the Memorial Student Center. The 75 points of the sculpture represent each of the 75 lives lost that rainy night. Sculptor Harry Bertoia hoped that the fountain would "commemorate the living—rather than death—on the waters of life, rising, receding, surging so as to express upward growth, immortality and eternity."

A year ago this December, the movie "We Are Marshall" premiered across the Nation, telling the story of how Marshall University and this community rose from the ashes of tragedy. It told how the Young Thundering Herd found a way to keep the football program together in the fall of 1971 and gave the community of Huntington hope in one of its darkest hours. The team that suited up that year in green and white may not have had a winning season, but by taking the field every Saturday, the players and coaches taught us that it isn't just about winning, that sometimes it's about simply showing up and playing the game.

The foundation laid by the Young Herd in 1971 paved the way for Marshall to become a football powerhouse during the 1990's and beyond. The legacy of the 1970 team lost in the crash and the team that took the field in 1971 is still with us today and is once again being honored with the ceremonial turning off of the Memorial Fountain.

The bronze plaque on the fountain bears this simple, eloquent inscription:

They shall live on in the hearts of their families and friends forever, and this memorial records their loss to the university and to the community.

We will never forget the loss of those 75 lives on that hillside in 1970. We will continue to honor their memory every time the Thundering Herd takes the field and the stadium fills with the cheers of family and friends. We Are Marshall.

THE HARMONY OF CIVILIZATIONS
AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, intercultural understanding is a fundamental part of peace in the global system. The understanding of intercultural and international diversities minimizes the outbreak of serious conflicts on a fundamental level. Through teaching tolerance, and through building societies that promote unity, we can work towards creating a peaceful world.

On November 2, 2007, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed addressed the Beijing Forum at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing regarding the promotion of building tolerant civilizations. I have submitted the text to be entered into the RECORD.

THE HARMONY OF CIVILIZATIONS AND
PROSPERITY FOR ALL

I send warm greetings to all participants in the 2007 Beijing Forum who have come together to study and promote harmony between peoples and civilizations.

In the ten months that I have served as Secretary-General, I have traveled to all corners of the United Nations, from Kinshasa to Kabul, from Brussels to Beirut. Everywhere I have visited, and among all the different people I have met, I have encountered one common sentiment—a universal longing for peace and an aspiration to prosperity.

But, all too often, I have discovered that people who aspire to the same things also suffer from the same prejudices. They all fear that which is different from them: the other ethnicity, the other skin colour, the other cultural or linguistic tradition and, above all, the other religion.

And yet, in today's era of global travel and instant satellite transmissions, people everywhere are encountering less of the familiar, and more of "the other". This reality has fed rising intercultural and inter-religious tensions, as well as growing alienation among vast segments of the world population.

Today, there is an urgent need to address this worrying trend. We need to rebuild bridges and engage in a sustained and constructive intercultural dialogue, one that stresses shared values and shared aspirations.

It is time to promote the idea that diversity is a virtue, not a threat. It is time to explain that different religions, belief systems and cultural backgrounds are essential to the richness of the human experience. And it is time to stress that our common humanity is greater—far greater—than our outward differences.

The Beijing Forum is ideally placed to contribute to this process. By bringing together scholars from across the globe, your discussion can become a source of new ideas and innovative approaches to promote understanding and tolerance.

Your exchange can also contribute to the UN's own initiative for an Alliance of Civilizations, which responds to the clear need for action by the international community to bridge divides and promote understanding. The Alliance has identified several priority areas for action, and is developing a strategy to promote better understanding between the world of politics and religion. Meetings such as yours can help guide this important work, and ensure the Alliance's ultimate success.

Together, we must seek to further the basic ideals of all the world's major religions. We must build societies that respect individual beliefs and practices. And we must nurture communities where people of all faiths and nationalities coexist in peace.

In that spirit, let me express my hope that this Forum will help foster harmony and understanding, and thereby advance our wider efforts for a peaceful and prosperous world.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF CONGRESSMAN
AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Representative Augustus F. Hawkins. Congressman Hawkins served in this chamber for 28 years, and I offer my condolences to his family and friends after his passing this past weekend at the age of 100.

Congressman Hawkins was dedicated to public service throughout his life. Beginning in 1935 as a California State Representative, he served the people of Los Angeles for 28 years. In 1962, Augustus Hawkins made a monumental breakthrough in civil rights history, becoming the first African-American elected to Congress from the State of California.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Congressman Hawkins continued to lead the way for the American Civil Rights Movement. In 1970, he and several of his colleagues joined together to found the Congressional Black Caucus. Then, in just his second term in Congress, he introduced and sponsored Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This ground-breaking legislation created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and outlawed discrimination in the workplace based on race.

For over half a century, Congressman Hawkins dedicated his life to our Nation with steadfast dedication, humility, and geniality. In the hearts of the residents of Los Angeles, and anyone who was ever influenced by his presence, Augustus Hawkins' legacy of leadership and courage will remain for years to come. Congressman Hawkins is succeeded by his two stepdaughters, Barbara A. Hammond and Brenda L. Stevenson, and a stepson, Michael A. Taylor. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of Congressman Hawkins.

IN SUPPORT OF A STRONG AND
CAPABLE SUBMARINE FLEET

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, yesterday President Bush signed into law H.R. 3222, the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The bill contained many important provisions to support our men and women in uniform, their families and our returning veterans. The measure includes a 3.5 percent pay raise for our troops, blocks the President's proposed fee increase for Tricare beneficiaries and provides significant funding for family advocacy programs to help military spouses and children manage the difficulties associated with deployments. We all recognize that our military's strength comes from the people who serve, and this legislation demonstrates our commitment to their health and well-being.

I am also extremely pleased that the Defense Appropriations Act includes an additional \$588 million in advance procurement funding for materials that will permit the expedited construction of a second Virginia-class submarine. As co-chair of the Congressional Submarine Caucus, I know the importance of submarines to our national security. Quiet yet powerful, submarines can conduct a variety of surveillance and reconnaissance missions, protect our fleet, project U.S. force onto distant shores and support global strike operations. The ability of submarines to operate independently in unconventional locations makes them one of the most capable components of our fleet. In fact, submarines are in such high demand that the Navy can fulfill only about 60 percent of Regional Combatant Commanders' requests to use them for missions.

The Navy has estimated that we need 48 attack submarines to meet the needs of our military commanders. However, under the Navy's current 30-year shipbuilding plan, they do not expect to increase production to two subs per year until 2012, causing a perilous decline in our future sub fleet—dropping below 48 ships in FY2020–33 and hitting a low of 40 in FY2028 and FY2029. Since I came to Congress nearly 7 years ago, I have consistently advocated an increase in our build rate of Virginia-class submarines to two per year so that we have sufficient capabilities to address emerging threats. Unfortunately, the Navy has repeatedly pushed back its two-per-year target date, causing instability in the industrial base. In FY2004, the Navy expected to build two subs per year in FY2007. By FY2005, the target had moved to FY2009. That date was delayed again and again, and now stands at FY2012. Meanwhile, our defense industrial base in Southeastern New England has suffered layoffs of submarine designers and engineers, whose specialized skills would be very difficult to reconstitute if lost. Without prompt action, we risk shrinking our sub fleet to dangerously low levels, precisely when nations such as China are expanding and modernizing their navies.

The FY2008 Defense Appropriations Act demonstrates Congress's commitment to addressing this dangerous problem and will enhance our national security. On behalf of the submarine industrial base in Rhode Island, I want to thank Chairman MURTHA and Ranking