

Dr. James C. Metts, Jr. an award to recognize his research on the fate of General Casimir Pulaski's remains. Dr. Metts, coroner of Chatham County, Georgia, served as the chairman of a 10-year investigation to positively identify General Pulaski's remains. Mr. KINGSTON and I want to congratulate Dr. Metts upon receiving this award.

The birthday of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski in George Washington's Continental Army was marked for the first time on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, the 262nd anniversary of his birth in Warsaw, Poland.

To celebrate the occasion, the National Polish Center (also known as the American Center of Polish Culture of Washington, DC) sponsored a birthday breakfast at the Rayburn House Office Building. Among those who came were sponsors of the resolutions to make Pulaski an honorary U.S. citizen and other notables from Congress and the Polish-American community. The featured speaker, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, was president of the Piast Institute in Detroit, Michigan, and former president of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Dr. Metts was recognized for his leadership and report on General Pulaski, whose remains were found September 1996. They had been buried in a crypt under the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia, since 1853, though Pulaski had been widely rumored to have been buried at sea.

Edward Pinkowski, internationally known authority on General Pulaski, was the chief sponsor of the Pulaski identification project.

Pulaski's remains were examined by forensic specialists in Savannah since 1996. Dr. Metts said the remains are "consistent in remarkable detail with the physical appearance, life history, and cavalry lifestyle of Casimir Pulaski."

Pulaski's remains were re-interred in October 2005 in front of the monument in Savannah's Monterey Square.

At the Washington event, a wreath was laid at the heroic-size marble bust of Pulaski located in the Capitol Building. The bust was carved by Henry Dmochowski (1810–1863) from Carrara marble and moved to Capitol Hill in 1882.

According to Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., vice chairman of the National Polish Center, "this first birthday celebration at the Capitol is important because it identifies Pulaski's correct birth date as March 6, 1745. It also gives us an opportunity to recognize the 10 years of work of Dr. Metts and his team in Poland and in the United States.

Casimir Pulaski was born and raised in Warsaw, the son of Count Joseph Pulaski, a member of the Polish parliament (Sejm). The young Pulaski won his reputation as a guerilla fighter in Poland's struggle for independence.

Political intrigue forced him to leave Poland in 1772, and he spent time in Turkey, Germany, and France. He went to America in 1777 with a letter of recommendation from Benjamin Franklin, who was solicited by Pulaski's friends. Pulaski was commissioned by the Continental Congress as a brigadier general to command four cavalry regiments and later formed the Pulaski Legions.

Among his exploits in the American fight for freedom were saving George Washington's life and the successful defense of Charleston in May 1778. He was wounded at the Siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779, and died on

board the ship *Wasp*. He was secretly buried on Greenwich Plantation next to Thunderbolt Bluffs on the banks of the Wilmington River next to the plantation where the *Wasp* was tied up to a finger wharf and where Samuel Bullfinch, captain of the *Wasp*, wrote a letter that notified General Benjamin Lincoln of Pulaski's death. He said that Pulaski died on board his ship on October 15.

Pulaski remains a symbol of Polish courage, Polish initiative, and Polish friendship for the United States.

We thank Dr. James C. Metts, Jr. for his efforts to remind us of this American Revolutionary War hero, and congratulate him on his receipt of the American Center of Polish Culture award.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE FEDERAL NUTRI- TION ASSISTANCE

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation comprised of three sections to improve federal nutrition assistance.

The National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are two of the Nation's most successful and popular programs. Each day almost 30 million children participate in the lunch program and 9 million in the breakfast programs. Yet, there are children who are eligible for the programs who cannot participate.

Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty line are eligible for reduced price meals. A reduced price breakfast costs 30 cents per meal per child and a lunch is 40 cents per meal per child. While it may be hard to imagine, this modest fee appears to be a barrier to low income working households.

In 2004, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108–265) authorized a pilot program to determine for sure whether it was the reduced price fee that was keeping children from the program or whether there might be other reasons for the lack of participation. I believe the time has come to finally fund this pilot and I propose that the Congress take this action as a part of the farm bill.

USDA has suggested that a valid pilot could be implemented for approximately \$23 million, \$10 million per year for two years, plus the cost of evaluation. This amount would not allow for a five state, state-wide pilot as was authorized but it would provide for a valid test of whether the fee is the barrier that is keeping the children from the program.

Evidence has clearly proven that hungry children cannot learn. Therefore, if we are going to educate our children in America to compete effectively in a world market, we must provide for sound nutritious school meals. As the Congress restructures our farm programs, and reauthorizes the food stamp program, we should also fund this small but important school meal pilot.

Most of the school boards in South Dakota have endorsed funding for this pilot, as has the South Dakota Farmers Union and the Argus Leader, our largest newspaper. Nationally, the pilot also enjoys wide support. The

School Nutrition Association, the Military Impacted School Association, National Farmers Union, the National Association of Elementary School Principals all support funding the pilot. The National School Boards Association has gone further and supports gradually eliminating the reduced price category, expanding the free meal category to the WIC income guideline. In short, if a family qualified for free WIC benefits, the family would also qualify for free school meals. Many state and local school boards agree with this policy.

Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge the administering State agencies and school districts that work so hard to ensure that every school meal these children receive meets the nutrition standards set forth in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by law. To allow the USDA to better support school food professionals in their efforts, this legislation provides for a survey of foods purchased by school food authorities to be conducted once every 5 years. This data would also help the USDA to better manage the commodities that the Department purchases on behalf of schools, and also assess the economic impact of school food purchases on different commodity sectors. The most recent data on school food purchases is over a decade old and I believe this worthwhile investment is overdue.

Finally, this legislation would increase the minimum spent for food program administration in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). FDPIR provides commodity foods and education to low-income households that reside on Indian reservations so that they can maintain a nutritionally balanced diet with foods they might not otherwise have access to where they reside. There are approximately 257 tribes that receive commodity foods through FDPIR and an increase in the distribution of administrative funds is in order to better reflect the actual participation rates in this critical program.

I encourage my colleagues to support this beneficial and important legislation. It sets forth modest proposals that could make a world of difference to children and families most at risk of severe hunger.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DANIEL HACKMEIER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a late American hero from my district. Mr. Daniel Hackmeier served our Nation with honorable distinction during World War II. Mr. Hackmeier passed in July of last year. This week, the City of Houghton, local military organizations, and community groups in the Houghton area will come together to honor Mr. Hackmeier and pay tribute to his service to our country.

Mr. Hackmeier enlisted in the United States Air Corps (which later became the Air Force) in April of 1939. He was first stationed at Selfridge Field in Mt. Clemens before being deployed to Nichols Air Force Base in the Philippines. While stationed at Clark Field, Mr. Hackmeier was promoted to Staff Sergeant Major for the 24th Pursuit Group.

When hostilities with the Japanese began, Mr. Hackmeier became part of the 71st Provisional Infantry. On April 9, 1942, when Bataan

fell to Japanese forces, Mr. Hackmeier was taken prisoner by the Japanese. In the custody of the Japanese, Mr. Hackmeier was forced to partake in the infamous Bataan Death March, one of the darkest episodes of the war in the Pacific. It has been estimated that 600–650 American and 5,000–10,000 Filipino prisoners of war died during this horrific ordeal. After surviving the Bataan Death March, Mr. Hackmeier endured as a prisoner of war for three and a half years at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines and later in Niigata, Japan.

According to those who knew him well, while captive, Mr. Hackmeier and his fellow prisoners kept up their spirits by singing the American folk song “San Antonio Rose.” Upon his release from captivity in 1945, Mr. Hackmeier was transported back to the United States by the Air Corps. When asked what airbase he would like to be transported to, Mr. Hackmeier replied, “San Antonio.”

Upon arriving in San Antonio, Mr. Hackmeier met his own “San Antonio Rose,” his future wife, Betty. Betty and Daniel were married in September of 1948. Over the course of their lives, Betty and Daniel would have five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Hackmeier remained with the U.S. Air Force after World War II and he received numerous military decorations. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism in the Battle of Bataan. He also received the Combat Infantryman’s Badge as well as the Presidential Unit Citation with two oak clusters and commendation ribbons. In addition, he was given several theater and campaign ribbons. In 1960, he received the prestigious Airman of the Year Award.

Mr. Hackmeier became acquainted with Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (U.P.) while he was in the Air Force as he was assigned to teach ROTC at Michigan Technological University (MTU) in Houghton, Michigan. There, Mr. Hackmeier came to know and love Houghton and the U.P.

In 1961, Mr. Hackmeier was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant while serving at Maxwell Air Force Base in Texas. He retired later that year, having spent thirty years serving our Nation.

Upon retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Hackmeier returned to the Houghton area that he had become so fond of while teaching ROTC. Becoming an active member of the community, he joined Copper Country Ford dealership, a position he held for twenty-five years. His wife, Betty, also became active in the Houghton community, spending twenty-five years as a Food Supervisor at Michigan Technological University.

Madam Speaker, like most heroes, Mr. Hackmeier did not seek recognition for his valor. When those around him in the community referred to him as a hero, this humble man was known to simply respond, “The real heroes are the men that died there.”

Madam Speaker, inscribed on the monument to the Pacific War Dead, in Corregidor, Philippines are the words:

Sleep my Sons, Your Duty Done . . .
For Freedom’s Light Has Come.
Sleep in the Silent Depths of the Sea
Or in Your Bed of Hallowed Sod.
Until You Hear at Dawn
The Clear Reveille of God

While Mr. Hackmeier’s final resting place may be Houghton and not the Pacific, like his

comrades who did not survive Bataan, his duty truly has been done. As the people of Houghton, Michigan come together to recognize this hero, I would ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mr. Hackmeier for his lifetime of service and in offering our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Betty, and his entire family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD lists me as not voting on rollcall vote 115, Ms. FOX’s amendment to H.R. 800.

I had intended to vote “aye.”

EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE AMERICAN VETERANS DIS- ABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support H.R. 995, to amend Public Law 106–348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand here today to support a bill that will honor the service of veterans who have become disabled while serving in the Armed Forces. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world. Establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia for these valiant warriors is only a small step towards repaying the insurmountable debt that all of us owe to all veterans. For, what is the price of freedom?

As President Kennedy once said, “The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it.” And no one has paid a higher price than the brave men and women through the years who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude.

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington, DC to the Battle of New Orleans, from Bull Run to Gettysburg and Antietam to Appamattox, brave Americans gave their lives so that the nation might live. And from Alsace Lorain to Verdun, and Normandy to Berlin and Pearl Harbor to Okinawa, from Inchon and Corregidor to Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, Americans have nobly sacrificed their lives so that the world may live in freedom.

The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation’s call and made supreme

sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln’s admonition to “care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family].” Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so hard to pass legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve.

Because I realize that our veterans deserve our very best, I have recently introduced H.R. 1240, the Vision Impairment Specialist Training Act (VISTA). VISTA is a means to help our nation’s blind and low-vision veterans by establishing a scholarship program for students seeking training in blind rehabilitation. There are 160,000 legally blind veterans in the United States, but only 35,000 are currently enrolled in the Veterans’ Health Administration. Members of the Armed Forces are important to our Nation and we show them our appreciation by taking care of them when they no longer can serve.

Caring for our veterans also means giving them our time. I have had the honor of visiting with some of our wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. Many of these soldiers were recovering from some of the most horrific wounds imaginable. But what made the most indelible impression on me was that to a man and woman, there was no self-pity or anger at their fate. Instead of anger or sorrow there was only concern for their fellow soldiers and pride in the certain knowledge that they had fought valiantly on behalf of a country they loved. There is no reason that any of our veterans should not receive the highest care from all of us in this country. I hope all Americans take the time to visit their local VA hospital and thank the wounded for their service to our country. We must do everything possible to let our veterans know how much we value their service.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 995.

COLUMBIA SPACE SHUTTLE MEMORIAL STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 807, the “Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act,” which directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing a memorial to the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in the State of Texas and for its inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because the seven astronauts whose lives were lost aboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* were extraordinary people. To the world those astronauts were valiant heroes; to us in Texas they were also friends, neighbors, and family.

They made the ultimate sacrifice on a mission that benefited all of humanity. They deserve the highest level of honor, and their sacrifice and dedication must be commemorated