

for Geri, but she said that we could wait until tomorrow so we would not have to carry it the rest of the day. What we did not realize is that most of the shops are closed on Sunday, and we were returning home the following day. I casually mentioned this story to Bud a few weeks later, and he said that he and Joyce were visiting Vienna soon, and he would look for the robe. Sure enough, when they returned they brought the robe over, and it remains a prized possession today mainly because of the extra effort that Bud put forth to get it.

He was always looking to do good thing for others. He nominated me for a community service award, and I nominated him for a similar award. As it turns out, he was a better writer than me! (I won and he did not).

On Wednesday, May 21st, Bud came to the Knoxville airport early in the morning to wish a safe trip to more than 100 World War II veterans heading to Washington, DC, to see the WW II and other Memorials as part of HonorAir Knoxville. We were looking at the pictures of the sendoff the other day and there was Bud with a big smile on his face wishing the "old timers" a great trip. When I talked to him that morning, he said he was heading off to Green Meadow Country Club to play golf after we left.

LOVE OF GOLF

And while Bud certainly had a love of golf, he freely would admit that he was not the greatest golfer in the world, but he always had fun. When I would ask him how he did, his usual answer was "lousy!" Bud and I had the same barber, Curry Whittaker of Volunteer Barber Shop. Both Bud and Curry were left-handed golfers, and Curry offered to let Bud use a new driver that should help improve his game. Bud was excited, but the next time he came into the shop he tossed the driver back to Curry and said: "This thing didn't help a bit!"

And he enjoyed golf with his brother, John. My brother Frank and I were on a golf trip together last week and we thought of Bud often. This helped us cherish our time together even more.

And one final golf story. Shortly after I met Bud, we were together at an Air Force Association (AFA) meeting and agreed that it would be fun for the local AFA chapter to sponsor a golf tournament. After trying for more than a year to find someone to come forward and organize the tourney, Bud and I agreed that we would hold one in the fall, even if it was only the two of us playing together at Green Meadow. The annual event is now in its tenth year, and with the approval of Joyce, the tourney will now be named in his honor: "The Air Force Association General Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Classic." Bud would want all of you golfers to join us this fall for fun, and what a great way to honor his legacy.

LOVE OF COUNTRY

And perhaps his love was most on display in how he felt about his country. I'm sure many of you know how he got admitted to West Point, but let me share with you one of the versions of that wonderful story. Bud was too short—he did not meet the minimum height to be admitted so he enrolled at the University of Tennessee. After being turned down at West Point for the second time, he heard that you are a little bit taller in the morning when you first get up, as compared to later in the day when your body has time to compress or shrink. He hatched a plan to have some of his friends carry him to be measured first thing in the morning, without standing up. Depending on whose version of the story you believe, he either just made the height, or the doctor was impressed by his dogged determination and signed off on the physical. In either case, the rest is his-

tory—he went on to a very distinguished career in the US Air Force. He used this story to make the point that "... if you want something bad enough, you can achieve it." Who would have thought that someone could actually make himself taller? He may have been short in stature, but he was very tall on determination and character!

In the Air Force, he was tested in combat in two wars: Korea and Vietnam. His unit in Vietnam was known as the "Misty FACs," or forward air controllers. According to Bud's friend and fellow fighter pilot, retired Air Force Colonel Charlie Harr: "The Misty FACs were among the first to perform a very dangerous mission. They were widely known for their daring and bravery."

Bud had command of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB, FL, later in his career. I spoke to one of his pilots that I know, retired Air Force Lt. General Don Peterson. Here is what Don had to say:

"His leadership at Homestead was splendid. He knew how to lead and get the job done, but just as importantly, he knew how to take care of the people who served under him. He was a role model for us all. Our morale was higher than ever, which made us all—and our Air Force—better."

Bud was an active member of virtually every local military organization, including the Air Force Association, the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council, the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association, and he was the driving force behind the renovation of the Doughboy Statue and Plaza at Knoxville High School, his alma mater.

He was the Grand Marshall of the 2004 Knoxville Veterans Day Parade. I know you all remember the wonderful picture of Bud that appeared in the News Sentinel—proudly in uniform, saluting, smiling, and with several flags in his hand. I have a copy of that picture with me today.

It's clear that he deeply loved our country's flag and proudly and properly displayed it at his home. He always had it lighted at night and would take it down when he and Joyce traveled. Joyce would say that he might forget a few things from time to time, but would never forget to take down the flag.

And he planned the music for this service. Is there any doubt that he loved his country?

Finally, Bud sent an e-mail to his grandson Schuyler, a proud Marine who had recently returned from Iraq. Bud wrote the e-mail on Friday, May 23rd, the day before he took ill. What a summary of Bud's feelings. This is what Bud had to say—his own words:

Subject: "Words of Encouragement"

If I may quote you, Schuyler, you said: "I believe strongly in what we're doing. . . ." Those are, again in your words, words of encouragement to me. Those of us in uniform are obedient to our leaders and commanders, and we believe in the rights and privileges we have inherited—from those who went before us, in uniform and not in uniform. We are not automatons; we do have hearts and souls and minds of our own. But we recognize we are chosen to do the tough work—when tough work has to be done.

The pictures of you in uniform and in combat are treasures; you look as sturdy as the truck. You have made the Bacon family proud. Keep us informed of your progress toward special operations.

Love, Grand Bud

FAITH

Finally, we know that faith was large part of his life. Bud taught Sunday school and was a Deacon at this church. The words of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25, seem appropriate to sum things up: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I know we all believe that Bud is in heaven with our God in Paradise. It doesn't get any better than that.

That is why, "When I grow up, I want to be like Bud Bacon."

INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGIES BILL

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prevent President Bush from sending nuclear power technologies and materials to Saudi Arabia, one of the most energy-rich nations in the world. I am proud to be joined in introducing this bill by the gentlelady from Florida, Representative LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I am also pleased that our bill is being introduced on the Senate side by Senator SCHUMER of New York.

Last month, President Bush went to Saudi Arabia to seek more oil production from the Saudis. Americans are being turned upside down at the pump every day, with money being shaken out of their pockets. Despite this hardship, the Saudis turned President Bush down flat at the time. Having failed to persuade the Saudis to provide relief for American consumers, the President then did something truly shocking, even by the standards of this failed administration: he agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with nuclear power plants.

Why does Saudi Arabia, the most energy-rich nation on the face of the planet, with the largest oil reserves in the world and huge potential for renewable electricity generation, need nuclear power? The answer is simple: they don't.

For any country with so much oil, gas, and solar potential, importing nuclear power makes zero economic sense. So why would Saudi Arabia seek nuclear power technology? There is only one possible answer: the Kingdom feels threatened by the rise of Iran, and it wants to guarantee that Saudi Arabia, too, can play the nuclear game.

President Bush's policy towards Iran has been one long story of failure. And now President Bush is doubling down on his bad bets, pushing to send even more nuclear materials and technology into the Middle East. The President's bizarre decision to ship nuclear power plants to the Saudis not only is unnecessary, but it's extremely dangerous. The Middle East is already the most unstable region in the world and pouring more nuclear fuel onto this smoldering region could ignite a raging fire storm engulfing areas far beyond Saudi Arabia's borders.

If Saudi Arabia wants to diversify its energy sources, that is appropriate and sensible, and we should help the Saudis down this path. But let's do it right. Saudi Arabia is three times the size of Texas and broils under constant sunshine. The country is a vast desert. The United States should be helping the Kingdom exploit its enormous solar energy potential, not building nuclear reactors. That's why this bill also encourages the President to establish a solar power development and assistance program with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of the strong bipartisan support that this bill, to block the transfer of nuclear power technologies to

Saudi Arabia, has already received. This is not a political issue; this is a national security issue. We've already seen the extraordinarily high cost of spreading so-called "peaceful" nuclear technologies around the world: we've been paying that price for decades. The United States simply cannot afford to make this kind of mistake again.

President Bush seems to believe that the United States is in a race, with the French and the Russians, to win contracts to build nuclear power facilities around the world. But he's wrong; that's not the race we're in. We're in a race to contain the atom, not to let it loose. We're in a race to prevent the spread of dangerous nuclear technologies any further, before these technologies can be used against us or our allies. Providing nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia, a country for whom such technology makes no economic sense for electricity generation, is short-sighted and dangerous. The Markey-Ros-Lehtinen bill will block any such unnecessary and dangerous transfers, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS
PARTICIPANTS IN HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40 veterans from the Kansas City area who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight to Washington, DC, on June 11, 2008.

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that was created to honor America's veterans by organizing free trips to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the memorials dedicated to their service. Priority is currently given to veterans who served during World War II or those veterans who are facing terminal illness. Sadly, each day we lose more than 1,200 World War II veterans. It is imperative that these individuals have the opportunity to visit the memorial that was designed to honor their service and I am pleased that Honor Flight has made this a reality for so many of our WWII veterans. I had the opportunity to visit with many of them as they toured the World War II memorial last week and was struck by how many repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, when, in reality, we should be the one thanking them.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to humbly express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the veterans who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, as well as their fellow service men and women from other parts of the United States, for their service to our country. No other group of Americans has stood stronger or more bravely for our democracy than our troops and veterans. We must celebrate, honor and remember these courageous and faithful men and women.

I would like to thank the organizers of the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, Gary Swanson and David Jackson, as well as the many dedicated chaperones and volunteers who worked behind the scenes on June 11 and for many months beforehand to ensure the Honor Flight participants had a memorable experience.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the generous financial contribution my constituents, Norman and Elaine Polsky, made to Honor Flight in order to make the trip to Washington, DC, possible for these worthy service men and women from the Kansas City area. I thank Mr. Polsky for his incredible generosity and appreciate his tireless work in the community on behalf of his fellow veterans.

The T-shirts worn by chaperones assisting Honor Flight participants feature a stirring quote from notable American entertainer Will Rogers, which states, "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand at the curb and clap as they go by." Thank you to all of our veterans, especially those men and women who served proudly and courageously during World War II, and serve as an inspiration to our current armed forces. I am standing and clapping as loudly as I can.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, having remained in my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2964 (Roll no. 414), H.R. 3702 (Roll no. 415), and H. Res. 1275 (Roll no. 416).

HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate June 2008 as National Homeownership Month and would like to thank my colleague, Congressman GARY MILLER, for introducing H. Res. 127, recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

In 2002, President George W. Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month to strengthen our Nation's commitment to equal housing opportunities for all, setting a goal to increase minority homeownership in America by 5.5 million by 2010. Purchasing a home is the largest investment made by most households, providing economic security and an opportunity for homeowners to build wealth.

It has become clear, however, with at least 1.4 million foreclosures predicted next year and as many as 2.8 million Americans projected to lose their homes in the next 5 years due to the subprime mortgage crisis, that we must rededicate ourselves at all levels of private, public, and nonprofit sectors to keep homeowners in their homes and ensure equal housing opportunities for all people. We must work together as a Nation to protect American homeowners and ensure that every American has the opportunity to live and hold onto the American Dream.

HONORING COLONEL BRIAN W.
LAURITZEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Brian W. Lauritzen, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. As a Member of Congress who represents Fort Belvoir, I know firsthand that Colonel Lauritzen has served with great competence, tireless determination and constant communication with the community during a time of great transition for his installation.

Colonel Lauritzen took command of Fort Belvoir, one of our Nation's largest and most diverse military installations, in July 2005 with major challenges awaiting him and even more on the horizon. Fort Belvoir was already engaged in master planning for redevelopment to expand the number of Department of Defense tenants and stretch the functions of the already busy installation. Then, just a few months into his tenure, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's final recommendations doubled the size of Fort Belvoir's incoming workforce by 2011.

The BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir, among the most substantial of BRAC 2005's mandates, will transform the installation into the major support center for the Nation's most senior military leadership. Ensuring a successful transition has brought with it the great challenges of working with both the Department of Defense and the local community. These challenges include timely and transparent planning, assessing the environmental and societal impacts of absorbing more than 19,000 new employees, managing the transportation infrastructure in an area already burdened by traffic, and ensuring that all of Fort Belvoir's defense tenants can still perform their vital national security missions.

Colonel Lauritzen has ably met these daunting challenges with the superb attitude that, in order to be successful, Fort Belvoir must continue to be receptive and responsive to the concerns of all of the surrounding communities. His early promise to the community that there would be "no daylight between us" has held true. Colonel Lauritzen established the BRAC Board of Advisors, a first-in-the-Nation group bringing together members of the Army, incoming agencies, and the region's elected officials and local civic activists to identify development issues and keep open the lines of communication.

I have always found Colonel Lauritzen to be the consummate consensus builder. He personally has made more than 150 appearances and presentations before community groups to keep them apprised of the BRAC expansion, Fort Belvoir's other missions, and their impact on the community. Similarly, he built strong communication coalitions with and between the major commands headquartered at Fort Belvoir in support of their people and their global missions through the Installation Senior Leadership Council.

More than just communication, Colonel Lauritzen continues to facilitate progress, even when progress is difficult. He worked directly with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the