

IN HONOR OF PHILIP G. BARDOS

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career and accomplishments of Philip G. Bardos, born into a Greek immigrant family on March 14, 1927. His life has been one of service to our nation, to the State of California and to every community in which he has lived. He deserves our honor for his military service, contributions to our space program and defense technologies, entrepreneurial success, work as an educational leader and untiring efforts as a volunteer for innumerable organizations and worthy programs.

Born in Pennsylvania to George and Victoria Bardos, an immigrant couple from the island of Rhodes, Phil is the eldest of their six children. Toward the close of the Second World War, Phil was drafted into the United States Army and at the end of the war, was appointed to the United States Military Academy by Congressman Thomas F. Morgan, former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

On June 24, 1950, after graduation from West Point with a bachelor of science degree, the new second lieutenant of infantry married the beautiful Sandra Mitchell, the lady who has been his support and inspiration ever since. But the call to duty came early in their marriage. From late 1951 to 1953, Phil saw combat and was wounded in the Korean War.

After recovery from his wounds, Phil served as an aide-de-camp to LTG William Lawton, Chief of Staff of the Far East Command. On his return to the United States, he served in the President's Honor Guard, 3rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer, Washington DC., from 1956 to 1958. During these years he was one of the officers assigned to duties in President Eisenhower's office and as an aide at State dinners.

Although Phil resigned from the Army in January 1960, he continued to serve in the Army Reserves and retired after thirty five years of service as a lieutenant colonel. Long after Phil and others of his West Point class had retired, he authored *Cold War Warriors*, a book published in 2000 that chronicles the accomplishments and achievements of the Class of 1950.

In the 1960s, Phil put his West Point science and engineering training to work in the burgeoning field of space and defense technology. From 1960 to 1963, he was employed by Bendix Corporation in North Hollywood, California as an assistant chief engineer for the Mercury program, the first man-in-space program. From 1963 to 1965, he was employed by Northrop Corporation as manager of the Tactical Analysis group for drones. And then, from 1965 to 1967, he worked at the Bell & Howell subsidiary, Consolidated Electrodynamics Corporation, in Pasadena, California.

In the next stage of his career, Phil became an entrepreneur, forming a highly successful management consulting business, Bardos & Associates, in 1967. Later, he purchased a small high technology company, Torr Vacuum Products, built it up and then sold it to a large conglomerate in 1986.

Despite the intense pressures of business life, Phil has always found time for involvement in public affairs. After an unsuccessful run for Congress in 1964, he threw himself into volunteer activities for the GOP. Working closely with the indomitable Margaret Brock, he served as president of a Republican volunteer organization for Los Angeles County and as chairman of various fundraising events, including a dinner for Ronald Reagan in Los Angeles in 1965.

In 1971, Phil was elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board and re-elected in 1975. He twice served as president of the board and is credited by many with steering L.A. schools through one of their most difficult periods. Those who worked with him on the Board remember his calming influence and his ability to develop balanced solutions when emotions were running high.

Phil served as president of the Great Western Council of the Boy Scouts of America from 1974 to 1979, and was honored with the prestigious Silver Beaver award. He was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian to the Board of Trustees of the California Community Colleges in 1987. Appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the Committee of Bar Examiners in 1989, he was elected to serve as chairman of the body, the only non-lawyer ever to do so. In 1992, he was Vice President for planning of the organizing committee for the United States World Cup Soccer. And, most recently, he has served as a volunteer member of the Operation First Response for assisting U.S. wounded military personnel.

Phil's career is a chronicle of accomplishment and success, but it is his family that has always been closest to his heart. He is immensely proud of the two sons, Tom and Paul, whom he and Sandy raised, and right to be so, for they have followed in his footsteps. Both were Eagle Scouts and both are successful entrepreneurs and owners of their own businesses. And now, Phil has the pleasure of seeing his grandchildren launch their careers.

Madam Speaker, this country will always be great so long as we have individuals of the caliber of Phil Bardos to dedicate themselves to a life of service to their Nation, state and community.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, AIRMAN EXCEEDS 10,000 FLIGHT HOURS

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Air Force SMSgt Robert Fisher of St. Petersburg, Florida, achieved a milestone on March 29 when he surpassed his 10,000 flight hour.

Sergeant Fisher is a flight engineer with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. He achieved this milestone while flying a KC-10 Extender mission.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks I will include for my colleagues a story from The Pinellas News, one of Sergeant Fisher's hometown newspapers, about this great achievement and about his dedicated service to our Nation in uniform.

Sergeant Fisher enlisted in the Air Force in 1981 and has been flying tanker aircraft since 1986. He has served in Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

LTC Tim White, the commanding officer of the 908th Squadron, paid Sergeant Fisher the highest compliment when he said, "For Sergeant Fisher to eclipse 10,000 hours is a reflection of great dedication to the mission and the art of flying. Sergeant Fisher is one of the greatest assets in the KC-10 community, and his work ethic speaks for itself."

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Sergeant Fisher for this great flying achievement and in thanking him for his service to our Nation and to the cause of freedom throughout the world.

[From the Pinellas News, Apr. 25, 2008]

10,000 FLIGHT HOURS

(By Sr. Armn. Ross M. Tweten, American Forces Press Service)

**SOUTHWEST ASIA.**—A flight engineer with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron surpassed 10,000 flight hours during a KC-10 Extender mission on March 29. Senior Master Sgt. Robert Fisher, a St. Petersburg native home-stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., ended his landmark flight with 10,003 flight hours.

"The most difficult part about achieving this milestone is just being around long enough to do it," he said with a chuckle. "It feels excellent to be among such a rarified group of people."

The 10,000-flight-hour community is small, and achieving this milestone is all about longevity, he said.

Fisher has been flying the line since 1986. He has been in the air as a flight engineer on the C-141 Starlifter and the KC-10 Extender, and has served in operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"When I first came into the Air Force, there were a lot of 10,000-hour crew members around, and I thought, 'Wow, I'd like to do that,' Fisher said. "But as the years went by, I felt like I'd never get there because, well, our airplanes fly much faster. So I figured 5,000 would be nice. Then, after I reached that, I figured I could probably do about 7,500."

Fisher continued to exceed his goals and reset them. "So when I passed 8,500, it finally hit me that I was really close to my goal of 10,000, and that maybe I could do this, so here I am."

Lt. Col. Tim White, who commands the 908th, said most flyers accumulate 3,000 to 5,000 hours in the span of a career.

"For Sgt. Fisher to eclipse 10,000 hours is a reflection of great dedication to the mission and the art of flying," he said. "If one were to fly around the world for 10,000 hours, he or she would circle the planet over 300 times, or go back and forth to the moon nine times. Sgt. Fisher is one of the greatest assets in the KC-10 community, and his work ethic speaks for itself."

Fisher has had a long bird's-eye view of much of the globe, and he gives most of that credit to the Air Force.

"I've been really lucky in my life, in that the Air Force has given me the opportunities to see a lot of really excellent places and travel the world," he said. "When I enlisted in '81, the recruiter said, 'Hey, join the Air Force, see the world,' and the Air Force has kept up its end of the bargain on that one."

"I'd like to say that I've given the Air Force all these wonderful things," he continued, "but to be honest, the Air Force has given Bob Fisher way more than Bob Fisher has given the Air Force."