

A TRIBUTE TO DR. THEOPHINE
ABAKPORO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Theophine Abakporo, Medical Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine & Pre-Hospital Care at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and dedicated public servant.

Dr. Theophine Abakporo, MD was born in Nigeria in 1964. During his childhood, he was deeply influenced by the devastating experience of growing up in a country at war. He witnessed the effects the war had on his local community—displacement, premature deaths, injuries, disease and poverty. As he grew older, he realized the importance of community organizations and public service.

At the age of 23, Dr. Abakporo obtained his MD degree from Jos Medical School in Nigeria. Upon graduation, he was appointed Medical Officer with the Nigerian Army Field Ambulance. Subsequently, he relocated to the United States to pursue his postgraduate medical education. In 1995, he completed his residency in internal medicine at Brookdale University Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. He is board certified in internal medicine and emergency medicine.

In response to the increasing need for disaster awareness and management he took further training and certification. He is certified by the United States Department of Homeland Security in healthcare leadership and administrative decision-making in response to weapons of mass destruction (WMD). He is certified by the United States Army in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive incidents (CBRNE). In addition, he is certified by the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) in online medical control.

While pursuing his medical career Dr. Abakporo became deeply involved in the health care needs of the inner-city communities in the United States. Dr. Abakporo worked hard and committed himself to participating in the health outreach and other programs related to the well being of the Brooklyn communities such as Ocean Hill, Brownsville, East New York, Bed-Stuy, Bushwick and Ridgewood communities. This strong willingness to help and care for people, contributed to his interest and focus in the field of emergency medicine and pre-hospital care.

In 1996, Dr. Abakporo joined Wyckoff Heights Medical Center as an Attending Physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine. His leadership, hard work and dedication earned him a promotion as Assistant Director in 2005. Dr. Abakporo currently serves as Medical Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine & Pre-Hospital Care at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

In 2008, Dr. Abakporo was honored by the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center's Nursing Administration for his motivation, excellence, dedication and service to the patients and staff. He received the Nursing Recognition Award for Physician Education & Nursing Collaboration.

Dr. Abakporo is a member of World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM); the American Association of Physi-

cian Specialists, and the American College of Physicians.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Theophine Abakporo.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ADAM MIZER FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION III STATE BASE- BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Adam Mizer showed hard work and dedication to the sport of baseball; and

Whereas, Adam Mizer was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Adam Mizer always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Adam Mizer on winning the Boys' Division III State Baseball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 baseball season.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE U.S.S. COD'S 50 YEARS IN CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the U.S.S. Cod's 50 Years in Cleveland celebration on August 14th, 2009. The celebration featured a special free admission day for the public and ceremony to mark the golden anniversary and restoration of the Cod's Cleveland-built diesel engines. The ceremony concluded with a salute to the people of Cleveland with the firing of the Cod's deck gun.

On March 21, 1943 the U.S.S. Cod was launched and its engines, built in a General Motors plant on Cleveland's west side, powered the submarine around the globe. According to Dr. John Fakan, president of the non-profit U.S.S. Cod Submarine Memorial, "GM built Cod's five diesels right here in Cleveland, but it didn't end there. Much of the steel plate that forms her hull was made in Cleveland and Youngstown steel mills from Great Lakes ore." Through her heroic missions in World War II, Cleveland-based training programs during the Cold War, and place as a historic site and submarine memorial in Cleveland, the U.S.S. Cod has become a national symbol.

After her successful WW II service in the Pacific Ocean, the Cod continued to protect America in the Cold War by training NATO anti-submarine forces in the Atlantic Ocean. In 1959 the Cod was brought to Cleveland to serve as a dockside trainer for reservists, and instantly became popular with the public. Citizens were allowed to tour the sub when the Navy wasn't conducting training aboard, and these civilian tours continued even after the Navy declared the Cod obsolete in 1971 and began the scrap process.

Despite the Navy's decision, the people of Cleveland saved the Cod from being scrapped. School children, veterans groups, Scouts and "Save the Cod," a group formed by local business leaders in 1972, all banded together to raise money and save the historic and symbolic submarine. In 1976 the Navy turned the Cod over to her civilian caretakers, who immediately began restoring the Cod to the original beauty that she was while defending America. In 1986 these efforts were recognized by the Federal Government which declared the Cod a National Historic Landmark. The Cod's world-class restoration continues today, focusing on her Cleveland-built engines.

The Cod's caretakers estimate that more than a million people have toured the Cod in the 50 years she has called Cleveland home. In addition to being a popular attraction on Cleveland's lakefront, the Cod has also helped bring revenue into downtown by hosting television and film documentaries as well as military reunions and other special projects.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the celebration of the U.S.S. Cod's 50 Years in Cleveland. The U.S.S. Cod (SS 214) is both a floating memorial to U.S. submariners who gave their lives defending freedom as well as a unique piece of Cleveland's industrial history.

RECOGNIZING THE JOINT COMMUNITY POLICE PROJECT IN MINNESOTA

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Joint Community Police Project (JCPP), an initiative of the Hopkins, Richfield, Brooklyn Park, and Brooklyn Center Police Forces in Hennepin County, Minnesota, for being selected by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as the winner of the 2009 Civil Rights Award.

The IACP is made up of over 20,000 law enforcement members at command level in 89+ countries. This is the first time the JCPP has received programming recognition from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

These four aforementioned cities live the value of civil rights through the actions of the Joint Community Policing Project—which strives to enhance communication and understanding between police and multicultural residents to improve public safety and livability in the community.

I invite all the members of Congress to join me in recognizing the excellent work of these four fine Minnesota police forces of Hopkins, Richfield, Brooklyn Center, and Brooklyn Park for reaching out to new Americans within our cities and providing the services, hospitality, and valued information to make them welcome, active participants in our community.

In 2009, I proposed and Congress approved a \$100,000 appropriation to continue the work of the Joint Community Police Partnership. One example of their work can be seen in Hopkins, where some of the appropriated funds enabled JCPP to hire a Somali college student to work as Public Service Officer for

the Hopkins Police Department. Already they are witnessing a powerful positive reaction by the young immigrant children when the youth see this young man in a Hopkins Police Department uniform at the schools and in their apartment complexes. In addition, funds from this appropriation are being used to bring in successful Somali women from the community to speak to the school club, to mentor them in making positive choices, help build their self esteem, and counsel them to avoid involvement in gangs.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the Joint Community Police Partnership for being a model of excellence both in our country and abroad.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to object to the process by which the majority has brought the continuing resolution to the floor of the House of Representatives. While we can all agree that it is sometimes necessary to adopt a continuing resolution to keep federal government programs running in the new fiscal year as the respective Appropriations Subcommittees finalize their conference reports, attaching the resolution to the conference report for appropriations for the Legislative Branch is inappropriate and a direct attempt by the majority to stifle debate in this House.

Further, Madam Speaker, the majority's action in this instance is just one more swipe at the minority in a pattern that began at the start of this body's deliberation on Appropriations bills earlier this summer. It has continued to stifle debate throughout the process by restricting the minority's ability to offer amendments to these important funding bills. Over the summer months in which we considered all 12 appropriations bills, the majority's structured rules permitted the minority to offer just over 100 amendments, of which only approximately 50 per cent were on substantive issues directly impacting policy and/or program funding levels. That's just 50 amendments on real policy, impacting government spending on specific programs across the entire federal government.

Following on this abysmal stifling of Republican amendments on these bills, Madam Speaker, next the majority has again found a way to prevent meaningful debate on the funding resolution which continues to keep the government open by attaching it to the conference report on the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. Since the conference report cannot be amended, there was no opportunity for another point of view in continuing the government's operations. Madam Speaker, this behavior is not merely frustrating, but it also works directly against the very backbone of our nation—a democracy with free and open debate on issues.

It is my sincere hope that in the future, Madam Speaker, regardless of which party holds the majority in the House, we can

change course from this current process and instead open these important spending bills, including the continuing resolution, to amendment through an open process.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL R. LEHNERT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional. For more than thirty-five years this man has served our nation in the most outstanding and dedicated manner. On the occasion of his retirement, I feel it only right to recognize the magnificent service Major General Michael R. Lehnert has performed for our country.

Major General Lehnert graduated from Central Michigan University in 1973 with an undergraduate degree in History and commissioned a Second Lieutenant through the PLC program. After attending the Marine Officers Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, he was transferred to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Assignments at Camp Lejeune included engineer platoon commander and maintenance officer LSU-32 and S-4, H&S Battalion, 2nd FSSG. Assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion in Okinawa Japan, he served as Bn Operations Officer and finished his tour as commander Company A, 9th Engineers.

In 1977, he was ordered to Marine Barracks, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines as the Operations Officer. In 1978, he took command of Company A, Marine Barracks, Subic Bay. In 1979, Major General Lehnert attended the U.S. Army Advanced Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After graduation, he served as Executive Officer, USMC Recruiting Station, San Antonio, Texas. He was transferred to Camp Pendleton, California in 1983 and held the following assignments from 1983 to 1986. Company Commander, Company C, 1st Landing Support Battalion Commanding Officer, Combat Service Support Detachment 11 Commanding Officer, Combat Service Support Detachment 16 Executive Officer, MAU Service Support Group 17 Landing Force Support Party Cdr, BSSG 7 MEF Engineer, First Marine Amphibious Force.

In 1987, he was selected for Armed Forces Staff College. After graduation, he was assigned to the United States Southern Command in the J-3 Operations Directorate as Chief, Central American Exercise Branch. During the Panama crisis, he participated in Operation Just Cause and Operation Promote Liberty. Major General Lehnert was reassigned in 1990 as Inspector-Instructor, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, Portland, Oregon. He was selected for top level school, completed the Naval War College in 1993 and was awarded a masters degree in International and Strategic Studies.

In 1993, he was assigned to the Joint Warfighting Center in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as the Chief of the Futures Branch, Doctrine Division. In 1995, he reported to 2d MAW and participated in Operation Sea Signal, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as Commander, Joint Task Group Bulkeley, JTF 160, where he

commanded the security forces responsible for operation of Cuban and Haitian migrant camps. Major General Lehnert commanded Marine Wing Support Group 27 at Cherry Point, North Carolina from 23 May 1996 to 28 May 1998. He was reassigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 II MEF. In 1999, he deployed to Panama as the Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force Panama to oversee the final turnover of the Canal and the remaining military bases.

His first tour as a general officer was at Headquarters Marine Corps, where he served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics. He took command of 2d Force Service Support Group in July 2001 and in January 2002, he deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as Commander, Joint Task Force 160. JTF 160's mission was to construct and operate the detention facilities for Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees. In 2003, he deployed with the 2d FSSG to the CENTCOM theater and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom as Commander, Marine Logistics Command. His most recent assignment was as Chief of Staff, United States Southern Command, Miami, Florida.

Decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Major General Lehnert has consistently shown genuine concern for those who serve in his command, regularly placing their comfort and support above his own. He and his wife, Denise, are a prototype for general officers who have the honor to follow them in command.

On the occasion of his retirement, and on behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the exceptional service of Major General Michael R. Lehnert.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ALEX KNECHT FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION III STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Alex Knecht showed hard work and dedication to the sport of baseball; and

Whereas, Alex Knecht was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Alex Knecht always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Alex Knecht on winning the Boys' Division III State Baseball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008-2009 baseball season.