

nose turret shot off, and the wounded and dead airmen arranged on the ground covered in sheets. Hard sight for a 19-year-old airman to absorb," Barnes said in Helen's written history.

Barnes' first mission was May 18, 1944, where his squadron was assigned to bomb a Romanian oil refinery. Barnes weighed only 125 pounds, and as the smallest member of the crew he was assigned to the ball turret on this and subsequent missions. Barnes would fly on four missions over the Ploesti oil refineries, as it produced a major amount of the fuel for the German military. Barnes said they were the toughest missions, as the refineries were heavily defended with "flak so thick you could walk on it" and enemy fighters menacing the bombers.

"I was pretty young. I'm 18 and I'm flying combat at 19," Barnes said.

Barnes flew regularly as he was able to fit into the cramped space of the ball turret, and due to this he racked up over 50 missions. According to Helen's written history: "On July 28, 1944, a Ploesti raid, we sent out 27 airplanes from our 756th Bomb Squadron and lost 14. My plane was badly shot up—elevators and ailerons gone and no control over the plane, just flying on automatic pilot. We all bailed out and fortunately it was over 'friendly' territory. The plane was lost, but the crew all survived. The emergency parachute jump earned me entrance into 'The Caterpillar Club,' awarded by Irving Air Chute Co."

Barnes said he thanked the Lord for bringing him through his missions unscathed and he prayed for the safety of the crew.

The Liberator would often have difficulty taking off due to its payload of 2,000-pound bombs. The aircraft would often skim the treetops on takeoff. It was cold in the plane due to the cruising altitude of 28,000 feet.

"More than once we came home on two engines," Barnes said. "On one occasion, with the brake system disabled, chutes were attached to the fuselage and deployed to slow down the landing speed."

Barnes' crew lost only one member, but as he was flying on a separate plane as part of a split crew, Barnes watched the other craft fall from the sky without any of the crew escaping.

"The army was good discipline, and it made a man out of me. I didn't have time to get a job or get into trouble," Barnes said in an interview with the BN-R.

Barnes said he has thought of the toll of the war he fought in, as well as the wars of today, and how war has never stopped being a tragedy.

Barnes received a Good Conduct medal, and Air medal with two clusters, and Army Air Force Pres. Unit with gold frame and two clusters, an Army Air medal with two clusters and a European Air Force MidEast medal with six Bronze Stars. Upon completing 51 missions on August 7, 1944, Barnes was scheduled to return to the U.S. for reassignment. After a two-week voyage back to the U.S. by a Navy ship, Barnes was moved about the country for about a year teaching mostly Aircraft Recognition. He was honorably discharged on September 10, 1945 and returned to Boone. Barnes enlisted in the National Guard upon returning home, and his military career ended with a medical discharge due to allergies three years later.

Barnes used the GI Bill to study pre-engineering at Boone Junior College. He received his degree in 1948 and was recruited by Iowa Electric Power Co. where he worked as an electrician and meter man until his retirement in 1984. Barnes has always been interested in technology and repaired television sets in his home from 1967 until the present.

Barnes will be aboard the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. on August 19.

I commend Kenny Barnes for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SMEED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the liberty movement lost one of its true champions on September 7, 2010 when Ralph Smeed passed away from pancreatic cancer. "Making Statism Unpopular," was not just the title of Ralph's website but the focus of all his efforts as a political activist, columnist, think tank leader, and supporter of numerous pro-liberty organizations and causes. Without Ralph's efforts, the movement to make statism unpopular would not be nearly as strong as it is today. I am honored that I was among the hundreds of freedom-lovers who were able to call Ralph a friend.

Ralph was born in Caldwell, Idaho in 1921. His family was in the ranching and meatpacking business. His first experience with what he referred to as the "mindless government bureaucracy" occurred when he attempted to register for military service after Pearl Harbor and was informed that he could not volunteer, he had to wait till he was drafted!

Following his military service, Ralph entered into the family business, becoming the manager in 1949. As a small businessman, Ralph had even more experiences with "mindless government bureaucracy," and useless government rules and regulations. Ralph's first hand experiences and his study of the freedom philosophy lead him to become active in efforts to try to change the direction of the country.

Ralph's interest in, and knowledge of, the freedom philosophy was enhanced by his association with the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), the nation's first free-market educational institution. Ralph attended a FEE seminar in 1965, where he met Leonard Read, the founder and President of FEE. Ralph was an enthusiastic supporter of FEE's mission to popularize the ideas of liberty and he worked closely with FEE, eventually serving as a member of FEE's Board of Trustees. Just recently, Ralph was involved in a special reprinting of Leonard Read's classic essay "I, Pencil."

One of the traits that made Ralph a great leader was that whenever he saw a task that needed to be done, or any opportunity to advance liberty that no one else in the freedom movement was taking advantage of; he would simply roll up his sleeves and do it himself. For example, in the early 1970s, there were not that many opinion writers providing an analysis of the events of the day from a pro-liberty perspective. Seeing this void, Ralph launched a successful career as a columnist in 1974. Years before it became commonplace to find free-market think tanks operating at the state and local level, Ralph started a public policy and education foundation, the Center for the Study of Market Alternatives. When the growth of the Internet opened up new opportu-

nities to promote the freedom message, Ralph not only supported the efforts of free-market institutions to establish a web presence, he established his own site.

Ralph served as a friend and mentor to many in the freedom movement. For example, he copublished a newsletter with Steve Symms, who went on to serve in Congress and the Senate. Ralph remained a close friend and adviser to Steve through his political career. The late Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth-Hague and former U.S. Representative and current Idaho Governor Butch Otter also benefited from Ralph's friendship and counsel. In recent years, Ralph has been recognized as the philosophical godfather of the Idaho Tea Party movement. Fortunately, Ralph's influence over the freedom movement will continue thanks to the Internet and a collection of his essays that soon will be published.

As a writer, scholar, and activist for liberty, Ralph fought many ideological and political battles. Yet even Ralph's fiercest ideological opponents never had a bad word to say about him. This is because Ralph was something one rarely comes across in politics: a genuinely nice guy. Ralph had perhaps one of the best senses of humor of anyone I have ever known, and while he was quick to criticize anyone, regardless of position, power, or long-standing friendship, who was taking a course Ralph saw as detrimental to liberty, he never resorted to personal attacks.

Madam Speaker, as I reflect on the impact Ralph Smeed had on the freedom movement, I cannot help but feel sorry for those freedom lovers who will never have the benefit of Ralph's friendship, wise counsel, and wickedly delightful sense of humor. I can only hope that all of us who knew Ralph as a friend will honor his memory by taking advantage of every available opportunity to continue Ralph's work of "Making Statism Unpopular."

HONORING THE CELEBRATION OF SAN JOSE JAPANTOWN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th Anniversary of San Jose's Japantown, located at the heart of my Congressional district and only a few short blocks from my district office.

At one time, there were 43 different Japantowns in California. Today, only 3 distinct and recognizable ones remain. San Jose's Japantown has escaped the fate of most of California's Japantowns and continues to thrive. It has grown beyond a strictly Japanese-American enclave into a community that has embraced Hawaiian, Cuban, Mexican and numerous other groups. Our Japantown is thriving due in large part to its openness to other cultures and the welcoming nature of Silicon Valley, San Jose in particular.

San Jose's Japantown was originally formed around the existing "Heinlenville" Chinatown settlement. During the Second World War the Japanese-American population was forcibly removed from Japantown and interned in camps. After the war many Japanese Americans resettled in the area after returning from internment camps in World War II.

The expansion and growth of Silicon Valley spread the Japanese-American community far and wide, but the culture and vitality of this community remains. The California State Legislature has paid special attention to the area, officially designating it a historical Japantown.

Japantown is the site of the newly rebuilt Japanese American Museum of San Jose, the famous San Jose Taiko ensemble, the world renowned Shuei-do Manju Shop, confectioners, the Nichi Bei Bussan Japanese goods store, handmade tofu at San Jose Tofu and a variety of restaurants, professional services, and community organizations, such as the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center and the Japanese American Citizens League, and smaller retail shops. Japantown is also home to a number of non-Japanese businesses, including Mexican, Hawaiian, Cuban and Korean restaurants.

Among the numerous houses of worship in Japantown, two churches founded by Japanese Americans well over a century ago continue to thrive in the community, Wesley United Methodist Church and San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

San Jose Japantown's most unique and charming feature is the harmony between generations-old businesses and new ventures. A spirit of cooperation pervades the neighborhood, and merchants who might compete in business share a sense of friendship that leads them to strive for the betterment of the community.

A critical part of the Japantown community is the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose which partners with the City of San Jose to look after cultural preservation in the area. Each year brings many festivals, major ones include Obon, every July, Nikkei Matsuri, every spring, Aki Matsuri, every fall, and a newer festival: The Spirit of Japantown Festival (also in the fall). Japantown also features many street venues such as a year-round Certified Farmers Market run by the Japantown Business Association and events open to the public at the Art Object Gallery.

It is my honor to congratulate the Japantown community on its 120th anniversary. I am sure the partnerships and collaborations within and around Japantown will lead to many more years of prosperity and success.

CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Constitution Day was Senator Byrd's Day.

Having just finished drafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was stopped in the street as he left Independence Hall in Philadelphia where delegates from thirteen former colonies had been meeting the summer of 1787. "Dr. Franklin, what form of government have you given us?" a concerned citizen asked. "A republic, Madam," said Franklin; quickly adding, "If you can keep it."

Throughout Robert C. Byrd's life he was a proud keeper and guardian of two sets of laws, one laid down in our Bible (the King James Version), the other rooted in our federal Constitution.

Senator Byrd was a largely self-taught man. He cherished learning, a process he continued

throughout his life, and he made sure that countless Americans would get an annual lesson, a civic reminder about our Constitution each September 17th. Senator Byrd authored the law that now requires all institutions receiving federal funding to celebrate the venerable document in a meaningful and instructive way.

Dr. Ray Smock, director of the Byrd Center, the repository for Senator Byrd's papers and a center for the study of Congress in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, recently shared some insights with me in advance of our celebration of the Constitution this September 17th, which serve to remind us that Senator Byrd's values are as timeless as his work for West Virginia was tireless.

At the Byrd Center, among the collection of thousands of pages of Senator Byrd's work, rests the Bible he held when he was sworn in as President Pro Tem of the Senate on Jan. 3rd, 1989. That Bible, like others that were in his possession, was heavily underlined on almost every page. Sometimes he would write in the margin: "Memorize This." He wrote two quotations on the inside front cover of this particular Bible:

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." Proverbs 22:28

And, "We speak much about what matters little; we speak little about what matters much." We are not sure of the source of this quotation, but the fact the Senator placed it here, shows us how important it was to him.

When you think about it, even a little bit, both quotations are relevant to Constitution Day. Certainly, to the Senator, one of the great ancient landmarks had to have been the U.S. Constitution. No one defended it better or more eloquently than Senator Byrd.

In the hard times we find ourselves right now, there are some prognosticators who argue that the Constitution needs to be overhauled. A recent article in Harper's magazine even suggested that the Senate is an anachronism and should be abolished.

Senator Byrd spent a lifetime defending the wisdom of our Founding Fathers and the government they created. He understood from his Bible and his Constitution that mankind was not perfect. And no government conceived by man is going to be perfect either. But he believed in the genius of the Constitution, which has served us well for more than two centuries.

He loved the Federalist Essays, and read them thoroughly from cover to cover, memorizing key passages. These 85 essays on the nature of the American government penned by James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton were collectively the single best source Senator Byrd used to form his understanding of the intent of the Founders when they penned the Constitution. He quoted the Federalist papers frequently.

Among his favorite passages was in Federalist 51, in which James Madison wrote:

But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

The other quotation in the Senator's Bible, "We speak much about what matters little, we

speak little about what matters much" gets to the heart of a lot that is wrong with our public discourse these days. The 24/7 news machine, the Internet, and talk radio, devote vast amounts of time speaking about what matters little, and not enough talking about the things that matter most. We all feel that government could work better. The question is in how to make that happen. We must not surrender to bumper-sticker politics that entice one to believe that solutions to great challenges are simple and quick.

The legacy of Senator Byrd's life suggests that we all need to be more responsible in making government work. Citizens and those who are elected need to put aside the extremes of partisanship to effectively address the complex needs of the country.

Senator Byrd was in awe of the Founders for their ability to set aside their partisanship and work to build a nation. He admired the Framers of the Constitution for their understanding of history and of human nature. While he could play partisan politics with the best of them and while he was loyal and dedicated to West Virginia, he never forgot that his role as a Senator was to look out for the whole nation, not just one party, or one place. It is certain that he would agree that our Constitution does not need changing so much as our moral compass needs adjusting.

Let us "remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set," and let us all follow Senator Byrd's example of keeping our perspective on the things that matter much, and not get lost wasting our time on those that matter little. Senator Byrd is gone now, but our job to work to keep this Republic is an ongoing duty, one that each generation must take up so our Union can endure, and prosper.

I will be visiting Boone County to celebrate our Constitution and the invaluable lessons Senator Byrd left with us. Constitution Day was dear to Senator Byrd's heart because it was a day of reflection on the very thing that does matter much to the future of this nation.

To learn more about the Byrd Center, its collection and programs, please visit its Web site at: www.byrdcenter.org. Ray Smock is Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV, and is a former Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT J. WINCHESTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE U.S. ARMY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Army veteran, Mr. Robert J. Winchester, who has served his Nation, the U.S. Army, and the military intelligence community with unwavering commitment and professionalism. This Friday, September 17th, his friends, colleagues, and fellow soldiers will gather to recognize 26 years of exceptional service to the Army.

Mr. Winchester began his distinguished public service career in 1969 as an Army intelligence analyst stationed in Vietnam. Honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1971,