

HONORING A FAMILY'S
DEDICATED SERVICE TO AMERICA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. —WOLF. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I had the privilege of visiting with the Piedmont Republican Women's Club (PRWC) which was celebrating its 50th anniversary. The PRWC, whose first president was Anita Brower, was founded in Fauquier County in 1960. They are a volunteer grassroots organization, with more than 80 members, affiliated with the National Federation of Republican Women and the Virginia Federation of Republican Women. Mrs. Patricia Rice was in attendance at the luncheon. She and her husband Scott Rice are the parents of six remarkable children who have served our country in immeasurable ways.

All six of the Rice children are currently serving or have served in the armed forces. Their commitment is extraordinary. The Rice family's story is one of unwavering strength and devotion to this country.

Rebecca L. Rice Johnson served five years in the Air Force during which time she attained the rank of senior airman. She also received the Air Force Commendation with Valor for her heroic efforts on the scene of a car accident. After serving in the Air Force she graduated from George Mason University and is now married to a Marine.

Sergeant Patrick McMahon Rice served as a radio tech from 1999–2003 and served in Iraq, fighting in the battle for An Nasiriyah for which he received a Presidential Unit Citation. After receiving an associate's degree he re-enlisted and is currently stationed at New River Air Station, North Carolina, with 2nd Platoon, Military Police Company, Marine Wing Support Group 2/7.

Mary Ann Rice was commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps and is a second lieutenant currently stationed at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii.

First Lieutenant Elisabeth Claire Rice, who was previously stationed at Tripler Army Hospital, was deployed to Afghanistan on a Forward Surgical Team. She has recently been treating many Afghan civilians—women and children—some in need of basic medical service and others who are victims of IED explosions.

Lance Corporal Christopher Scott Rice was diagnosed with an inoperable brainstem glioma at age 2, but fortunately had successful radiation treatments. After six months in Afghanistan with the Second Marines, Combat Logistics Group 6 in support of 1/6, he recently returned home. During his tour he provided convoy service in Helmand. He was involved in two separate incidents where IEDs went off but fortunately escaped without harm in a mine resistant vehicle.

Corporal Philip Kenneth Rice is a U.S. Marine who trained in intelligence at Cory Station, Florida. He is now receiving additional training in radio Recon.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to represent the Rice family of Warrenton, Virginia. This family has demonstrated unsurpassed devotion, leadership, and sacrifice in their service to our Nation. I

salute them for their unyielding patriotism and love of country.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH WALTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kenneth Walter, a World War II Navy veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Kenneth Walter was recognized on Tuesday, September 7. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: KENNETH WALTER

(By Greg Eckstrom)

History is best learned from experience.

Living through it, feeling it and seeing it from your own eyes.

As a former American history teacher, Kenneth Walter, who has lived in Boone for 50 years now and is a retired United administrator, would likely be the best teacher you can find for World War II history from the Pacific.

Learning about Kamikaze pilots? Walter's boat was hit by one. The flag raising on Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima? They came to Walter's boat first looking for a spare flag, and ended up getting the one from the boat next to him.

Walter's experiences brought him through some historic moments in World War II, but as far as sharing this in his classrooms after returning to the United States, he stuck to teaching rather than sharing stories.

"In my years of teaching I don't ever recall an instance of recounting the fact that I was in the service," he said. "Everybody had been in the service. You did it and never gave it too much thought."

Born in Keokuk, Walter graduated high school in Cincinnati, Ohio, before enlisting into the service.

"What choice was there for a young man, 16 or 17?" he recalled of signing up for the Navy. "You got in just as quick as you could . . . at least I did."

And once he was in, Walter took pleasure in the little things . . . the basic things.

"On most every occasion I had a bed. On most every occasion, somebody else prepared my meal," he said with a laugh. "And beyond that, I had a great job in the Navy. I was a quartermaster, which is not a quartermaster in the Army. A quartermaster in the Navy is the master of the quarter deck, which is the bridge. Quartermasters were in charge of navigation. As a quartermaster, you had to be able to do the same things a radio man did, the same things a signal man did. I also got qualified as a radar man. We had to do all sorts of things. We supervised the other enlisted staff on the bridge. But of course, we were always managed by officers. Navigation and communication were primary responsibilities."

Walter found himself aboard a Tank Landing Ship, the LST-477, a long ship—about 325 feet—used to carry massive amounts of cargo.

"We went to Guam and did landings there, landings at Gilbert Islands. Our major action was in Iwo [Jima] when we got into the ac-

tion big time," he said. "We had a kamikaze hit us. That's when I lost my place to sleep."

At the time, Walter's ship was carrying 25 tanks that were to be discharged on the first day of the Battle of Iwo Jima—a very heavy load.

"We were struck maybe 75 feet back from the bow," he said. "It was carrying a bomb in addition to itself as a missile, and it penetrated the side and we went down on our nose. We couldn't get in because of our bow being low. So we had to wait two days. Finally, on the fourth day, we made it in."

Another vivid memory for Walter was the flag raising at Mount Suribachi.

"We were one of the ships they came to looking for a flag to put up on Mount Suribachi on Iwo, and the ship next to us had a flag extra, and we didn't happen to," he said. "But we did get to see the event from our ship. We blew our horns and everything like that. The Marines let us know what they'd done, because we had Marines who were unloading tanks at that particular time."

Walter also recalled the final day of World War II. His ship had been remodeled to be a hospital ship for the invasion of Japan.

"We had doctors and nurses aboard," he said. "They put a couple operating rooms down where we usually carry tanks. So we were not unhappy to see the war be over. We were amongst those that were pleased that the atom bombs stopped the war. We knew what was going to happen to us."

After the war ended, Walter traveled to Korea with a construction battalion, and then back to Japan. His boat had been decommissioned, and he found himself as part of the group giving his boat to those they had previously been fighting.

"It was an odd feeling," he said. "There's nothing in any history book about the United States helping the Japanese in that kind of way. I think it's one of those typical things Americans do . . . give the beaten people a better chance to get by. And what happened to our ship, it was turned over to some Japanese fishermen. We gave them about two days worth of training on how to run the ship and gave it to them. On March 13, 1946, we did that. That's when I started my long trek home. I got out in July of 1946. I took a ship, another ship, back home."

After his service, Walter moved to Illinois, then Boone, where he has lived for the past 50 years. He most recently went on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC. Although he had been there several times in the past, it was the first time he had seen the World War II Memorial.

"That's spectacular," he said. "It really is."

When recalling the history he's lived through, Walter doesn't give the highlights typically heard of service men and women of their travels.

"Yeah, I went to Japan and Korea and Australia and so on," he said. "But it's not like being a tourist. You're not a tourist. There are a lot of places I was where I never stepped foot on the ground. You were just . . . it's like flying over Iowa."

For Walter, he recalls the friendships that were formed with those aboard his ship. Since World War II, they have held reunions, and he has had friends from the service visit him in Boone.

"Lasting friendship," he said. "Not deep friendship, just lasting. The service experience is something altogether different. There isn't anything to explain it."

I commend Kenneth Walter 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.

IN HONOR OF KIRSTEN C. COTY

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Lieutenant Kirsten C. Coty, a courageous American hero, who recently returned from serving her country honorably in Iraq. First Lt. Coty's military service first began in March 2007, when she joined the Security Forces of the U.S. Air Force. She went on to complete her Air Force Officer Training in San Antonio, Texas before being assigned to the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In August 2009, 1st Lt. Coty was deployed to Joint Base Balad in Iraq as part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. In January 2010, she was reassigned to the United States Air Forces Central and extended her commitment of service through August 2010. Upon returning from Iraq, 1st Lt. Coty has been assigned again to the 90th Security Forces Squadron at the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Characteristic to her distinguished service, 1st Lt. Coty continues to exemplify the strong character and bravery of the men and women who have put their lives at risk to fight to keep our country safe and free.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing 1st Lt. Kirsten C. Coty for her bravery, dedication and achievements. The American people owe her a great debt of gratitude for her selfless service to our great nation.

HONORING ST. JOHN OF THE
CROSS PARISH IN WESTERN
SPRINGS ON THEIR 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross Parish, a Catholic community in Western Springs, Illinois. This Saturday, September 18th, the parish is beginning a year-long celebration of 50 years as a faith community. My wife, Judy, and I will be participating in the first anniversary event which is a Mass celebrated by Francis Cardinal George followed by a parish family dinner reception.

Responding to a growing Catholic population in Western Springs in the 1950s, the Archbishop of Chicago, Albert Cardinal Meyer, authorized the founding of St. John of the Cross Parish in 1960. The original parish included 650 families. The church flourished under its first pastor, Reverend William J. Bennett, and opened a K-8 school of 595 students one year later.

Over the last 50 years, St. John of the Cross has been a pillar of the community in Western Springs. Its primary mission is feeding the spiritual needs of its 13,000 Catholic parishioners in 3,875 families. It is also one of the most generous faith communities in Chicagoland, including providing financial help

and cultivating personal relationships with five churches around the U.S. and one in Uganda, along with helping to serve the basic needs of countless people in the area and around the world. St. John of the Cross Parish also supports a school that currently enrolls 700 students and is one of the top schools in Chicagoland.

As a parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish, I have been able to witness first-hand the dedication and hard work of current pastor, Reverend David P. Dowdle, and the previous pastor, Reverend Richard Hines. All of the priests and staff members of St. John of the Cross cultivate a culture of charity and community among the parish.

I ask you to join me in honoring the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross on the parish's 50th anniversary. May they enjoy this year-long celebration and may they provide many more years of commitment and service to the community.

ESTABLISHING ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS VETERANS'
CURATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5282, a bill that would create a Veterans' Curation Program at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, Mr. BARROW, for his work on this legislation. H.R. 5282 again shows the necessary commitment from the federal government to assist our veterans and military personnel through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While I am supportive of H.R. 5282, I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to discuss perhaps the biggest issue for the Corps of Engineers in the State of Georgia—updating the current manuals that affect both the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basins. Over the next 18 months before the court ordered deadline for negotiations to be completed, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida must develop a workable water sharing plan with the resources within these two basins.

Madam Speaker, one of the critical aspects of these negotiations will be how Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier are treated. I firmly believe that both of these lakes should be considered water supply lakes for the purposes of serving the local communities. Knowing that the negotiations are ongoing, it is my hope that common ground on the treatment of these lakes will be reached.

To that end, I applaud the leadership of both of Georgia Senators—SAXBY CHAMBLISS and JOHNNY ISAKSON—on these water issues. Specifically, both Senators have championed the notion of authorizing Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona to be used for water supply and reallocation of storage to meet the current and future needs of the surrounding towns and cities.

As for the governors of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, I hope that a compromise including the use of these lakes for water storage and further, that allows them to be part of the water supply for the State of Georgia is on the horizon.

Madam Speaker, I am supportive of the efforts of the bill that we have before us and believe that it is another way in which we can help those who have so bravely served our country through the Armed Forces. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5282.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
U.S. MARINE CPL. JOE
WRIGHTSMAN

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman for his selfless and valiant service to our nation.

On July 18, 2010, our country lost a Marine, and Jackson Parish lost a native son. However, as long as the American flag continues to fly over the sands of Afghanistan and the piney hills of Jackson Parish, Wrightsman's contributions to protecting the freedoms we hold so dear will never be forgotten.

A 2005 graduate of Jonesboro Hodge High School, Wrightsman was serving his third tour overseas—an exemplary achievement of a young man of 23 years old. In a generation where so many men and women have answered freedom's call to duty, his example of heroism and devotion embody what has truly made America a great nation for over two centuries.

Today, our words seem futile in comparison to Wrightsman's service, but as written in 2 Corinthians 1:3, our prayer is "that the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, may be able to comfort those in troubling times."

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman and extending thanks on behalf of a grateful nation.

KYLE VANOCKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Sheriff Kyle Christine VanOcker. Ms. VanOcker passed away August 19, 2010 after a heroic battle with lung cancer.

Kyle's career in law enforcement began in 1986 as a police dispatcher for the Wheat Ridge Colorado Police Department. In 1989 Kyle joined the Jefferson County Sheriffs Department. During her years of service to the community, which spanned 24 years, Kyle received many awards and touched several lives by seeing the good in everyone.

Kyle was a model for outstanding service to her community and in honor of her memory, her family sponsored a K-9 dog for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The Department is naming the dog Kyle.