

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BERT DORAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bert Doran, a World War II Marine Corps veteran from Boone, 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. Bert Doran was recognized on Tuesday, October 26. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: BERT DORAN

(By Greg Eckstrom)

"I was lucky I lived."

The sentence came from Bert Doran, a Marine Corps veteran who served in World War II under harsh fighting. He was injured in Iwo Jima after three days of fighting in which half of his company was killed. Doran, however, isn't exactly one to go down without a fight.

It's that spirit that drove the 19½ year old who was born in South Dakota and moved to Boone at age 7 to join the military. Some guys he knew said they were going to do it, and Doran decided he wanted to do it, too. The reason he picked the Marine Corps as his branch of choice was a decision explained just as easily.

"It's supposed to be an elite outfit, so it's what I picked," he said.

United States Marine Corps, third division, ninth regiment, third battalion, K company was where Doran ended up, and after signing up he was sent to California for boot camp.

Boot camp was in San Diego, followed by training at a portion of Camp Pendleton up in the hills, "where all the snakes were," Doran said.

Boot camp was, as a bit of an understatement, tough.

"Boot camp was some of the toughest training," he said. "It was 8 weeks, and I had to stay an extra two weeks because I couldn't swim."

Tough was also a definition, also an understatement, that fit Doran, though.

"I decided I was going to make it through it, so I did," he said. "I lost a lot of weight after I went through boot camp."

Leaving Camp Pendleton, Doran was next sent overseas to Guam for further training.

"It was supposed to be secured, but we had an eight day push to the jungles to clean out what was left," he said. "It was thick jungle. We had to use knives to chop through."

There were also plenty of snakes in the jungle . . . although after time in the hills in Camp Pendleton, Doran was used to this.

It was January of 1944 that Doran left Guam. Arriving at Iwo Jima on Feb. 26, 1945, he was greeted with fierce fighting.

"We were actually pinned down," he said. "About half the company had been killed. We had to wait for replacements. The captain was killed the first day, my platoon lieutenant was killed the first day. About 200 in the company. About half of them were killed the first day."

After three days of fighting, Doran was in a foxhole with two other men when a mortar shell hit.

"It killed the one guy," he said. "I don't know what happened to the other one. I probably was temporarily knocked out, and then I pushed up through . . . The guys from the next foxhole came out and pulled me out, put a tourniquet on my arm. Then I was carried out of there."

The soil at Iwo Jima was composed nearly entirely of volcanic ash.

"That's what that whole island was," Doran said. "My face was completely full of it."

Details are fuzzy for Doran, as he was on morphine at the time, but he remembers being shipped out on a hospital ship, sent to Saipan, and then flown to the Hawaiian islands.

From there, after a month, he was sent to a hospital in Oakland, Calif., and finally to the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, where he stayed for 11 months.

"It was kind of a blur after I was wounded," he said.

The blast had put so much volcanic ash into him that he had lost his eyesight. He said that at first, he could see a little light, but after a surgery was attempted to correct his vision, he could see nothing.

"They said my eyes were so full of that volcanic ash that they couldn't see into them," he said. "That's the first thing I remembered at the hospital. One of their help was rubbing my face. Trying to get that ash out. I imagine it looked like a mask."

For the man that got through boot camp with grit and determination, however, his lost vision didn't seem to slow him down. In his time at the hospital he learned Braille, and even took a trip up to New York City with a group.

"They took us from there for a week up to New York to the Institute for the Blind in New York City, and we were there for a week," he said. "And they took us out to the big night clubs at night for eats and drinks. We met Guy Lombardo at the Roosevelt Hotel."

He also married his wife, who was from Ogden, during a furlough. When he went back to Philadelphia Naval Hospital, his wife came with him and got a job at the facility.

It was at the hospital that Doran was presented with the Purple Heart for his service to his country.

After being discharged from the service, Doran received training at the Veterans Hospital in Des Moines on how to make rugs—a task he picked up quickly and enjoyed for years.

"I made rugs and that kind of stuff for 25 years," he said. "I've got to liking it."

Doran also keeps in contact with the men of K company—sending out Christmas cards to a list that has slowly been dwindling as the years go on. These days, he sends out about 10–12 cards each year to men from the company.

Billie Ellis, who works for Boone County Public Health, helps Doran out at home, and knowing him for 25 years she describes him as a perfectionist.

"He was a perfectionist and he still is," she said. "He likes everything done right."

Over the years, the ash has been taken from Doran's face, although one piece next to his nose did develop into cancer.

"They told me right before the surgery that a lot of them don't live through the surgery, so that didn't sound very good," he said.

A lot of people don't live through the surgery, but even fewer survive a mortar shell landing in their foxhole. Doran went through the 11½ hour surgery 25 years ago without problems. After all, having survived Iwo Jima, cancer is just another challenge to overcome.

Now, looking back on his time in the service, Doran vividly recalls stories of his service with sharp clarity. He claims that the military taught him discipline, and he's proud of joining a legacy of military service in his family—having had a brother, John F. Doran, fight in the Battle of the Bulge and his father serve in the Army during World War I.

These days, Doran said, the military is different. Soldiers now use technologically advanced weapons. The soldiers that are fighting, however, don't seem to have changed much. Ellis has a son that just joined the Marine Corps. When he was seen off, in addition to family members, Doran was there as well. After all, Marines support each other—both in WWII and today.

"He wished my son good luck," Ellis said. "They always talk about the Marines."

I commend Bert Doran 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHAPTER 227 OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the 25th Anniversary of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227. Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA, is the only national veterans organization exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. Currently, there are 46 state councils and 630 local chapters with more than 50,000 individual members. VVA's goals are to promote and support issues that are important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

One local chapter, VVA Chapter 227, serves the needs of Vietnam veterans who live in Northern Virginia, and I commend them for their dedication and commitment to our veterans. Chapter 227 was founded in 1985 with 15 people meeting at the NCO club at Fort Myer. Since then, the chapter has grown and continues to be an engaged and active asset in the community.

Chapter services include providing support to homeless veterans, assisting in maintaining the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, awarding the Vince Kaspar Prizes

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for Excellence in the Arts to area high school students, and educating its membership and the public about addressing the needs of veterans. It is an inspiration that so many continue to answer the call to serve after the battle is done; there is no better advocate for veterans in need than those who understand the challenges they face.

The founding principal of Vietnam Veterans of America is: "Never again, will one generation of Veterans abandon another". But in many cases, Vietnam veterans were abandoned by entire segments of the country. The government often failed to provide necessary services, and, tragically, some of the American public wrongly turned their opposition to the war into disrespect for our brave men and women who served in uniform. Instead of receiving the honor due all American service members, many received scorn. VVA works tirelessly to right these wrongs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking VVA Chapter 227 and all VVA chapters for their service to their community and our nation. Their service is a living reminder of the sacrifices our service men and women make from generation to generation. I also ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude and respect of our nation to those Vietnam-era veterans who served so bravely. I pledge that I will continue working to protect and improve the services and benefits so richly deserved by American servicemembers of all generations.

CELEBRATING THE 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE OF THE WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB OF ROSEVILLE

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women's Improvement Club of Roseville. Since its foundation in 1910, the Club has been a community service organization benefiting the City of Roseville and surrounding areas. The clubs numerous contributions to our community have included the founding of the city's first library, developing Woodbridge Park, contributing annually to the restoration of the El Dorado and Tahoe National Forests, spearheading several educational and arts programs and providing invaluable support to area veterans and service members. Furthermore, the Club's members contribute invaluable time and resources to community events, as well as to local and international charities.

Madam Speaker, it is without doubt that our community is a better place today as a result of the constant dedication of the Women's Improvement Club of Roseville. I am proud to recognize and thank the Club for a century of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST.
CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the faculty, staff, parents and students of St. Christopher School for winning the 2010 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award.

Blue Ribbon Schools is a Department of Education program that honors schools whose students have attained an extraordinarily high level of achievement or who regularly overcome socioeconomic barriers to academic success. Schools are judged according to strict criteria based on test scores and student demographics. Winners generally maintain a school culture of community involvement, high expectations for student achievement, an emphasis on teaching to the whole child and a dedication to developing leadership skills. This year, only 304 schools throughout America attained this prestigious award. I am proud to count St. Christopher School among them.

St. Christopher School is a Catholic School in Rocky River, Ohio that strives to develop its students spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. Students are taught to become healthy, loving, well-rounded leaders with a lifelong dedication to learning and to living out Christian values.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating those who have worked hard to make St. Christopher School a nurturing and academically rigorous institution.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. CONNIE
SHAFFERY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Connie Shaffery, who has dedicated herself to the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Connie has proven herself to be an exceptional communicator and representative for the United States Army and Fort Knox. Connie will retire after 28 years of devoted service.

Connie graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Communication and continued her education, graduating from the Defense Information School's Public Affairs Officers' Course.

Connie began working in Army Public Affairs at the Philadelphia Recruiting Battalion in 1987. She moved to the Baltimore Recruiting Battalion in 1990 to accept a position as their chief of advertising and public affairs. Because of her proven skills and leadership, Connie was promoted in 1993 to a position with the Military District of Washington as their community relations officer.

A move to Fort Knox, Ky., led to a position as the chief of advertising and public affairs for the 3rd Recruiting Brigade, overseeing activities in seven recruiting battalions throughout the north central states. In 2003, she was promoted to be the Army Armor Center and Fort Knox public affairs officer, a position she held for over seven years.

This year, she was temporarily promoted to be the public affairs officer for Army Accessions Command where she was responsible for managing the commanding general's public affairs activities throughout the command and within the local Fort Knox region.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Connie Shaffery for her commitment to the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, our nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND
FAUSTO STAMPIGLIA

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to congratulate Reverend Fausto Stampiglia of St. Martha's Church in Sarasota, Florida, for receiving the Holy Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from the Roman Catholic Church for his outstanding service to the Church.

Translated, the award means for "Church and Pope." It is the highest honor a priest can receive from the Pope.

Father Stampiglia was presented the award by Bishop Frank J. Dewane, on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI, who noted his service and dedication to the people of St. Martha's Parish and to the Diocese of Venice.

Father Stampiglia was installed as pastor of St. Martha's in 1991 and is the head priest of St. Martha Catholic School. He celebrates masses in Vietnamese and the Tridentine Rite and has been a strong supporter of several charitable programs in the Sarasota area.

For the Diocese of Venice, he is currently Dean of the Northern Deanery, Director of the Permanent Diaconate Office and Board, and serves on the College of Consultors, Peer Review Committee and School Board, as well as an ex-officio member of the Presbyteral Council.

On behalf of the many individuals and families he has faithfully served within Florida's 13th District, I thank Father Stampiglia for his service to his church and community.

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge he has rightfully received this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 visiting a constituent at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. If I were present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 572, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 332—Providing for the House to adjourn for the Thanksgiving District Work Period.