

"And we were supposed to go in behind the first wave of troops in to Japan and evacuate POWs."

Fortunately, the cover of the first wave of troops was not needed, as the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, effectively ending the war.

The war was over, but Barkwill's duties on the recovered personnel outfit were still needed, and he was sent to POW camps in Japan to look for soldiers, check out graves for information and report back.

"It was interesting work," he said.

From there, Barkwill was sent to a different unit—this one in Cebu City in the Philippines—for some more interesting work. He was to investigate claims that the Filipinos made in regards to G.I.s' stealing items.

"It was interesting," he said. "They come in to our office. We set up an office down in Cebu City, and they come in and file applications with their claims. We had a bunch of Filipinos working for us, and they'd fill out their forms for them, and then we'd have to go out and investigate. Try to figure out whether they were legitimate or not. That was fun."

Everything from stolen chickens, cows and bicycles was investigated, as best he could, by Barkwill and his men. He was there for only about a month before finally coming home in February of 1946.

For Barkwill, his military experience, while not always pleasant, was beneficial.

"I . . . can't say I enjoyed it, but it was something I'll never forget," he said. "It was . . . an education. Quite an education. To this day, I don't think it hurts anyone to spend some time in the military. I feel it's quite an enlightening education."

That experience is also one that is not easy to share with a stranger. Barkwill said that it's a difficult topic for many veterans to share, with even their own families.

"I've enjoyed talking to a lot of old guys like myself around," he said. "We've talked about things that happened. You get to talking about what happened here and there, and you talk about things you haven't thought about for years and things you never told your kids. My daughter from Colorado, it was just a couple of years ago, found out a little bit about my military history. She was asking me questions and so I sat down and told her a little bit about what had happened. It was interesting overseas to see what the Japanese had done, what they were doing and how they had dug in. They were there forever. They found some of them in recent years still living in the hills still thinking the war is on."

It's also interesting, he said, how your memories work. Barkwill's wife, Mary, joked that he could remember his time in the military with such clarity, yet he doesn't remember what he did yesterday.

"Yeah, some of it comes back, Mary," he laughed. "It's amazing how your memory works."

Many of the memories came to Barkwill without any trouble as he recalled specific incidents. Being caught in a typhoon in Japan, finding a place for a haircut and a shave over there, and most of all arriving back in the United States after serving.

"Anybody that goes into the military, you get what you can out of it," he said. "You go and serve your time and hope that you get home. I tell you, that's a thrill. When you get on a ship and come back under the Golden Gate Bridge and see that bridge up there and see that harbor and that ship pulls up to the dock and you know you're back on terra firma in the United States. That was very, very exciting for me."

For Barkwill, it all started with a young man building models . . . and after the

hobby managed to lead him into the military, it also brought him to the Boone & Scenic Valley Rail Road in 1983, where he joined the Boone Railroad Historical Society and designed and oversaw the construction of the depot for the new railroad. His reason for doing so? Model trains.

It's amazing where a love for a simple hobby can take you, and the stories that follow as a result.

I commend Ken Barkwill 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.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION, FINALISTS, AND PARTICIPANTS

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1494.

Our nation's future rests on the shoulders of our youth, and the exceptional dedication and intelligence displayed by all of the students who took part in the 84th Scripps National Spelling Bee earlier this year gives me great confidence that our future will be a bright one.

As the largest and longest-miming educational promotion in the United States, this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee brought together 273 spellers from all over the United States and across the world. The rigorous preparation and diligence required by these students to compete at this international level is truly incredible.

I would specifically like to recognize Shantanu Srivatsa, a student at Cheney Middle School in West Fargo, North Dakota, for tying for second place in this competition. This was Shantanu's third consecutive appearance at the Spelling Bee, and I was impressed to learn that his favorite subject in school is in fact mathematics, and that in addition to his participation in the spelling bee, he also represents his school at regional and state mathematics competitions.

When reviewing the words Shantanu correctly spelled to make it to the highest levels of the competition, I am astounded by his command of the English language. Though I represent a state with a large sugar beet industry, I must admit that I did not know that a cossette was part of the sugar refining process—and I certainly did not know how to spell it. Thanks to Shantanu, I now know that it is cossette, C-O-S-S-E-T-T-E.

Lest this example lead one to suspect that Shantanu's vocabulary was limited to the geographically proximate—his correct spelling of schlieren, that would be S-C-H-L-L-E-R-E-N, clearly demonstrates that the breadth of his knowledge includes subjects, or more precisely substances, that would be exceedingly rare in North Dakota due to the geologic history of the northern Great Plains.

Students like Shantanu and all of the other participants in this competition not only represent the best students in our nation, but also exemplify the ideals of hard work, dedication, and poise that are an inspiration to us all.

Please join me in supporting all of the Scripps National Spelling Bee participants who

have demonstrated the highest levels of academic achievement by supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAYOR LEN AUGUSTINE TO THE CITY OF VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of my constituents, Vacaville Mayor Len Augustine, who is retiring after a lifetime of public service, having served in the military for 28 years followed by serving the City of Vacaville for 18 years.

United States Air Force Colonel (Ret.) Len Augustine is a Vietnam veteran who served in a number of important command and staff positions during his military career, including assignments in the Pentagon, Australia, Germany, and at Travis Air Force Base in California where he commanded a C-141 flying squadron. He completed his 28-year military career as Commander of the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, DC, where his unit was responsible for Air Force One. Len is a veteran pilot, having flown a variety of military aircraft including the Learjet C-21, Gulfstream III, C-141, C-123 and KC-97 and also UH-1 helicopters.

As mayor of Vacaville, Len saw many major projects through to completion. Most notably among these are the development and expansion of the region's biotech industry with Genentech, Alza, and Novartis; the expansion of Genentech, which made its Vacaville plant the world's largest bio-manufacturing facility; the expansion of the Kaiser Medical Center and development of the Kaiser Hospital; and the revitalization of Vacaville's Historic Downtown, including the Creekwalk Plaza, downtown library, and the popular Town Square in the heart of town, a concept Len brought home from a visit to Poland.

During his tenure as mayor, the city moved forward on the redevelopment of the Nut Tree property, creating much needed economic growth for the region. Len also worked on the State Compensation Insurance Fund office project and entitlements for Lagoon Valley, and he was instrumental in securing funding for the Leisure Town Road Overcrossing. His work on the Vacaville Strategic Plan process will continue to direct development and growth for generations.

In addition to Len's work on behalf of the City of Vacaville, his many professional memberships include the League of California Cities (Member and two-term Chair of Employee Relations Policy Committee), North Bay Division of the League of California Cities (past president), Association of Bay Area Governments (Executive Committee), Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (member), Solano Local Agency Formation Commission (member), Solano Economic Development Corporation (member), Solano County Mayor's Conference (past chairman), Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee (past Chair), Solano Transportation Authority (past Chair), Solano County Water Agency (past Chair), Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board (member),

Vacaville Sunrise Rotary Club (past President), Friends of Vacaville Schools Committee (as past Chair he led the effort to pass a \$100 million bond measure), Airport Land Use Commission/Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee (member), Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority (member), and the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Authority (member).

As Mayor Len Augustine retires, I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank him both for his outstanding service to our country and for his tireless work on behalf of the residents of Vacaville. His dedication to improving our quality of life has made a decided difference for all. I join with my colleagues along with his wife Sue, his children and grandchildren, as well as his extended family and friends, in wishing Len a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV FOR ORGANIZING THE OSCE ASTANA SUMMIT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for organizing the OSCE Astana Summit which will be held December 1–2, 2010.

In 2007, under the Bush administration, my colleagues and I spearheaded an effort in Congress calling upon the U.S. to support Kazakhstan's bid to chair the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Recognizing, as David Wilshire, Head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, noted, that "building a democracy is a long and hard task," we felt that the U.S. could and should offer a gesture of goodwill by assisting Kazakhstan in its bid to chair the OSCE, considering that Kazakhstan voluntarily worked with the U.S. under the auspices of the Nunn-Lugar program to dismantle the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and shut down the world's second largest test site.

From 1949 to 1991, the Soviet Union conducted nearly 500 nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, and exposed more than 1.5 million Kazakhs to nuclear radiation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, President Nursultan Nazarbayev was among the first to recognize and neutralize the dangerous threat posed by the nuclear arsenal Kazakhstan inherited and, as a result of his initiative, Kazakhstan in cooperation with the U.S. dismantled a nuclear arsenal which was larger than the combined nuclear arsenals of Great Britain, France and China.

President Nazarbayev's decision to dismantle changed the course of modern history, and I am pleased that the U.S. finally supported Kazakhstan's OSCE bid for 2010. While there will always be critics intent on setting Kazakhstan back in its attempt to move the OSCE forward, all 56 member States unanimously voted in favor of Kazakhstan's chairmanship.

I believe they did so in recognition of the bold steps President Nazarbayev has taken to bring Kazakhstan out from under the yoke of

communism. Of course there is work left to do but, according to polling data from an independent firm hired by the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan during the Bush administration, 90 percent of the people of Kazakhstan support President Nazarbayev and are pleased with the work he is doing and more than 63 percent of the people of Kazakhstan have a favorable opinion of the United States.

Since 9/11 and regarding U.S. coalition operations in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan has allowed overflight and transshipment to assist U.S. efforts. U.S.-Kazakh accords were signed in 2002 on the emergency use of Kazakhstan's Almaty airport and on other military-to-military relations. The Kazakh legislature approved sending military engineers to Iraq in May 2003 and, in his April 2010 meeting with President Obama, President Nazarbayev agreed to facilitate U.S. military air flights along a new trans-polar route that transits Kazakhstan to Afghanistan.

Now Kazakhstan is the first post-Soviet, first predominantly Muslim, and the first Central Asian nation to serve in the top leadership role of the OSCE, an organization known for promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As Chair of the OSCE, Kazakhstan will also host the Astana Summit. The Astana Summit, like Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the OSCE, is historic. Earlier this year, my colleagues and I also spearheaded an effort calling upon the U.S. to stand with Kazakhstan in support of an OSCE Summit, and I express my thanks to the Obama administration, and especially to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O. Blake, who are expected to represent the U.S. at the Summit.

The Astana Summit has been organized at the initiative of President Nazarbayev and will be the first OSCE meeting of Heads of State to take place in more than a decade. It has been 11 years since the OSCE held a security summit and the world has changed drastically since then as a direct result of 9/11. While I have serious reservations about U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan aims to use the OSCE Chair and Summit to press for a resolution to the conflict in Afghanistan and for this reason I am pleased that the United States is supporting the Astana Summit.

Given the serious importance of the Summit to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan, it is my hope that President Obama will attend. His presence will send the right signal to our allies in Central Asia who are also putting their lives on the line for us.

Central Asian countries, and especially Kazakhstan, provide support for U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan and without their assistance we would have no hope for success. But I hope that our partnership will extend past the war in Afghanistan in both breadth and depth. For over 100 years, the people of Central Asia have lived without basic freedoms and, in my meetings with the people and leaders of these countries, they, like us, want to continue their march towards democracy and this is why I commend President Nazarbayev for providing the stability necessary to push freedom forward.

Once more, I commend Kazakhstan for hosting the Astana Summit and I applaud the 56 nations that will participate to demonstrate to the world that the OSCE is relevant, essential and committed to responding to common security threats.

TRIBUTE TO KEE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Kee High School in Lansing, Iowa, for making the list of the 2010 Blue Ribbon Schools.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Kee High School scored in the top ten percent in Iowa with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improving their performance on state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

I consider it a great honor to represent Kee High School Principal Patrick Heiderscheit, the teachers, students, school board members and administrators of Eastern Allamakee Community Schools in the United States Congress. I wish Kee High School continued academic excellence as they provide a positive impact on future generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I had the honor to speak at a briefing on Alzheimer's disease and the important work of the National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health, in providing leadership on research and treatments for patients with Alzheimer's. In addition to the NIA, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, Alliance for Aging Research, Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease, USAgainst Alzheimer's, and the National Collaborative on Aging participated in the briefing.

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and the briefing today provided an important contribution to increasing awareness in Congress. I fondly recall that President Ronald Reagan designated the first National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness week in 1982, 12 years before he announced that he had been diagnosed with the disease.

Alzheimer's disease is now the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Estimates vary, but it is believed that over 5 million individuals have Alzheimer's and some one new develops the disease every 70 seconds. One in eight persons over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 has Alzheimer's. In my own state of New Jersey, 150,000 residents are suffering from Alzheimer's.

With the aging of the 78 million American baby-boomers, by 2050, 16 million will have the disease if advances are not made to prevent it.

In 2009, 11 million family caregivers provided the equivalent of \$144 billion in care. And Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid last year were \$123 billion.