

Born and raised in Arkansas, Dr. Byrd was a proud graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, where he was a ROTC student during his tenure and the recipient of the Distinguished Military Student Award. Upon graduation, he received his commission in the Army as a Second Lieutenant and proceeded to serve as the Executive Officer, 2MTB 67 Armor and then as the Accountable Officer, 9th Quartermaster Battalion in Germany. Dr. Byrd also earned a Masters in Psychology and a Ph.D. from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Most recently, he served as the Vice President for the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation where he traveled around the State of Texas raising money for missions, ministering to local churches, and emphasizing the importance of sharing the gospel. His love for people and winning them to Christ was evident in his actions; I know Dr. Byrd touched countless lives.

I had the distinct privilege and pleasure of having Dr. Byrd serve on my U.S. Academy Selection Board for thirteen years. He proudly served our country as a member of the Arkansas National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves, with his military career spanning over twenty-three years. His record of exemplary military service and background in education made him well-suited to serve on my Board. He was deeply committed to selecting the best candidates for our military academies; these students who would go on to serve as the next leaders of our military in the generations to come. There are no words that are capable of fully expressing my heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service to our great Nation.

Dr. Byrd is survived by his loving wife of fifty-one years, Wencie; his sons, Scott, Lance, and Bart; his brother Bill; sisters Alice and Lela Mae; and grandchildren Daniel, Lauren, Blakely, Ryland, and Margaret.

I am honored to have known him and called him my friend. He will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

IN HONOR OF DRS. ROBERT G.
GARD AND JANET WALL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert G. Gard, Jr. and his spouse Dr. Janet Wall of Monterey, California, as the Philanthropists of the Year chosen by the Monterey Institute for International Studies for their commitment to enriching the lives of the Institute's scholars.

Retiring after 31 years in the United States Army, Dr. Gard became President of the Monterey Institute for International Studies. He has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Flying Cross and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star. Dr. Robert Gard has served our country proudly and it is with great enthusiasm that he continues to contribute to the community.

Dr. Janet Wall, an author and expert on career development and educational review continues to donate her skills to the Institute's Yellow Ribbon program, which offers scholarships and career advice to returned military veterans. Her kindness and guidance has led

many veterans to graduate from the Institute and attain successful careers.

Dr. Gard and Dr. Wall established the Gard 'n' Wall Scholarship in Nonproliferation Studies to assist ambitious candidates to excel in the field of Nonproliferation Studies. The esteemed couple has also donated generously to the Robert Gard Scholarship, set up by the Institute to honor the work of Dr. Gard. I am proud to be a part of honoring Drs. Gard and Wall and that I am able to associate myself with the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to recognize Dr. Robert Gard and Dr. Janet Wall for their continued support of the Monterey Institute for International Studies. The Institution is a jewel of higher education on the Central Coast and I offer my sincerest congratulations to this accomplished couple.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM
OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to honor Congressman JIM OBERSTAR. I was privileged to serve with Chairman OBERSTAR on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as a freshman member from Colorado. There is no other person in this country, and perhaps in the world, who is more knowledgeable and well known on transportation, transit and aviation issues as Chairman OBERSTAR. Committee hearings were always settled in a deep appreciation of history. There was no better session in which to serve in Congress than under the Chairmanship of Mr. OBERSTAR.

I was proud to welcome Chairman OBERSTAR to Fort Collins, Colorado, for a field hearing on distracted driving. For the Chairman, safety of the travelling public was foremost in his mind and his presence at our hearing brought much needed attention to the issues and dangers of texting and use of cell phones while driving.

It has been an honor to work with Mr. OBERSTAR and I thank the Chairman for his many years of service and leadership to Congress and the American people.

HONORING BARBARA A. STINNETT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara A. Stinnett, a Member of the Calvert County Board of Commissioners from 1986 through 1990; 1998 through 2002; and most recently from 2006 to 2010. It is my distinct honor to show our appreciation for her commitment, dedication and public service to Calvert County, to our great State of Maryland and to our Nation.

Commissioner Stinnett was born in Chicago, Illinois, graduated from Calvert High School

and has been a resident of Calvert County for 60 years. Commissioner Stinnett is the mother of 4, a grandmother of 11 grandchildren, and a great-grandmother of 7.

In addition to serving three terms as a County Commissioner, Mrs. Stinnett was employed by State Senator Roy Dyson for 14 years, serving as legislative and administrative assistant in his Congressional Office and his State Senate office. She is the owner-operator of an income tax and accounting service and was previously employed at Wayson's Amusement Company in a financial management position for 17 years.

Calvert County has been well served by Commissioner Stinnett's more than 20 years of dedicated public service. She is an active member of the community in a variety of capacities. She served on the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee, as President of the Calvert County Democratic Women's Club, and as Secretary of the Maryland State Democratic Women's Clubs. In addition, Mrs. Stinnett has been a director of the American Red Cross, Calvert Hospice, the Special Olympics, and the Northern High School Boosters. She has held memberships in numerous organizations ranging from the Calvert Farmland Trust and Calvert Historical Society to the Calvert County Fire and Rescue Commission and the Calvert County Farm Bureau. In addition, Mrs. Stinnett has been Director of the Calvert County Fair Board, Charter President of Ducks Unlimited and a charter member of Stallings-Williams American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #206.

Through her years of service she has been an advocate of maintaining Calvert County's rich agricultural heritage and assuring that those without a voice are heard. Her energy, frank and realistic approach and ability to connect with people have made her an outstanding public servant who has an unwavering respect for those she represents.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Commissioner Barbara A. Stinnett for her years of public service, dedicated work and commitment to excellence on behalf of the people of Calvert County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I would like to state my position on the following votes I missed.

On Tuesday, December 14, 2010, I missed rollcall votes 628, 629, 630. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 628, "nay" on rollcall No. 629, and "yea" on rollcall No. 630.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast recorded votes on Tuesday, December 14, on rollcall votes 628, 629, and

630. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three of these measures:

S. 1405, which designates the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site; S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010; and H.R. 6510, which allows the Military Museum of Texas to purchase the property on which it operates.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT VINCENT
WAYNE ASHLOCK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Staff Sergeant Vincent Wayne Ashlock, who died on December 4, 2010, while serving in Khost Province, Afghanistan. Wayne, as he was known to his family and friends, was a loving father, husband, brother, and son who devoted his life in equal measures to his family and our nation. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

Wayne was born in San Jose, California on May 10, 1965. He grew up in the small farming and military town of Merced in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. He enjoyed a small town childhood surrounded by brothers and sisters playing little league baseball and exploring Bear Creek.

Wayne began his military career by enlisting in the Army at age eighteen. He served for ten years on active duty before leaving the Army for civilian life. Following the 9/11 attack, his sense of duty and patriotism led Wayne to enlist in the California National Guard. As a Guardsman, Wayne deployed to Iraq, where he drew on his military experience to help train Ugandan troops. He later sought deployment to Afghanistan. To accomplish this, he transferred from the California National Guard, which had no imminent Afghanistan deployments scheduled, to the Mississippi National Guard which did. Once in there, Wayne served with the 287th Engineer Co., 176 Engineer Bde., 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault). His unit was assigned to help clear home-made bombs and discover ambushes in front of other units. During his military service, Wayne earned many awards and commendations, among them the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Angela, and five children, Kali, Jesse, Steven, Erica and Christopher, two grandchildren, Addison and Brady, brothers Ryan, Lonnie, and sister Dawn, his mother Margot, and grandmother Bonnie.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Staff Sergeant Ashlock's family. Their loss is our nation's loss. Their pain is our nation's pain. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and

love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM
OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my distinguished colleague from Minnesota, the Dean of our delegation, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR. For nearly four decades, Chairman OBERSTAR has been faithfully serving the Eighth Congressional District of Minnesota in this great body.

From humble beginnings, Chairman OBERSTAR worked to put himself through college in the Minnesota Iron Range mines. After graduating Summa Cum Laude from the college of St. Thomas, he began his tenure in Congress as a congressional staff member. To his final post in Congress as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has committed his life to public service and serving the great State of Minnesota.

A native of Chisholm, Minnesota, Congressman OBERSTAR has proudly served the people of Northeast Minnesota for 18 terms, the longest serving Member of Congress from Minnesota.

In his four years as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has been instrumental in keeping America moving. From his efforts to create more cycling and hiking paths to his work on aviation and aviation safety, Chairman OBERSTAR has done remarkable work in Congress. His knowledge of transportation issues will be a great loss to this body.

He leaves a strong legacy as his name will be forever tied to important highway, airline and rail safety legislation. His passion for intermodalism is unmatched.

As Chairman OBERSTAR departs, I will miss his knowledge of all things historical and his linguistic talent, specifically his love for French Creole, a language which he picked up while studying in Haiti after college.

In the few short years I have been in Congress, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Chairman OBERSTAR as a fellow Minnesotan. Chairman OBERSTAR is leaving some large shoes to fill. His wisdom, guidance and expertise will be greatly missed and I thank him for his service to our great State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on December 14, 2010, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 628: "yes"; rollcall No. 629: "yes"; rollcall No. 630: "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on December 14, 2010. My voting percentage is over 95% for the 111th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session on Tuesday, I was unable to make it back to Washington in time for votes.

On the three votes I missed: to approve S. 1405, the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye;" to approve S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010, had I been present, I would have voted "aye;" to approve H.R. 6510, To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM
OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with colleagues to honor a Minnesota icon, dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and my good friend, JIM OBERSTAR. When I was first elected to Congress in 2006, JIM was one of my first mentors, always there with helpful advice and counsel.

JIM was also there on the sad evening of August 1, 2007, when the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people and injuring near 100 more.

I worked closely with JIM that evening and the days following along with my fellow colleagues in the Minnesota Delegation to immediately respond to horrific bridge collapse and then, with JIM's help, the House passed the next day a bill to provide funds to rebuild the bridge.

This story that I share with you tonight about JIM's work on the Interstate-35W Bridge is just one of many that I have from my four short years here in the House.

So JIM, let me say on behalf of my constituents from the Fifth District and the entire state of Minnesota, thank you for your incredible service to Minnesota and the entire nation for the past 36 years.

Your contributions will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING BEULAH B. ROMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beulah B. Roman as she celebrates her 105th birthday on December 19. A