

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. S. L. ROBERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend S. L. Roberson of Ypsilanti, Michigan and to pay tribute to him on the occasion of his upcoming 90th birthday on Saturday, March 14th, 2010.

The Reverend Dr. S. L. Roberson is a pillar of the Ypsilanti-area community, a servant for his fellow man and a dear friend of mine; one whose wisdom and counsel I have been lucky to receive.

S. L. Roberson was born in Alabama to Estella and Reverend Gaither Roberson, Sr., on March 14th, 1920. As a child he moved to Michigan and received his education in the Ypsilanti Public Schools. The church has always been central to S. L.'s life, and he was baptized at an early age while attending Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti where his father served as pastor. It was at this time that S. L. received his calling, preached his trial sermon and was ordained in his ministry. He was later called to pastor the now Metropolitan Memorial Full Gospel Baptist Church and has led that congregation for over 50 years. S. L. has undergraduate degrees from Eastern Michigan University, has studied at Detroit Bible College and has a doctorate of divinity from Urban Bible College. Reverend Roberson has also served his country with great pride and distinction as a member of the United States Marine Corps. He is quick to tell you that once a Marine, always a Marine.

My friend S. L. is a devoted husband to Elder Hollie Roberson, who is not only his wife, but his "right hand." He is also the loving father of five children, but he serves as a fatherly figure to many more individuals throughout our community.

Reverend Roberson's service has not gone unnoticed. He has received many distinctions, including the Liberty Bell from the Lawyers Association, the Ypsilanti Police Department Honor Award, and the Washtenaw Community College Service Award. December 14th has even been recognized as Reverend S. L. Roberson Day in the City of Ypsilanti. In addition to these achievements, I had the pleasure of hosting Reverend Roberson when he gave the opening prayer for the United States House of Representatives on September 5, 2007.

As he celebrates his 90th birthday on March 14th, 2010, I hope that S. L. Roberson will know how beloved he is by his community, myself included. S. L. has lived a life of service, dedicating himself to his fellow human beings and the great cause of justice. I ask that the House join me in paying tribute to a fine and decent man as he comes to this remarkable milestone in a life so well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 95 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

KRISTINA SEVY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kristina Sevy. Kristina is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Kristina's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Kristina has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Kristina can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kristina Sevy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
JAMES F. RECORD

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am here to honor a fellow Hoosier, Lieutenant General James F. Record, who passed away on December 22, 2009. He is being interred today at his final resting place, a short distance from here, at Arlington National Cemetery. Born and raised in Indiana, General Record's distinguished career and service to our nation makes me especially proud to recognize the accomplishments of this Hoosier patriot.

General Record graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette in 1961 with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Shortly after graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force through Purdue's Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.

After graduating from pilot training, General Record served as an instructor pilot at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas. In 1967, he was deployed to combat in Vietnam where he served meritoriously for two years. Following his tour in Vietnam, he became commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing stationed in South Korea, the 58th Tactical Training Wing, and the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing. In 1985, he was promoted to Brigadier General and took command of the 833rd Air Division.

Following his command tour with the 833rd, he served as deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Middle East in the Persian Gulf. General Record also served as the chief of staff for the United Nations Command and the Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea. While serving as vice commander of the 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, he took command of the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. In 1995, he was named commander of the 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces and promoted to Lieutenant General. General Record retired from the Air Force in 1997.

Throughout his career, General Record accumulated over 6,000 flight hours and received numerous awards and decorations. Among his many medals for meritorious service, General Record received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air medal with 27 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with six service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

While General Record's passing brings great sadness to our beloved country, his family, and his friends, we as Americans should be thankful that people like him dedicate their lives to the cause of liberty and make countless sacrifices so that we may enjoy the blessings of freedom. Today, I salute this honorable and distinguished warrior, a role model for Hoosiers and all Americans, as the nation bids him farewell.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD 235TH ENGINEER COMPANY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the California National Guard 235th Engineer Company, SAPPER, who recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their mission in Afghanistan was to clear the routes of improvised explosive devices, IEDs, to allow the infantry freedom of movement. They were the front line for the front line! These brave soldiers risked their lives every day for their comrades and returned as the most decorated unit. They also received the Valorous Unit Award which is awarded to a unit that displays extraordinary heroism in actions against the enemy.

As part of their primary mission, 235th Engineer Company cleared more than 10,000 kilometers of road in 5 separate battle spaces and more than 208,000 square meters around Bagram Air Base, destroyed 4,800 pieces of unexploded ordnance and land mines, and found 54 IEDs.

In addition, they completed 220 combat missions (enduring 32 IED strikes and 25 other enemy engagements) as well as 2 FOB defense missions. They captured 604 persons of

interest and conducted 11 named operations, 5 air-assault missions, and 17 combat resupply missions during the heat of battle. Medics helped in more than 30 mass casualty and MEDEVAC trauma events.

Through their deployment there was no single loss of life, limb, or eyesight.

Our courageous SAPPERS earned 39 Purple Hearts, 23 Bronze Stars, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, 87 Army Commendation Medals, 5 Army Achievement Medals, 87 Combat Action Badges, 4 Combat Medic Badges, and received a special commendation from the Polish Battle Group Commander.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the 235th Engineer Company for their service to our Nation. Our heroic soldiers were true to the SAPPER creed by completing the mission regardless of available assets and overcoming insurmountable odds.

CONGRATULATING JAMES A. GILMARTIN, RECIPIENT OF THE W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James A. Gilmartin, who was selected to receive the "W. Francis Swingle Award" from the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, Mr. Gilmartin graduated from Pittston High School, Class of 1952.

He worked in private industry for six years before enrolling in King's College Night School in 1958. In 1960, he became a full-time student and graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1962.

Mr. Gilmartin returned to his high school alma mater where he was appointed as a teacher of social studies for five years until he moved to Hamburg, Pennsylvania, to accept a position as assistant junior-senior high school principal.

He moved through the ranks, serving as assistant superintendent for seven years and, in 1978, was named superintendent of schools, a position he held until his retirement.

Subsequently, he has served in eight school districts and the Intermediate Unit in temporary capacities.

Mr. Gilmartin continues to be involved in education, serving as a reader for the Educational Testing Service and as a special education auditor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. During the last school year, he served as a mentor to two new administrators as part of the Principal's Leadership Initiative and as an advisor to the Superintendent of the Pittston Area School District.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Reading Area Community College, Hamburg Center Board of Trustees, a member of the Berks County Municipal Authority and he also serves on U.S. Congressman TIM HOLDEN's Academy Selection Team.

He has been active with the volunteer fire and ambulance units in Pittston.

He has also written a weekly newspaper column for the Pittston Sunday Dispatch in recent years.

Mr. Gilmartin has noted that it was W. Francis Swingle, a former King's College professor, who guided him through the college enrollment process more than 50 years ago. In 2002, Mr. Gilmartin established a scholarship at King's College that provides a substantial four-year award to a student from the Greater Pittston Area. The application and selection process is determined by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Gilmartin on this notable occasion. His commitment to the education of our young people is evidence of the positive influence W. Francis Swingle had on him more than a half century ago and his selection to receive the Swingle Award is a fitting tribute to both.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 PRESERVATION ACT OF 2010"

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act of 2010." This bill represents the combined work of my colleague and E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair, JOHN SHIMKUS, as well as our Senate Co-Chair counterparts, Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and RICHARD BURR.

I'm very grateful to my colleagues for their efforts. Representative SHIMKUS and I are the remaining original co-founders of the E9-1-1 Caucus and we have shared in its mission over the years. I'm very pleased that Senators KLOBUCHAR and BURR have joined us in this important work. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans who call 9-1-1 each day.

For the past seven years, the E9-1-1 Caucus has worked in a bi-partisan, bicameral fashion to ensure that 9-1-1 call centers have essential technology to perform their life-saving tasks. In 2004, we introduced the ENHANCE 911 Act, which established a National 9-1-1 Office to coordinate the implementation of Enhanced 9-1-1 services at the Federal, State and local levels. We provided funding resources for a grant program and made certain that funds collected on telecommunications bills for 9-1-1 were used only in support of 9-1-1 services.

We followed up on this initial core legislation with language in the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007;" the "New and Emerging Technologies 9-1-1 Improvement Act of 2008;" and the "National 9-1-1 Education Month Resolution in 2008." The 2008 Farm bill also included language to make loans to improve 9-1-1 access to entities eligible to borrow from the Rural Utilities Service.

Our work and dedication to 9-1-1 call centers is ongoing and evolving because technology changes and new tools have become available to upgrade safety protocols. In part, that's why we call the new program "Next Generation 9-1-1." We have moved from the point where we are mainly concerned about

enhanced services for location identification. Now we take global positioning technology for granted. We need to focus on coordinated efforts to recognize essential technology and upgrades, and facilitate this process at the national level through a coordinated, Federal effort. We need to enhance interoperability and citizen access, while providing tools for the call centers as they route information and coordinate responses.

The Next Generation 9-1-1 bill authorizes \$250 million in grants for each fiscal year for the next five years for ongoing programming and moves the Coordination Office to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce. When this program initially began, it was placed in the Department of Transportation, but we now recognize that NTIA is the proper location for public safety technology grants and programming.

We also remain concerned about states that raise funds for 9-1-1 services on consumers' telecommunications bills, but divert those funds for other budgetary purposes. Now, more than ever, we need to provide incentives for States to keep their promise to use the funds for the purpose for which they were raised. We cannot permit routine raids of the 9-1-1 coffers at the expense of public safety.

And that's what this bill really is about—public safety at its most basic level. The first tool of first responders is the E9-1-1 call center. Let's ensure that these centers have the tools that they need to serve the public and keep us all safe.

HONORING RITA WISCHMEYER AND THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am so privileged to rise today to recognize Ms. Rita Wischmeyer and the members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

These women truly broke gender barriers and defied tradition when they served as military pilots during World War II. From September 10, 1942 until December 20, 1944, roughly 1,000 women served in this group and helped to lay groundwork for future generations of women to serve in the armed forces, and particularly, as pilots. Their actions were both heroic and daring, and we honor their legacy with heartfelt thanks and warm thoughts.

Recently the Women Air Force Service Pilots were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I applaud them on receiving this long overdue recognition. America is a better country because of these women and because of their service, and I extend a personal thank you for their sacrifice.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Ms. Rita Wischmeyer, a citizen from my district, who served with this group. We can all learn a valuable lesson from her courage in the face of discrimination and willingness to give to her country. Together with these women, Ms. Wischmeyer helped to change the course of history so that people