

is what I learned later was a C-47 towing a glider. I also later learned that this airplane and the glider came from the Sedalia Army Airfield near Sedalia, Missouri, between Sedalia and Warrensburg, out of a small community known as Knob Noster.

It was June 6, 1944, when I stayed up late in the evening listening to the radio with my father. That was of course the occasion on the Normandy landing. It was the C-47s pulling gliders that were trained at the Sedalia Army Airfield over Normandy that helped in the landing and the successful assault there in France.

Today, the Sedalia Army Airfield is not called that anymore. It's called Whiteman Air Force Base, named after a lieutenant who in his P-40 at Hickam Field on December 7, 1941, got about 10 feet off the ground to go after the Japanese attackers and was shot and killed.

These are memories of a young boy. And seeing the soldiers and sailors and marines come home, they were my heroes. And Madam Speaker, today they are still my heroes.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1516, which recognizes the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II. The Allies' victory in Europe in 1945 ended an era of unspeakable atrocities and widespread human suffering.

World War II was the largest war in history as nations around the globe mobilized 100 million souls to fight in the name of either the Allied or Axis powers. The battle between the two resulted in the most deadly war in human history: 60 to 70 million deaths, 45 million of whom were civilians. The United States lost 345,000 brave soldiers in both the European and Pacific theaters, which was second only to the Civil War in the amount of American blood spilled in war.

America rallied over 16 million citizens into uniform and its factories and farms provided the largest mobilized support network in the world. The war helped bring the country out of the Great Depression, and vitalized my own Detroit as the manufacturing industry expanded greatly during this period.

It is also worth noting that during this time, the United States, in its fight against racist and genocidal opponents, was forced to confront its own racism. In one of our most shameful acts, Japanese-Americans were interned at camps throughout the war while segregation continued to separate whites and blacks back home. Despite these sad examples of discrimination, Japanese-American, African-American, and Hispanic-Americans all proudly took up arms to defend their nation and demonstrate their loyalty. I have no doubt that their courage laid the groundwork for the victories for equality and civil rights for all that would follow decades later.

Madam Speaker, as we honor our World War II veterans, we must also recognize the incredible sacrifices made by those currently serving overseas. We must also not forget the values for which World War II was fought. Our level of international cooperation at the end of that war was a clear example of our commitment to diplomacy and peaceful resolutions. We have and always will be a Nation that supports liberty and justice for all.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1516 which recognizes the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II and honors the service and sacrifices made by the members of our Armed Forces and their families, as well as those serving in combat operations today.

Madam Speaker, September 2nd marks the conclusion of one of the most devastating confrontations in the world's history. On that day, 65 years ago, the Japanese offered their surrender on the deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri*, ending World War II and marking the defeat of foreign tyranny and aggression. It was a momentous day in America's history, not only were the Allies successful in defeating the Axis powers, but it defined America in a new light, launching a much larger role for our nation on the world stage.

Our nation's victory on September 2, 1945 came at a great cost. World War II was one of the most violent and deadly conflicts in our nation's history, claiming the lives of 405 thousand American men and women from all walks of life and every corner of the country. 16 million Americans came together to serve for a common good, joining our nation's fight to protect democracy and promote justice, changing the course of history forever. Their sacrifices for future generations are their everlasting legacy.

Our men and women in uniform also prevailed because of the valiant efforts of millions of Americans on the home front who steadfastly worked in war industries to produce and create the munitions, the ships, and the aircraft necessary for the war effort. There are few other times, if any, in our nation's history in which so many Americans bonded together and worked toward a common purpose with such strength and resolve.

Madam Speaker, each day over 1,000 veterans from this "greatest generation" pass from our midst and it is indeed appropriate that we honor their service and sacrifice today. Their labors have led to great wealth and prosperity for our country and allowed America to continue to be a beacon of justice and democracy for all people across the globe.

I thank my colleagues Mr. SKELTON and Mr. McKEON for introducing this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1516, which recognizes the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, honors the service members who fought in the war, and honors the brave men and women in uniform who are currently serving in combat operations. This important measure honors a generation of Americans who united in the fight against tyranny and fascism, sacrificing to protect America and help achieve a more stable, democratic world. I thank Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor and for his commitment to ensuring that America never fails to show gratitude for the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation.

Madam Speaker, World War II was the largest and most violent conflict in human history, with fatality estimates ranging from 22 million to 70 million military and civilian deaths. Over 16 million Americans served in the Armed Forces in World War II, 405,000 of them making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country and the cause of democracy and freedom. I am forever grateful for the men and women who served, especially those who

gave their lives so that we might live in a better world.

World War II demonstrated how the American people unite in times of peril. In addition to the bravery of our Armed Forces, Americans from all walks of life came together to make the American home front the Arsenal of Democracy. The men and women at home sacrificed, working long hours in our factories to help power the Allied efforts in Europe and the Pacific. The Allied Forces' victory over tyranny would not have been possible without the dedication of the Americans at home.

Sixty-five years ago, the Allied Forces, led by the United States, defeated a tyrannical force that threatened to eradicate human freedom. World War II still plays prominently in the American psyche, both as a trauma and a triumph. Looking back at World War II, we cannot help but feel an immense gratitude for the Greatest Generation and their willingness to sacrifice everything for our country. But we also look back and see the immense cost of war, the human, psychological, and financial toll that war takes on a nation. Hopefully, World War II will forever live on as a tribute to American courage and unity, as well as a reminder that war should always be a last resort.

Madam Speaker, 23,000 veterans live in the 37th district of California, many of them veterans of World War II. I am deeply grateful for their service and show my gratitude by working to ensure that they have the benefits that they need and deserve. Also, Long Beach is home to the Gold Star Manor, which provides affordable and quality housing to mothers who have lost sons or daughters in the service of their country. We must continue supporting the family members of our men and women in uniform and always express our gratitude for our troops' willingness to risk their lives on behalf of our nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1516.

Mr. SKELTON. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1516.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### HONORING 111TH FIGHTER WING

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1411) honoring the service and commitment of the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

## H. RES. 1411

Whereas the 111th Fighter Wing's roots date back to the establishment of the 103rd Observation Squadron on June 27, 1924, in the sod fields of the Philadelphia Airport;

Whereas on February 17, 1941, the 103rd was ordered to active service, performing anti-submarine patrols off the coast of New England;

Whereas the squadron deployed to the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater of World War II in 1943, executing support operations for the duration of the war;

Whereas the 391st Bombardment Group (Medium), constituted on January 15, 1943, earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for its service during World War II, performing ground attack missions in France and the Low Countries in advance of the invasion of Normandy, and in Germany in support of and in the aftermath of the Battle of the Bulge;

Whereas in 1946, the 391st was redesignated the 111th Bomb Group (Light), and the 111th Bomb Group and the 103rd Squad were designated to the Pennsylvania National Guard;

Whereas when the 111th Composite Wing was activated in April 1951, members honorably performed various missions in support of the U.S. war effort in Korea;

Whereas in 1963, the 111th ended its 39-year history at Philadelphia Airport, and moved into new housing on the north end of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station;

Whereas the 111th Air Transport Group flew numerous airlift missions in support of the U.S. war effort in Vietnam;

Whereas in 1995, the newly designated 111th Fighter Wing volunteered for deployment to Kuwait, where they conducted Combat Search and Rescue alert, Kill Box flights over Iraq, Airborne Forward Air Control, and joint training missions in support of Operation Southern Watch;

Whereas in 1999, the 111th again deployed to Al Jaber, Kuwait, to support joint combat flight operations for Operation Southern Watch;

Whereas immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the 111th Fighter Wing voluntarily deployed on very short notice to support joint combat operations for Operation Southern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas between 2002 and 2003, the wing was the lead unit for short notice, voluntary, out-of-cycle Air Expeditionary Force deployments to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, performing joint combat flight operations with the Army, Special Forces, and coalition ground troops despite total 'black out' conditions, a substantial number of mines on and around the airfield, extreme weather conditions, and unrelenting enemy shelling;

Whereas in 2003, the 111th once again volunteered for deployment to Al Jaber, Kuwait, directly supporting coalition armor forces during the invasion of Iraq from the Kuwaiti border;

Whereas the 111th Fighter Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor, for voluntarily deploying to austere bases in two separate combat operations within a five-month period;

Whereas the unit was also awarded the Reserve Family Readiness Award in 2003 and the Air National Guard Distinguished Flying Unit Award in 2004;

Whereas in its 86-year history, the wing has flown aircraft that includes the JN-4 Jenny, PT-1 Trusty, BT-1, Curtiss O-1 Falcon, Douglas O-2H, Curtiss O-11 Falcon, Douglas O-38, North American O-47A and O-47B, Stinson O-49 Vigilant, Curtiss O-52 Owl, Taylorcraft O-57 Grasshopper, Piper L-4 Grasshopper, Stinson L-1B Vigilant, Lockheed P-38(F-5) Lightning, Douglas A-26 Invader, Boeing RB-29 Superfortress, North

American F-51 Mustang, Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star, Republic F-84 Thunderjet, Lockheed F-94 Starfire, Northrop F-89 Scorpion, Boeing C-97 Stratofreighter, Cessna U-3A Blue Canoe, Cessna O-2 Skymaster, Cessna OA-37 Dragonfly, and Fairchild A-10 Thunderbolt II;

Whereas the members of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard have served with courage, selflessness, and compassion in every role they have been asked to fulfill, and have earned the respect and gratitude of the citizens of Pennsylvania and of all Americans;

Whereas the ruling of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission of 2005 marks the end of an era for the 111th Fighter Wing at Willow Grove Naval Air Station; and

Whereas even though the Base Realignment and Closure Commission of 2005 removed the 111th's flying mission, the unit will continue proudly serving the United States through new missions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the exemplary service of members of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard; and

(2) honors and thanks all members of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, past and present, for their tremendous contributions to the defense and security of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CRITZ) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1411, recognizing the service and sacrifice of the members of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard. I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) for bringing this resolution before the House.

The distinguished history of the 111th Fighter Wing began in 1924. Since then, the men and women of this outstanding unit have, with great honor and dignity, represented the finest of America's Armed Forces. Thoroughly immersed in the greatest conflict of our time, they protected the coasts of New England, aided missions in the China-Burma-India theater of World War II, and earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for their contributions to the invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

Members of the 111th Fighter Wing also remained involved during the Korean and Vietnam wars, honorably performing various airlift missions in support of the war efforts.

The 111th Fighter Wing has not shied from battle, but has time and time

again demonstrated their dedication to defending the United States and its principles. The 111th Fighter Wing volunteered to deploy in support of Operation Southern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom on very short notice immediately following the September 11 attacks of 2001.

To honor their commitment and to recognize their contributions by voluntarily deploying to the heart of the conflict in two separate combat operations within a 5-month period, the 111th Fighter Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor.

Madam Speaker, the courage and commitment consistently demonstrated by the 111th Fighter Wing over the last 86 years deserves the thanks of the United States Congress today. The success of the United States is contingent upon the bravery and honor of units like the 111th Fighter Wing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the patriotism and valor of the 111th Fighter Wing by supporting House Resolution 1411.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1411, as amended, which honors the service and commitment of the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. I would like to thank the gentlelady from Pennsylvania for introducing this resolution.

I am honored to pay tribute to the current and former Members of the 111th Fighter Wing who have steadfastly and courageously defended and served this great country on our shores and in distant lands.

With roots that date back to the 103rd Observation Squadron, operating out of the Philadelphia Airport, the unit first saw action in World War II patrolling for submarines off the east coast of the United States. The squadron then deployed to the China-Burma-India theater to support the war operations there.

A second parent organization, the 391st Bombardment Group (Medium), earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for its service in the European Theater in support of the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

Later designated the 111th Composite Wing, the unit supported the war effort in Korea, and as the 111th Air Transport Group the members flew numerous airlift missions to support military operations during the war in Vietnam.

More recently, the 111th Fighter Wing has participated in Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait, supporting joint combat flight operations. During Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, the 111th has directly supported coalition ground troops despite extreme conditions and at times unrelenting enemy shelling.

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Madam Speaker, I would also like to read into the RECORD today the aircraft flown and operated, maintained, armed, and fought with during the proud history of this group. Just the names of these airplanes will invoke memories and wonderful nostalgic feelings about some of them just by saying their names out loud.

The 111th Fighter Wing has flown the JN-4 Jenny, PT-1 Trusty, the BT-1, the Curtiss 0-1 Falcon, the Douglas 0-2H, the Curtiss 0-11 Falcon, the Douglas 0-38, the North American 0-47A and 0-47B, the Stinson 0-49 Vigilant, the Curtiss 0-52 Owl, the Taylorcraft 0-57 Grasshopper, the Piper L-4 Grasshopper, the Stinson L-1B Vigilant, the Lockheed P-38 Lightning, the Douglas A-26 Invader, the Boeing RB-29 Superfortress, the North American F-51 Mustang, the Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star, the Republic F-84 Thunderjet, the Lockheed F-94 Starfire, the Northrop F-89 Scorpion, the Boeing C-97 Stratofreighter, the Cessna U-3A Blue Canoe, the Cessna 0-2 Skymaster, the Cessna OA-37 Dragonfly, and the Fairchild A-10 Thunderbolt II.

Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute today to the incredible families of these brave airmen who waited at home while their loved ones answered our Nation's call.

The entire Nation joins the citizens of Pennsylvania to say thank you to the members and the veterans of the 111th Fighter Wing Pennsylvania Air National Guard. We are all proud of their service and, therefore, Madam Speaker, I strongly urge Members to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend and colleague and the sponsor of this resolution, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today to honor the service and the commitment of the Pennsylvania National Guard 111th Fighter Wing. Their bravery and sacrifice over the years has helped to ensure our Nation's safety and freedom.

Originally growing out of the sod fields of the Philadelphia airport in 1924, the squad was first called to active service in February of 1941 to perform antisubmarine patrols off the coast of New England. The squad saw a lot of action during World War II. In 1943, they deployed and performed support operations in the China-Burma-India theater of combat. The same year, they earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for their execution of ground attack missions in France and the low countries in advance of the invasion of Normandy and in Germany for their support in the aftermath of the Battle of the Bulge.

Members of the 111th honorably served in support of the U.S. war efforts during both the Korean and Vietnam wars. In 1963, the 111th ended their

39-year history at the Philadelphia airport and relocated to the Willow Grove Naval Air Station now in my district.

In 1995 and 1999, they performed combat operations in support of Operation Southern Watch. Immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the 111th Fighter Wing deployed on very short notice to support our joint combat operations for Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2002 and 2003, the wing was the lead unit on short notice, voluntary, out-of-cycle air expeditionary force deployments to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan.

In 2003, they volunteered for deployment yet again, this time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. So outstanding was their service during this period that they earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor, for voluntarily deploying to austere bases in two separate combat operations within a 5-month period.

It has been my honor to represent the 111th Fighter Wing as a Member of Congress. Though the latest round of BRAC decisions removed the squad's fighter mission, they will remain stationed at Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and will undoubtedly continue to serve our Nation.

To quote the resolution before us, "Members of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania National Guard have served with courage, selflessness, and compassion in every role that they have been asked to fulfill and have earned the respect and gratitude of the citizens of Pennsylvania and of all Americans."

I appreciate the bipartisan support for Resolution 1411 and thank the members of the 111th Fighter Wing—I have met many of them—who currently serve in the 111th Fighter Wing, for the dedication, honor, service, and sacrifice to this country.

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring the 111th Fighter Wing from Pennsylvania.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Ms. SCHWARTZ for her leadership in bringing the 111th to our attention and honoring their service.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CRITZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1411, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### RECOGNIZING 14TH ARMORED DIVISION

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1483) recognizing the exemplary service and sacrifice of the soldiers of the 14th Armored Division of the United States Army, known as the Liberators, during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1483

Whereas the 14th Armored Division was activated on November 15, 1942, at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, as a unit of the United States Army;

Whereas the Division's 19th, 62d, and 68th Armored Infantry Battalions traced their lineage back to the 62d Infantry Regiment, which was organized in 1917;

Whereas the Division landed in southern France on October 29, 1944, and first entered combat on November 20, 1944;

Whereas the Division participated in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe campaigns;

Whereas the Division participated in the liberation of most of the French province of Alsace in late November, 1944, and was engaged in an offensive against the Siegfried Line itself when, on December 19, General Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the 7th Army to withdraw from Germany in response to the serious threat posed by a major German offensive in the Ardennes;

Whereas when the German army launched Operation Nordwind, the last major German offensive of the European war, against 7th Army positions, elements of the Division engaged several German divisions between January 1 and January 7, 1945, contributing materially to deflecting the initial German attacks;

Whereas it was during one of these engagements on January 3 and 4, 1945, that the Division's Private First Class George B. Turner earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in helping to repel repeated German attacks at Philippsbourg, France;

Whereas, on January 9, 1945, the Division stopped the German XXXIX Panzer Corps from breaking through the 7th Army's lines at the villages of Hatten and Rittershoffen;

Whereas, between January 9 and January 21, 1945, the Division fought the 21st Panzer Division, 25th Panzer Grenadier Division, 20th Regiment of the 7th Parachute Division, and the 104th Regiment of the 47th Volksgrenadier Division to a standstill during the ensuing Battle of Hatten-Rittershoffen;

Whereas elements of the Division were awarded two Presidential Unit Citations;

Whereas, on March 24, 1945, after days of heavy fighting, the Division broke through the Siegfried Line and advanced to the Rhine River;

Whereas, after crossing the Rhine River, the Division liberated Stalag XIII-C and Oflag XIII-B, two large prisoner of war camps at Hammelburg, Germany;

Whereas, during April 1945, the Division rapidly advanced hundreds of miles across southern Germany, fighting numerous battles before crossing the Danube River north of Munich;

Whereas, on April 29, 1945, the Division, after a fierce engagement with several thousand SS troops, liberated Stalag VII-A, one