

Sunday, November 6, the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association honored the 69th Anniversary of the original Montford Point Marines and the 44th Anniversary of the New York Chapter at the elegant Antun's Caterers in Queens, New York. The New York Chapter also acknowledged the 236th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps and honored their National Convention Award recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join my colleagues and a very grateful nation as we congratulate my dear friend James Maillard, President of the New York Metropolitan Chapter and the Montford Point Marine Association as we finally pay tribute to our courageous first Black Marines.

**HONORING CAPTAIN HUNG D. NGUYEN UPON RECEIPT OF THE AIR MEDAL WITH VALOR**

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Captain Hung D. Nguyen upon his award of the Air Medal with Valor.

The Air Medal was established by Executive Order in 1942 to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself by "meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight."

On August 9, 2009, Captain Hung D. Nguyen was copilot on one of the ships sent to recover five Afghan soldiers seriously wounded in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Through intense small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire, Captain Nguyen was able to load four of the five wounded soldiers on his aircraft.

Captain Nguyen's calm demeanor and leadership while providing time critical navigation and communications, identifying the landing zone, and directing the pilot to perform evasive maneuvers saved sixteen lives and two aircraft.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Captain Hung D. Nguyen at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Captain Hung D. Nguyen has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

**IN MEMORY OF ROLLIN POST**

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. ESHOO and I rise in the memory of Rollin Post, a distinguished journalist, beloved husband, and proud father and grandfather, great American, and dear friend.

Rollin was a radio reporter and then television journalist in California for more than four decades, spending most of his career in the

San Francisco Bay Area. He was, quite simply, the best at his craft. He died on October 3 at the age of 81 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

We also rise today to mourn the death of Rollin's wife, Diane Opley Post. After 57 years of a remarkable marriage, Diane survived her husband's death by only a month. She died peacefully at their residence in Corte Madera, California on November 6 at the age of 82. Diane, and her engagement in many important civic activities, will be fondly remembered.

We will miss Diane and Rollin for their friendship. And we offer our sympathy to their three children and five grandchildren and we thank them for having shared their parents with us for so many wonderful years.

Rollin was born in New York City in 1930 and received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1952. He started as a radio reporter for the CBS affiliate in Los Angeles in 1954, switched to television in 1957, and moved to the Bay Area in 1961 where he spent more than 40 years working for three television stations—KPIX, the CBS affiliate, KQED, a public television station, and KRON, the NBC affiliate.

Rollin represented the best of political journalism. His deep understanding and knowledge of the issues and the California electorate were unparalleled. His analysis of state and national events truly informed his viewers. When "gotcha" journalism became the norm in his industry, Rollin stayed true to his beliefs about what it took to be a really good journalist.

Rollin informed himself before his interviews, asked his questions, and then asked them again if he didn't feel they had been properly answered. He was very tough but he was fair. He respected his viewers by holding politicians to high standards. Rollin was a man of high integrity, and his love of journalism and politics showed in every broadcast.

Our country is poorer today in the absence of his excellent reporting.

We ask our colleagues to join us in remembering Rollin Post and in honoring him for his efforts as a journalist to keep our country informed, its politicians honest, and the journalistic profession serious.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 840, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

**COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL TYLER SOUTHERN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Tyler J. Southern of the United

States Marine Corps. Cpl. Southern is a real American hero who nearly died on the battlefield, losing both of his legs, one of his arms as well as part of the other arm, and a hand. On November 20, 2011, Corporal Southern is tandem jumping with Team X.T.R.E.M.E. and Jeremy Soles into FedEx Stadium to kickoff the game between the Washington Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys. I ask that this poem by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Cpl. Southern's honor.

**LOOK ABOVE**

Look!

Look above!

As it's there you will find America's Greatest of all loves!

Look above!

At our sons and daughters, who so go off to war . . .

Armed but with only their most magnificent hearts and souls, to all of our Freedoms to so insure!

So very fine and so very pure . . . with such courage, and such might . . . And such faith so evermore!

Look above, at such Strength In Honor . . . All at the ones who America so loves!

As it's there you will find, the true sum of the meaning of the word love!

Such selfless sacrifice . . . such brilliant of all lights, coming down to you now from above!

The ones who bring such tears to the angels eyes, so high above!

The ones who go off to war, and come back home without arms and legs no more!

And who now so lie, all in such soft cold quiet graves . . .

Who with their Mothers and Fathers tears, our freedom's are so paved!

Teaching us all so how to behave!

So look above, and it's there you will find and so see the meaning of the word patriotism this day!

Coming down to us all in this way . . .

And take comfort, all in that we have such men as Tyler Southern on this very day!

Marines, whose fine hearts shall never wave!

Who so gave up his strong arm and fine legs!

Ooo Rah . . . JAR HEAD! 'Oh what your most magnificent life has so said!

And take comfort, all in his most magnificent shades of green!

All because of The Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard,

And The United States Marines! We All Now So Live In Peace!

And as you lay your head's down to sleep, all in your hearts and souls so ever keep . . .

A warm spot for all of these . . . Heroes so very deep!

And for all of those families who now so weep!

And look above and thank them all, all in your hearts of love to keep!

Men Tyler who are First To Fight, whose fine heart ignite!

And take comfort in knowing of, America's Greatest of All Loves!

Now Look, Look Above!

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE G. DONA, MAJOR MARY O. JENNINGS HEGAR, SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT STEVE R. BURT, AND TECHNICAL SERGEANT TIEJIE A. JONES UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones upon their award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On July 29, 2009, Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones evacuated three United States soldiers injured when their convoy was attacked near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Colonel Dona and Major Hegar were injured when a bullet pierced their aircraft's window, injuring Major Hegar's arm and Colonel Dona's leg. Despite the heavy fire, the pararescue team departed the aircraft to assist with the medical evacuation. However, the aircraft was forced out of the landing zone. After several minutes airborne, Major Hegar and Colonel Dona voluntarily risked their lives to return and rescue their patients and pararescuemen from the ambush.

While still under attack, Sergeant Jones assisted with loading the casualties and Sergeant Burt aided the pilots during takeoff to keep the aircraft functional. Due to fuel loss from the number one engine, the crew had to land less than two miles away. Sergeant Burt administered first aid and assisted in the transfer of patients to another aircraft. Their bravery saved three patients and ensured the survival of the crew.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. Lieutenant Colonel George G. Dona, Major Mary O. Jennings Hegar, Senior Master Sergeant Steve R. Burt, and Technical Sergeant Tiejie A. Jones have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from November 1

until November 15, as I was attending to family matters surrounding the birth of my son.

A TRIBUTE TO JOLENE KOESTER, PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTH-RIDGE

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary leadership and service of Dr. Jolene Koester. Dr. Koester began her appointment as the fourth president of California State University, Northridge on July 1, 2000, one of the largest campuses in the 23-campus California State University system. In May 2011, she announced her plans to step down as president at the end of December 2011 and subsequently retire from The California State University.

California State University, Northridge is a vibrant, diverse university community of more than 36,000 students served by 4,000 faculty and staff. The University plays an indispensable role in the San Fernando Valley as an intellectual, cultural and economic driver.

Under her leadership, the University has improved graduation rates, received record levels of fundraising, and become known for its culture of collaboration. Dr. Koester's vision and determination led to the development of the Valley Performing Arts Center at California State University, Northridge—the first world-class concert hall for nearly 2 million residents of the San Fernando Valley. During her tenure, she has increased the overall stature of Cal State Northridge, resulting in improved visibility and relationships in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles.

Known nationally for her leadership in the area of higher education, Dr. Koester is a member and past chair of the Board of Directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Dr. Koester serves the greater Los Angeles community on the boards of directors for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Economic Alliance, and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. She also is a board member of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and the Los Angeles Jobs and Economy Committee. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her leadership in the Los Angeles region.

Prior to her appointment at Cal State Northridge, Dr. Koester served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at California State University, Sacramento. Before her service as provost, she held other executive positions in the academic affairs division at Sacramento State, and was a faculty member there, as a professor of communication studies, since 1980. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts from the University of Minnesota in 1970, a Master's of Arts in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1971, and a Ph.D. in speech communication from Minnesota in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Koester for her commitment to furthering the excellence of California State University, Northridge. She is an extraordinary leader whose legacy will succeed her for decades to come.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today for the first time our national debt has surpassed \$15 trillion dollars. Currently, our national debt is \$15,033,607,255,920.32.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,395,181,509,626.52 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT LARRY I. HIYAKUMOTO AND STAFF SERGEANT JOSHUA M. WEBSTER UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster upon their award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On June 27, 2010, Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster participated in eight non-stop Casualty Evacuation missions near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. They rescued and treated wounded personnel for nearly seven straight hours.

On one mission, Sergeant Webster was hoisted down from the helicopter while Sergeant Hiyakumoto manned the aircraft's machine gun. While braving enemy fire, Sergeant Webster pulled a wounded soldier to safety. Sergeant Hiyakumoto then began to treat the soldier for multiple broken bones and traumatic head injuries. Sergeant Hiyakumoto and Sergeant Webster ultimately saved thirteen United States soldiers and coalition forces.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. Senior Master Sergeant Larry I. Hiyakumoto and Staff Sergeant Joshua M. Webster have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.