

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.

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. 839, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

ENCOURAGE AMERICANS TO LISTEN TO OUR COMBAT VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have recently introduced a resolution that encourages every American to spend Veterans Day as a national day of listening to the experiences and stories of our nation’s combat veterans, H. Res. 456.

With more than 1.7 million veterans who have served tours of duty in the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, a whole new generation of heroes has returned home from war and started the transition from military life to civilian life. These veterans have joined the ranks of the nearly 22 million military veterans in the United States.

These honorable men and women who have served in our armed forces have experienced unique and sometimes incomprehensible things while serving our country and as they have returned home. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude—and we can express our appreciation by asking about and listening to their experiences.

My resolution, H. Res. 456, calls upon all Americans to observe Veterans Day by offering to listen with respect and without judgment to the stories of combat veterans from all conflicts. Veterans often feel less isolated and suffer less when they are offered the chance to have ordinary, civilian citizens simply listen to them recount their experiences serving their country.

I invite my colleagues to join with me and encourage all citizens to honor the service of our nation’s veterans this Veterans Day by listening to them share the stories of their military service.

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP
(IWG) GUIDELINES**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the draft guidelines by the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Food Marketed to Children. These guidelines would state that food must meet certain nutritional standards to be marketed to children. Quite frankly, these guidelines are so draconian that the advertising of nearly all foods to children and adolescents would be

banned. This ban would include thousands of healthy products that could no longer be marketed to children, including most soups, cereals, yogurt, bread, and cheese—all foods determined beneficial for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). It is shocking that the Federal Government would be working to limit the advertising of foods like low fat and fat free dairy products which play a vital role in the diets of children and adolescents.

While I have strong concerns about nutritional products that would be affected by the IWG’s marketing guidelines, it is important to note how far reaching these guidelines are. The IWG defined marketing to include packaging, point of sale displays, text messages, sponsorships, philanthropic activity, and even the shape of food. These guidelines would limit the ability of companies to sponsor a sporting event or to partner in a charitable activity because it could be seen as marketing to children. Does the Federal Government really want to be telling a company that they can’t be involved in their communities in these ways? This will be harmful to the communities while doing little to benefit children’s nutritional health.

The IWG guidelines are just another example of excessive government red tape. I urge the IWG to withdraw this proposal.

HONORING MAJOR THOMAS W. KEEGAN 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 Major Thomas W. Keegan upon his 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 29, 2009, Major Keegan led a two-ship formation near Bastion Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan on an urgent medical evacuation into the hostile Helmand Province. The ship formation, call sign Pedro35 flight, had four missions that day, the first and second of which were to a point of injury where a British vehicle had overturned into a canal. While on approach to the site, Major Keegan noted friendly armored personnel carriers firing outbound from his three o’clock position. In response, Major Keegan broke his aircraft through multiple gun patterns directly between the enemy compound and origin of fire and the defenseless aircraft on the ground conducting evacuation operations.

Major Keegan’s heroism and willingness to highlight himself, aircraft, and crew to draw enemy fire away from the patients and vulnerable aircraft allowed the flight to successfully extract a wounded British soldier. Major

Keegan’s actions directly contributed to the widespread acclaim of the Pedro operation, giving much needed peace of mind to troops conducting ground combat operations.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Major Keegan 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. Major Keegan has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

RECOGNIZING DPU AND AUSIB FOR HOSTING HISTORIC INDO-U.S. EDUCATION CONCLAVE 2011

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. P.D. Patil and the DPU University of which he is Chancellor for his visionary leadership in partnering with Mr. Sanjay Puri of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), and with the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF), to host the Indo-U.S. Education Conclave 2011, a first-of-its-kind global educational event to be held in Pune, India from December 5–7, 2011.

This event brings together prominent thinkers from the fields of education, politics and business for purposes of promoting the highest standards of education, value systems and governance. The Summit aims to build partnerships between Indian and American universities in line with the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative (OSI) launched last year.

Given the importance of this first Indo-U.S. Education Conclave, I want to publicly commend Dr. Patil who I had the privilege of hosting in Washington, D.C. I am well aware of what Dr. Patil has done for the rising generation and, in tribute of his work and mission, I have honored him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I share his vision of education.

Education isn’t just about collecting and distributing knowledge. Education is about the development of character and the acquisition of truth. Education is about offering one’s best to the world and I thank Dr. Patil for offering his best to us.

I also commend Mr. Puri for his work. As President Obama has stated, the U.S.-India partnership is “one of the defining relationships of the 21st century,” and having worked with Mr. Puri for more than a decade, I can assure my colleagues that the U.S.-India relationship is stronger because of his advocacy for and on behalf of India and Indian Americans. His passion for education and his relationships with key Members in the House and Senate will ensure the success of the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative.

Once more, I thank DPU, AUSIB, and the SLLF for expanding cultural, economic, educational and political ties between the two largest democracies in the world. These organizations deserve our support for expanding the presence of American universities across India, a country that sends more students to the USA than any other country in the world.