

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.

IN SALUTE OF THE 369TH VETERANS' ASSOCIATION HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS—A CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION IN CELEBRATION OF VETERANS DAY 11-11-11

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of the Korean War, known today as the "Forgotten War", I am honored with great American pride and democracy to salute all my fellow comrades, buddies and all of the officers and members of The 369th Veterans' Association on this very special day as we celebrate Veterans Day 11-11-11.

First organized in 1916 as the 15th New York National Guard Infantry Regiment and manned by black enlisted soldiers with both black and white officers, the U.S. Army's 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters," was the best-known African American unit of World War I. Federalized in 1917, it prepared for service in Europe and arrived in Brest in December. The next month, the regiment became part of the 93rd Division (Provisional) and continued its training, now under French instructors. In March, the regiment finally received its Federal designation and was reorganized and reequipped according to the French model. That summer, the 369th was integrated into the French 161st Division and began combat operations.

Dubbing themselves "Men of Bronze," the soldiers of the 369th were lucky in many ways compared to other African Americans in 1918 France. They enjoyed a continuity of leadership, commanded throughout the war by one of their original organizers and proponents, Colonel William Hayward. Unlike many white officers serving in the black regiments, Colonel Hayward respected his troops, dedicated himself to their well-being, and leveraged his political connections to secure support from New Yorkers.

Spending over six months in combat, perhaps the longest of any American unit in the war, the 369th suffered approximately fifteen hundred casualties but received only nine hundred replacements. Unit histories claimed they were the first unit to cross the Rhine; they performed well at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood, earning the epithet "Hell Fighters" from their enemies. Whereas African American valor usually went unrecognized, well over one hundred members of the regiment received American and/or French medals, including the first two Americans—Corporal Henry Johnson and Private Needham Roberts—to be awarded the coveted French Croix de Guerre.

The most celebrated man in the 369th was Pvt. Henry Lincoln Johnson, a former Albany, New York, rail station porter, who earned the nickname "Black Death" for his actions in combat in France. In May 1918, Johnson and Pvt. Needham Roberts fought off a 24-man German patrol, though both were severely wounded. After, they expended their ammunition, Roberts used his rifle as a club and Johnson battled with a bolo knife. Johnson was the first American to receive the Croix de Guerre awarded by the French government.

By the end of the war, 171 members of the 369th were awarded the Legion of Honor. During the war the 369th's regimental band (under the direction of James Reese Europe) became famous throughout Europe. It introduced the until-then unknown music called jazz to British, French and other audiences, and started an international demand for it.

At the end of the war, the 369th returned to New York City, and in February 1919, paraded through the city. Thousands lined the streets to see them: the parade began on Fifth Avenue at 61st Street, proceeded uptown past ranks of white bystanders, turned west on 110th Street, and then swung on to Lenox Avenue, and marched into Harlem, where black New Yorkers packed the sidewalks to see them. The parade became a marker of African American service to the nation, a frequent point of reference for those campaigning for civil rights. In the 1920s and 1930s, the 369th was a regular presence on Harlem's streets, each year marching through the neighborhood from their Armory to catch a train to their annual summer camp, and then back through the neighborhood on their return two weeks later.

In World War II, the formation was organized as the 369th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment, and served in Hawaii and along the West Coast. The Harlem Hellfighters have served in every major conflict since its inception, including Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan. The unit survives today under the command of Colonel Reginald Sanders as the 369th Sustainment Brigade Battalion of the New York Army National Guard.

As a veteran myself in a so-called "Forgotten War" in American history, I know what it is like to come home and feel unrecognized. On the eve of 11-11-11, the United States Senate passed legislation, which the United States House of Representatives voted unanimously 422-0 to honor the Montford Point Marines with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. These truly great American men fought in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II—the first Black Marines in the Navy. After 70 years, they have finally received the honor they deserve for a legacy we must not forget to pass on to our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join my colleagues and a very grateful nation in very special congressional salute to my dear friend General Nathaniel James, Retired, National President and all of the officers and members of The 369th Veterans' Association, Inc. as we celebrate our Veterans Day 11-11-11.

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. 838, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RHYS W. HUNT, 2ND LIEUTENANT ANDREW S. HEDIN, AND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JASON R. RED 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 Rhys W. Hunt, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew S. Hedin, and Chief Master Sergeant Jason R. Red 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 August 9, 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Rhys W. Hunt, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew S. Hedin, and Chief Master Sergeant Jason R. Red participated in a heroic mission near Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Colonel Hunt flew the lead aircraft, PEDRO 15, in an effort to save five critically wounded American soldiers from an ongoing firefight. A Navy SEAL Team, call sign JAGUAR 09, was taking heavy fire by a larger force of Taliban fighters. The team, including their five wounded, was holed-up in a walled compound and needed immediate evacuation.

Despite the potential of enemy fire, Lieutenant Hedin supervised the loading of four of the wounded before the aircraft cabin ran out of space. Colonel Hunt directed his wingman to begin an approach to load the final patient, but as PEDRO 15 began its climb out of the zone, it came under fire so intense that both Lieutenant Hedin and Colonel Hunt felt the concussion from the blast. Lieutenant Hedin engaged an enemy squad, temporarily suppressing the threat. Chief Red took tactical lead of the aircraft, calling a break in the opposite direction. Putting himself in grave danger, Chief Red then directed the gunnery pattern by positioning himself almost completely out of the aircraft in order to maintain visual contact with the enemy. This allowed Colonel Hunt and Lieutenant Hedin to protect their vulnerable wingman by attacking the enemy squad from multiple directions. The crew's immense bravery and superb airmanship saved the lives of 16 people and two aircraft.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Rhys W. Hunt, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew S. Hedin, and Chief Master Sergeant Jason R. Red at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed by these men deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. They have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.