

THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD'S 45TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, THE OKLAHOMA STABILIZATION TRANSITIONS TEAM AND THE 146TH AIR SUPPORT OPERATION SQUADRON

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), the Oklahoma Stabilization Transitions Team and the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron that are set to deploy to Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror.

A farewell ceremony honoring more than 3,200 deploying members of the 45th IBCT, the Oklahoma Stabilization Transitions Team and the 146th Air Support Operation Squadron was held at the Oklahoma City Arena and Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Families and friends throughout the state had the opportunity to celebrate the patriotism and courage of Oklahoma's citizen soldiers and airmen. This will be the largest single deployment since the Korean War, an important event in the history of the Oklahoma National Guard.

The 45th IBCT recently began training at Camp Gruber Maneuver Training Center and then they will move to the mobilization station at Fort Bliss, Texas. The brigade is undergoing intense mission specific training that will prepare them for any mission unique tasks that they will be required to perform while deploying to Afghanistan.

I know this is not the first deployment for many of these brave men and women and their families back home. Their collective sacrifice for our nation's security is symbolic of the pride Oklahoma has for our citizen soldiers and airmen serving in times of war and conflict.

I am confident these soldiers and airmen are ready to answer the call in the defense of our nation. With this deployment, they are carrying forward the proud history of this brigade. It is an honor to represent many of these brave citizen soldiers in Congress, and I look forward to supporting their critically important missions to the fullest extent possible. My prayers go out to the soldiers and their families during this deployment. They have my full support and I pray for not only successful missions but their safe return home to their families.

HONORING KEVIN HUNTER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas, we are saddened by the untimely death of Mr. Kevin Hunter because our lives have been touched by the life of this one man . . . who gave of himself in order for the betterment of our beloved DeKalb County; and

Whereas, Mr. Kevin Hunter's work is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, being one of DeKalb's favorite sons; and

Whereas, this highly effective civil servant utilized his skills to aid in the growth and development of DeKalb County since 1999; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life as he served his family, his friends and his community; and

Whereas, Mr. Kevin Hunter was a son, a father, a friend and a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the fourth district of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a special recognition on Mr. Kevin Hunter for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress of the United States that Mr. Kevin Hunter of Ellenwood, DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition" by declaring

Mr. Kevin Hunter

U.S. Citizen of Distinction

in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 10th day of March, 2011.

HONORING MAZIE EARLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mazie Early. Mazie 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.

Mazie's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Mazie 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 Mazie can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mazie Early 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.

CONGRATULATING KAY KATZ

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to congratulate Kay Kellogg Katz who is being recognized as the Monroe Rotary Club's Woman of the Year. She is truly deserving of this honor for her exemplary service and dedication to Northeast Louisiana.

A woman who embodies the spirit of public service, Kay's legislative career spans a decade, and she presently serves as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives. In addition, she is the immediate past Louisiana Republican national committeewoman, which

made her an automatic member of the 168-member Republican National Committee.

Preceding her legislative service, Kay was a valued member of the Monroe City Council. In this capacity, she served as council chairman and as a member of the Street Improvement Committee.

Among her lengthy civic accomplishments, Kay is active with Rotary International, American Heart Association, Ouachita Parish Recycling Commission, Monroe Tree Board, Fort Miro chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Monroe Airport Advisory Committee and Monroe Garden Club.

In addition to her citizenship activities and community organizations, Kay is also a committed patron of the arts through her involvement with the Monroe Symphony and sits on the boards of both the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council and the Louisiana State Arts Council. She served as vice president of the Monroe Little Theatre, and in 2000, the Louisiana Museum Association selected her as "Legislator of the Year." She is also associated with the Masur Museum, University of Louisiana-Monroe (ULM) Art Department, ULM Foundation for the Performing Arts, Children's Museum, Twin City Ballet and Masterworks Chorus.

Kay is a homegrown hero having graduated from Neville High School in Monroe. She went on to obtain her college degree from Mississippi State University.

Her dedication to community and career is exceeded only by her devotion to her loving family. Kay and her late husband Ben Katz are the parents of three. Ben, like his wife, was a faithful public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Kay Kellogg Katz on being named the Monroe Rotary's Woman of the Year. Her commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

HONORING THE LATE JUDGE DOUG LUNA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to my friend, the late Judge Douglas Luna. Judge Luna was born in 1944 in Seattle, Washington, where he grew up in the Central District.

Doug Luna served honorably with the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, assigned to Da Nang until the late 1960s. After returning from his distinguished military service, he completed law school and served as the Deputy Corporate Administrator for The Boeing Company's Small and Minority Business Program. Doug loved the law; he became an administrative law judge for the Washington State Department of Employment Security, and also served as a review judge for the Department of Social and Health Services.

Among Doug Luna's many lasting achievements is the judicial structure he helped to create for Alaska's Tlingit-Haida Tribe. The Tribe was part of his heritage, and he was proud to serve as an elected judge on the Tribal Court for nearly twenty years. Judge

Luna later served on the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, an agency charged with determining if racial or ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of Washington. He was a Eucharistic minister at Immaculate Conception Church and also was active with Saint Matthew's Church.

Throughout his life, Doug Luna was deeply involved in the Native American and Asian communities—in addition to his Tlingit heritage, Doug also shared Filipino heritage. He was a founding member of the Asian American Bar Association, and volunteered with the Seattle Indian Center, the Interlm Community Development Association, the International District Housing Alliance, and the Filipino American National Historical Society. Doug was the volunteer every organization dreams of: he was smart, dedicated, absolutely reliable, and a pleasure to be with.

Doug Luna championed the poor and the underrepresented throughout his life. His efforts to better his community were limitless, and he brought to his work a gentle spirit that touched hundreds of lives. Doug will be long remembered for his kindness, his generosity, and his unwavering integrity. He was a proud and loving father to his daughter, Mercedes, and I join her and so many others in mourning the loss of this extraordinary friend. It was a privilege to know Doug Luna.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE RIALTO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lady Knights, the Rialto High School girls basketball team, and congratulate them for winning the CIF—Southern Section Division 2AA title game.

The Lady Knights came back from behind in the final minutes of the championship game to beat Ventura Buena 55 to 53 at the buzzer, clinching the first section title in the school's history. After a season of hard work and determination, Rialto trailed by three points with just over two minutes to go in the game.

Point guard, Summer Webb, tied the game with a three-pointer. Following the play, Janae Sharpe stole the ball, passing to Webb for an assist that pushed the Lady Knights two points ahead. Ventura Buena answered with two free throws, tying the championship game. Sharpe converted another steal to a lay-up but Buena Ventura tied the game again with nineteen seconds remaining.

This game was the Lady Knights first section appearance in the history of the Rialto girls' basketball program and it came down to the last tenth of a second. With seventeen seconds remaining on the clock, Coach Michael Anderson designed a play to give Sharpe the final shot of the game. Hundreds of fans looked on from the stands of the Anaheim Convention Center. Sharpe received the inbounds pass.

Crossing half court with composure, she let nine seconds tick off the game clock. Sharpe paused again at the three-point line, only three seconds remained. She drove into the lane, released a jumper, and scored the game-win-

ning shot as the buzzer sounded. The blue-clad Rialto fans celebrated in an uproar as the players on the floor rushed into a dog-pile. The Lady Knights secured the championship in their first section final appearance.

I would like to extend my heart-felt congratulations to Head Coach Michael Anderson and his coaching team, Bryant Young, Toneisha Knox, Erika Matkins and Juanita Perez. I would also like to acknowledge the families, fans, and teachers in the greater Rialto community for their support. Of course, I want to congratulate the girls on the Rialto High School basketball team: Janae Sharpe, Bianca Brown, Brittani Walker, Channe Armstrong, Summer Ramsey, Summer Webb, Cynthia Mora, Montoya Washington, Ma' Kaela Buhl, Danae "Mary" Williams, Jasmin Samano. I wish you all the best of luck in the Southern California Regional playoffs.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MR. ROBERT C. HOWELL

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to commemorate the life and service of one of my constituents, Mr. Robert C. Howell. A native Georgian, Mr. Howell passed away at the age of 93 on Tuesday March 8th, 2011. He was an honorable man, devoted to his country and his community.

Mr. Howell served our nation in the United States Army during World War II as an infantryman and an engineer. One of his most dangerous duties was to remove undetonated land mines to protect his fellow soldiers. His dedication to service did not end with his retirement from the armed forces. He continued to support his fellow servicemen and veterans by actively participating in Veterans of Foreign Wars and his local American Legion post. Each time a veteran would pass in his community, Mr. Howell would attend their funerals to honor their service and express his gratitude. He himself was honored by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners with an engraved brick in the Pathway of Service Walkway at the Douglas County Courthouse.

Mr. Robert Howell was devoted to the Lord. During his lifetime he was a member of the New Georgia Baptist Church, the First Presbyterian Church and the Lithia Springs First Baptist Church. A member of the Baptist faith, he attended a Men's Bible Study, served at a deacon and taught Sunday School.

Mr. Howell was preceded in death by his first wife, Henrietta Howell; his second wife, Martha McMichen Howell; stepdaughter, June Roland; stepson, Tony Pilgrim; and sister-in-law, Marie Howell. My deepest sympathies lie with the surviving members of this family: his sister and brother-in-law, Virgie and Ervin Chandler; his brother, Herman Howell; and his stepdaughters, sons-in-law, stepsons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, I hope you will join me in honoring Mr. Robert C. Howell for his life of service to Georgia and to this country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, I was unexpectedly detained and missed rollcall vote No. 166. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

MIKE COLLINS—AT BEST

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the following entry is a poem that was given at the Irish Embassy by the Democratic Caucus' Poet Laureate the Honorable BILL PASCRELL. As we approach the "Day", I think it only fitting to submit Mr. PASCRELL's work for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—in which he honors Ambassador Michael Collins and the Nation of Ireland.

MIKE COLLINS—AT BEST

(By the Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.)

Raising glasses to a white sky,
Pausing . . . to look at twinkling eyes,
In blue skies hemorrhaging avocado
dreams of a homeland of Irish monks who
saved Ireland—

as Cahill wrote,
indeed,
saved the world . . .

Raising glasses many times, with many
chimes and voices clear
And monks as advocates of avocadoes
And prose to beat for Gaelic friends good
cheer

And
Have no fear . . .
Long live Ireland

HONORING THE LIFE OF CATO WALKER III

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Memphian, saxophonist, manager and promoter Cato Walker III. Mr. Walker has been on the music scene in Memphis for many decades and was a huge proponent in the revitalization of Memphis's Beale Street. He also served as the longtime vice president of development at Performa Entertainment Real Estate.

Cato Walker III was a beloved member of the Memphis music community. Mr. Walker came from a very musically talented and well-known family, and he and his family have contributed so much to the musical community. His father, Cato Walker, Jr. was B.B. King's original road manager in the 1950s while his beloved mother, Polly Walker, confirmed all show bookings and travel arrangements. Cato Walker III, continuing his family's legacy with B.B. King, became the band leader and road manager during the late 1970s. He also later worked with Lou Rawls, The Barkays and J. Blackfoot.