

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. On May 23, 2011, I was unavoidably detained during the vote on rollcall No. 330. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 330, I would have voted "aye" (May 23) H.R. 1627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements for the placement of monuments in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

A BILL TO AMEND THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Indian tribes to directly request the President for a major disaster or emergency declaration. This has been a priority for Indian country for over a decade and upon enactment, will treat Indian tribes as the sovereign governments that they are.

Currently, Indian tribes experiencing a disaster or emergency situation must rely upon a State governor to request the President for a declaration. Not only is this contrary to tribal sovereignty but it also requires the President to consider the State's, not the tribe's, ability to pay for the damages. The State's authority or willingness to provide assistance to the tribe is not considered in the determination process.

Under this legislation, tribes may still request the State to make the declaration on their behalf but it provides another avenue for those tribes who want to exercise their sovereignty or where a State may be unable or unwilling to make a request on a tribe's behalf.

I am pleased that the Republican co-chairman of the Native American Caucus, Mr. TOM COLE, and the Ranking Member of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, Ms. NORTON, agreed to cosponsor this important legislation with me. Letters of support have also been received from the National Congress of American Indians as well as other tribal organizations and individual Indians involved in emergency management.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN HONOR OF MARILYN DORMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Marilyn Dorman, who retires as the Executive Director of the Housing

Resource Center of Monterey County on May 31, 2011. The HRC is a non-profit HUD-certified housing counseling agency that provides home-ownership education and counseling as well as homeless prevention services. Marilyn has a real gift for grant writing, which has served the agency well as its primary fundraiser.

Marilyn has been active professionally and personally in the housing arena for over twenty-seven years. She was the founding Executive Director of the Housing Advocacy Council in 1984, which merged with the Monterey County Housing Alliance in 2009 to become the Housing Resource Center of Monterey County. Throughout her many years of service Marilyn advocated for the development of affordable low-income housing and worked tirelessly with direct assistance programs to prevent homelessness.

With the 2009 merger, Marilyn's focus expanded to include homeownership education and counseling, as well as foreclosure prevention and loan modification. To date, HRC has successfully modified over 200 loans for Monterey County homeowners. Collectively, the merged organization has served over 24,000 Monterey County households.

Marilyn has also been an active Board, Committee member, and volunteer for the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Salinas Downtown Community Board, the ACTION Council of Monterey County, Common Ground, the League of Women Voters, Community Advisory Council for the Salinas Permit Center, Salinas Planning Commission, Salinas Parks and Recreation Commission, Salinas Housing Trust Fund, the Salinas General Plan Parks Task Force, Girl Scouts, and the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Volunteer Center of Salinas.

Marilyn's husband of thirty-eight years, Mark, has been the grounding force in life. They have three grown daughters and two beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House as I commend Marilyn Dorman for all she has done and all she will undoubtedly continue to do. I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes for her success and much happiness in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent because of a family illness on May 23, 2011. If I was present, I would have voted on the following:

H.R. 1627—rollcall No. 330: "aye"; H.R. 1383—rollcall No. 331: "aye"; H.R. 1657—rollcall No. 332: "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Monday, May 23, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

1. "Yea" on rollcall 330, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 1627—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements for the placement of monuments in Arlington National Cemetery.

2. "Yea" on rollcall 331, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 1383—Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011.

3. "Yea" on rollcall 332, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1657—To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the enforcement penalties for misrepresentation of a business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans or as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall Nos. 330, 331, and 332. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures:

H.R. 1627—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, rollcall No. 330, "yes."

H.R. 1383—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, rollcall No. 331, "yes."

H.R. 1657—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, rollcall No. 332, "yes."

TEXAS FROG FREEDOM FIGHTER—
MARCUS LUTTRELL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Navy SEALs are the United States Navy's elite warriors. And last week we learned that they killed the most wanted terrorist of all, Osama bin Laden. Osama bin Laden was the mastermind behind the murders of nearly 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001. The news of his death brings some comfort to the families of thousands of people who died in the 9/11 attacks and to the families of those who have died in the war on terror. During their recent mission, these SEALs proved that when the peace of our great Nation is threatened, we will stand up and fight.

Throughout the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, many other SEALs have performed equally heroic deeds. All Navy SEALs are elite commandos demonstrating the epitome of what we have in this country. One such example is local SEAL patriot, Marcus Luttrell, who I am proud to recognize and honor for his contributions to the global war on terrorism.

June 28, 2005 is a date the SEALs will forever remember. It was the worst single-day U.S. forces death toll since Operation Enduring Freedom began and it was the single largest loss of life in Navy SEAL history since World War II. Marcus Luttrell, a sixth generation country boy from Texas, survived to tell

the incredible, harrowing events of that day. He is an amazing Texas patriot and “lone survivor” of a horrific gun battle that occurred in the mountains of Afghanistan. On this fateful day, three of Luttrell’s friends from SEAL Team TEN, along with 16 Special Forces warriors were killed.

Luttrell was born in Huntsville, Texas in 1975. As a teen growing up in Willis, Texas, he began training at a young age for the SEALs, with a former Green Beret and neighbor, Billy Shelton. Luttrell and his twin brother, Morgan, also a Navy SEAL, trained every day using Shelton’s harsh techniques and methods. He taught them to be tough. In addition, Luttrell’s dad, a Vietnam veteran, taught his sons about weapons, survival, and swimming. Beau Walsh, Willis High School teacher and former Navy SEAL, prepared them on what to expect in SEAL training. During these years, the Luttrell brothers excelled physically and mentally.

After graduating from Willis High School, Luttrell enrolled at Sam Houston University, but left before graduating because of his desire to serve his country. With faith in God and country, at 23 years old Marcus Luttrell joined the United States Navy. He began Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training with Class 226 in Coronado, California. In 2002, he graduated with Class 228 and became a member of the small, elite military force known as the Navy SEALs. He deployed to Afghanistan in the spring of 2005.

On June 28, 2005, he and three members of SEAL Team TEN were assigned to a covert mission, Operation Red Wing, in the mountainous region of Afghanistan. They were sent in to kill or capture Ahmad Shah, a notorious Taliban leader with ties to Osama bin Laden. The four-man team was made up of Marcus Luttrell, Lt. Michael Murphy, Gunner’s Mate 2d Class Danny Dietz and Sonar Technician 2d Class Matthew Axelson.

Shortly into their mission, SEAL Team TEN encountered a small group of unarmed Afghan goat-herders. Although they believed the goat-herders empathized with the Taliban, the team was unable to confirm any threat. Lt. Murphy sought input concerning the goat-herders fate from the team but ultimately made the call to release the herders.

Barely an hour later, the SEALs were ambushed. They came under heavy attack by Taliban insurgents and were easily outnumbered one to twenty-five. The enemy completely encircled them on that desolate cliff. There was one way in and one way out. Despite being wounded, Lt. Michael Murphy left protective cover and stood on a boulder to get a signal to place a phone call back to the base. Under intense fire, Murphy told the base he needed help, provided them with the SEALs location, and relayed the number of Taliban fighters. While he was calling for support, he was shot in the back, but he completed the rescue call while continuing to fire at the enemy. In the midst of chaos, he remained calm and risked his own life to save his team.

Murphy then returned to the safety of the mountain rocks and to his team to continue the fire fight. Ferociously engaged in a two-hour gun battle and running low on ammunition Murphy, Dietz, and Axelson were killed. In the midst of this battle, a MH-47 Chinook helicopter carrying 16 Special Forces crew, including 8 SEALs, were sent to evacuate them.

The helicopter was assaulted and shot down with a rocket-propelled grenade fire. All 16 warriors were killed trying to rescue SEAL Team TEN.

These SEALs fought with courage and heroism of entire legions of warriors when attacked by a cowardly, fanatical enemy. These brave Navy SEALs gave the ultimate sacrifice. These SEALs are true patriots. Dietz and Axelson received the Navy Cross posthumously. Lt. Michael Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions and his valor on the battlefield.

Luttrell was the sole survivor. He was blasted over a cliff by an RPG and knocked unconscious. Severely wounded and presumed dead, he managed to crawl seven miles before he reached a tribal village. They gave him shelter, aid and granted him protection under lokhay warkawal, Afghan code that guarantees safety and protection at all costs for a wounded traveler. Luttrell was rescued by the Green Beret six days after the gun fight.

In 2006, he was awarded the Navy Cross for combat heroism for his actions during Operation Red Wing by President George W. Bush. Luttrell remained in the Navy until 2007. In 2009 he was medically retired from the Navy. I cannot say enough about this great man, this American patriot. He is a heroic representative of the State of Texas and an honorable defender of liberty and freedom.

Our young people who go to the valley of the gun and the desert of the sun are relentless, remarkable characters. They go where others fear to tread and where the faint-hearted are not found. These Navy SEAL warriors represent the best of our Nation. The bravery, dedication and patriotism of Luttrell, Murphy, Dietz and Axelson will not be forgotten by their friends, their family and freedom-loving people throughout the world. God bless these sons of America.

And that’s just the way it is.

HONORING COLONEL YOLANDA C.
DENNIS-LOWMAN, USA

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Yolanda C. Dennis-Lowman, United States Army, for her remarkable record of achievements during her service from July 8, 2008, through July 19, 2011, as the Commander of the Tooele Army Depot, Utah.

Under her active supervision and guidance, Tooele Army Depot was officially designated by the Secretary of the Army as a Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence (CITE) for Ammunition Peculiar Equipment (APE) maintenance, which is a very significant achievement.

Because of her commitment to safety and the solid policies and procedures she implemented during the 2009–2010 timeframe, the depot achieved more than 610 consecutive days without a loss time injury, which was the best record within the Joint Munitions Command and Army Materiel Command (AMC). It was under her watch that Tooele Army Depot also received the AMC Safety Award, of “Best Installation.”

During her tenure, the Army implemented the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) at Tooele Army Depot. By way of explanation, LMP modernizes the systems and processes associated with managing the Army’s supply chain at the national and installation levels, and permits the planning, forecasting, and rapid order fulfillment leading to streamlined supply lines, improved distribution, and a reduced theatre footprint. Thus, LMP better supports the warfighter so that they can be better equipped and ready to respond to present and future threats. Colonel Dennis-Lowman managed and supported the depot team during this difficult and challenging LMP transformation.

Further, her guidance and leadership led the depot to excel in continuous improvement efforts. In 2010, the depot exceeded the Value Engineering goal by more than \$800,000 (\$1.48 million versus \$2.29 million), and exceeded the Lean Six Sigma goal by more than \$140,000 (\$931,000 versus \$790,000).

In 2010, the depot shipped approximately 39,012 tons of conventional ammunition and received and processed 33,218 tons. This was in direct support of the ongoing war efforts around the world, as well as training requirements.

Colonel Dennis-Lowman was recognized by the publishers of Utah Business (magazine for decision makers) as one of the “30 Top Women to Watch—Women Making a Difference in Utah Business.”

She advised and supported a depot team during a Green Belt Project, Water Management. This team was awarded the 31st Annual Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award, as well as the 2009 Federal Energy and Water Management Award within the small group category.

During her command, the depot’s Law Enforcement and Security Branch did very well and received “commendable” ratings during the Headquarter, AMC Force Protection Assessment. In 2010, Tooele Army Depot received the AMC Anti-Terrorism Award for Small Installations.

Her guidance was instrumental in receiving OHSAS 18001 (safety), ISO 9001:2008 (ammo shipping/receiving and ammo equipment and manufacturing), and ISO 14001 (environmental) certifications.

Colonel Dennis-Lowman coordinated the effort for Tooele Army Depot to be the first Army installation to have a wind turbine. This wind turbine was completed in June 2010, stands 262 feet tall, and produces 1.5 MW of electricity, which is enough to power 300–400 homes, and translates to \$206,625 in savings per year. In 2010, the depot’s energy usage was 8% lower than during 2009, resulting in a cost savings of over \$117,000.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Colonel Yolanda C. Dennis-Lowman has served in a most exemplary manner as Commander of the Tooele Army Depot, and has demonstrated remarkable leadership abilities in the face of substantial challenges. I congratulate her on her accomplishments, and invite my colleagues to join me in thanking her for a job well done, and join me in extending well wishes to her for much success in all future endeavors.