

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STEM JOBS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of millions of hard-working people who are citizens of foreign nations want to become Americans. That is a testament to the greatness of our country.

America can only accept a limited number of those who wish to move to our shores each year. Accordingly, we should provide visas in a manner that reflects they are a valuable asset to be allocated carefully.

I do not believe the Diversity Visa Lottery is a good way to allocate the inherently limited number of immigrant visas. I believe that a rational, well-designed immigration system would not include the Diversity Visa Lottery.

Given the political climate and legislative rules that we face, the passage of the bill before us on Friday, November 30, 2012, was not a step toward enacting a well-designed, rational immigration system. Nor was the Democratic Motion to Recommit likely to be the basis of a bipartisan reform bill. In any case, the bill will not be acted on by the Senate.

Some of the visas we allocate should go to those who can provide the investment capital to create jobs within the United States. Some of the visas should go for family unification and for the humane treatment of refugees and persecuted persons. And some visas should go to those who have talents and skills that our economy needs. However, we need a better system than the one provided in this bill.

I look forward to creating a rational immigration system in 2013.

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE VETERANS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor our veterans.

There are no words that can express the gratitude that the American people owe all of the men and women who choose to serve the United States of America in the armed services. We are all humbled by the sacrifice they make—knowingly putting themselves in harm's way while also leaving loved ones behind. This commitment is the mark of America's finest citizens and those who answer to a higher calling. Allow me to honor, from the Air Force:

Willie H. Duckworth, William Frank Kornegay, Lexxie Neloms, Jr., Henry David Cunningham, Jr., David A. Bell, Jimmie L. Brown, Ronald E. Green, Charles K. Bronson, Charles Flower, Charles Ronnye Johnson, Sr.,

Rolland James, Elizabeth Meyers, George Morris, Lee Miller Brown, Sr., Louis Sparks II, Benjamin R. Wilson, Roland James, Alfred Gordon, Louis Tyler, Christopher Flynn, Clyde Hilton, Loyd Harrison, Fred Rosenkoff Derek Joy, Otis Kitchen, Carolyn Crowell, Andrea Naomi Johnson, Robert A. Sewell, George Albert Stewart, Elizabeth Myers, Antonio White, Skip Williams, Rodney X. Chain, Stafford Nairn, Willard Shepard, Darryl Jones, Ryan Ayer;

Finally, it is not our tanks, weapons or machinery that make the United States Armed Forces the best military in the world. It is our young men and women who serve professionally with honor and distinction. If not for these exemplary citizens, freedom and the American way of life would not be safe and secure. For these sacrifices, we respect and should commend their service everyday of the year. Congress has designated, November 11th 2012 as the official day showing our gratitude.

Please join me in honoring these American heroes for their bravery and sacrifice in defense of this great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a family medical situation and was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 609 and 610 on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Rollcall vote No. 609—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act: "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 610—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, the Jamie Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act: "yes."

CELEBRATING THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS' 2012 WORLD SERIES VICTORY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2012 World Series Champions, the San Francisco Giants. On October 28, 2012, the Giants defeated the Detroit Tigers by a score of four to three in game four to sweep the World Series, winning the franchise's second championship since the team moved to San Francisco from New York in 1958. By their tremendous victory, our Giants once again made us the proudest city in baseball.

This year, the Giants showed tenacity, heart, and teamwork on their path to victory. They unleashed their arsenal of reliable starting pitching, stellar relief pitching, heroic defense, and powerful hitting to outlast their rivals in the fiercely contested National League Western Division. Their performance was a portrait of grit and good sportsmanship from the first pitch through the last, and we celebrate them for their excellence on and off the field.

There is no one superstar on the Giants' roster; they are a band of brothers who "play for the name on the front of their jerseys, not the name on the back." Congratulations to all 25 players on the playoff roster, including World Series Most Valuable Player Pablo Sandoval, who demonstrated the true meaning of "Panda Power" to the rest of the country, and National League Most Valuable Player Buster Posey, as well as: Jeremy Affeldt, Madison Bumgarner, Matt Cain, Santiago Casilla, Tim Lincecum, Javier Lopez, Guillermo Mota, George Kontos, Sergio Romo, Barry Zito, Ryan Vogelsong, Marco Scutaro, Brandon Crawford, Gregor Blanco, Aubrey Huff, Brandon Belt, Hunter Pence, Angel Pagan, Hector Sanchez, Jose Mijares, Joaquin Arias, Ryan Theriot, and Xavier Nady.

This year's extraordinary win required a full team effort, from the field to the front office. While the players poured their hearts out on the diamond, the thanks and gratitude of all Giants fans also goes to the team's Chief Executive Officer Larry Baer, General Manager Brian Sabean, and Manager Bruce Bochy. Through their commitment, strategy, guidance, and dedication, the 2012 San Francisco Giants emerged as the 2012 World Series champions.

The San Francisco community united in support behind their team and an estimated one million fans turned out to celebrate their victory in a parade full of past and present San Francisco baseball legends. Congratulations to the passionate and devoted Giants fans in northern California, across the country, and around the world for their unrelenting support of the Giants.

HONORING OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH THE AMERICAN VETERANS TRAVELING TRIBUTE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, while we can never fully express the depth of our appreciation for those who have risked and given their lives to protect our freedoms, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to recognize and honor our military veterans and their families through the American Veterans Traveling Tribute.

Our veterans have quietly gone to work and war so that Americans can freely pursue their

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

dreams. Their spouses have gone about the daily task of keeping the home fires burning, and have often sacrificed careers and other goals to provide stability at home during constant transitions. Furthermore, their children have learned to be resilient and appreciative of the cost of freedom. They are strong families who have contributed to our communities, and have defended our Constitution and freedoms.

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute is a mobile memorial dedicated primarily to the memory of fallen military members from Vietnam. The traveling unit centerpiece of a the American Veterans Traveling Tribute is a 380-foot exact replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and the AVTT includes memorial displays honoring the veterans of World War 2, Korean War, the Gulf War, September 11th attack victims and the current War on Terror.

A non-profit event owned by a retired Army Vietnam veteran, there is a patch and coin available from the AVTT that is inscribed, "I touched the Wall; the Wall touched me." This motto was so very true for a small group of veterans and citizens in Greene County, Ohio who formed a committee and hosted the AVTT in Xenia from October 10–14, 2012. They physically touched the Wall, but their lives were touched forever along with the lives of thousands of visitors who came to Xenia to see the AVTT.

Tim and Susan Spradlin of Xenia proposed the project in August 2011. Tim is a retired Air Force Reserve first sergeant, a member of the Greene County Veterans Service Commission plus he and Susan are very active members of the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders. A veteran of combat in Iraq, Tim was frustrated by the fact that age and injuries caused him to retire from the reserve in late 2008 at age 49 after 30 total years of service. He found new ways to serve the military with the Patriot Guard and the veteran's commission. In 2010 Susan and Tim rode a PGR escort mission in Sidney, Ohio for the AVTT display there. On seeing the entire display Tim told his wife, "...Steve Molden would love this", and so the idea of hosting the AVTT in Xenia was first born.

Steve Molden is a Vietnam veteran in Xenia, who proudly served with the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. Now retired from Greene County services department, Steve is also a former volunteer member of the Xenia Township Fire Department and Greene County Rescue, where Tim Spradlin had met him many years ago. For many years Steve had been frustrated in his efforts to organize Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies or parades in Xenia. Tim was aware of Steve's frustration and wanted to do something special for Steve and other Vietnam veterans like him. Activated in 1991 for the Desert Shield / Desert Storm conflict, Tim never forgot that there were Vietnam veterans across the nation who stood up in support of the new generation of military, loudly proclaiming that these war vets would not be abused or mistreated as many Vietnam vets had been. Tim suggested to the Veterans Commission that they could host the AVTT, and the committee was born.

First to join the local AVTT committee was Steve Molden and veteran's service office director Lane Woodward. Lance is a disabled Navy veteran who was part of the AVTT display planning in Clermont County, Ohio in 2003. Susan followed her husband and

agreed to serve as the treasurer for the group, and Steve's wife Karen joined as the volunteer coordinator, to honor her husband and her uncle, member of the Order of the Purple Heart for wounds in Vietnam.

Steve Molden also brought his old friend Jim McMichaels on board. Jim is a Navy veteran of Vietnam, a high school classmate of Steve, and they both personally knew some of the 34 sons of Greene County who were killed in Vietnam, and whose names were engraved on the Wall. Other members of the community stepped up to serve also, including Jim Kennedy and Helena Curtis. Helena is a former deputy sheriff and cancer survivor whose spirit and dedication as unmatched. She said she was inspired to serve on the committee in honor of her father and grandfather who were military war veterans. Jim Madsen, a retired Air Force officer and federal civilian was proud to join the group and dedicated hundreds of hours, stating it was his personal way to say thank you, that he felt the need to do more since he had never been tasked to go to war during his service years.

As the committee worked for a year to plan the AVTT event many other citizens, spouses, veterans and business people joined the effort. For Susan Spradlin it was hard work but a labor of love, honoring her husband as an Iraq vet, a tribute to her late father who was a Navy veteran of Korea, and her brother who was disabled due to service in the Gulf War. Betty Zentiara is 80 years old, a Marine Corps veteran of Korea and dedicated many hours of her time to working in the kitchen at the event to serve refreshments to the many volunteers. Master Sergeant Jason Larimore, an active duty member from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base joined the effort and recruited many active duty Air Force personnel to man the Wall at night, providing security. David "Smitty" Smith, retired Greene County deputy sheriff and 101st Airborne veteran of Vietnam was very honored to serve and inspired to bring out his motorcycle ad joined the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders as a result of his experience on the AVTT committee. Marine veteran Ed Vance tearfully told his fellow committee members that the experience had "changed his life". There were two church pastors who participated in the event and ceremonies; both were also Vietnam veterans. Many fire and law enforcement personnel also got involved, notably Captain Doug Cope, a shift commander with the City of Xenia Fire Division and a veteran of the rescue team deployment to New York City after the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center.

Steve and Karen Molden worked to create 34 plaques with the names, ranks, service information and dates for the Greene County citizens killed in Vietnam. These plaques were placed at the base of The Wall during the 4 day display, a touching personal memory of the local sacrifice paid by the community. Some of the families for those killed in action came to see the Wall in Xenia and they were presented with the plaque in honor of their fallen brother.

Over the 4 day display of the AVTT there was a motorcycle escort parade, music and concerts, a police and fire September 11th memorial service, and numerous interactions, reunions and fellowship. Steve Molden and Jim McMichaels were out at the Wall almost constantly, leaving late at night for some sleep and then back early the next day, walking, sit-

ting in a golf cart or on a bench, talking, teaching and sharing . . . not only were they paying tribute to the fallen, but they were honoring all veterans by educating others about Vietnam, the war and the people who fought it. Watching these veterans and others find healing through this project was so rewarding.

The pinnacle event was the military memorial service on Saturday October 13th. Guest speakers included Congressman Steve Austria, Ohio Patriot Guard captain Bob Woods (US Army Vietnam), AVTT owner Don Allen (US Army Vietnam) and Major General Ed Mechenbier, US Air Force Vietnam, who was shot down while flying an F4 aircraft and spent nearly 6 years in a POW cell. There was not a dry eye in the large crowd as the 34 names of Greene County KIA were read. "Sorry for crying, but I went to high school with some of these guys," explained a tearful Jim McMichaels as he and Vietnam vets Steve Molden, Sam Wallace, Pastor John Corcoran and Pastor Wes Barnhill read the details of the fallen. The end of the reading was followed by the USAF band, the bagpipes playing Amazing Grace and a bugler playing "Taps" as a memorial wreath was laid at the apex of the Wall. For Steve Molden, Tim Spradlin and Jim McMichaels it was the end of a long year, as they sat down on a park bench near the wall and shared tears of joy for the good they had done together, and the blessing of surviving their wars.

Inspired by the dedication and initiative of so many people, the Greene County Veterans Tribute Committee will continue to make a difference. After all the AVTT bills were paid, the committee donated part of their remaining funding to the Honor Flight program and part to the Wounded Warrior Project. The remainder will be kept in the non-profit endowment fund as the seed money for a new project; we have a vision to build a suitable large war memorial for all Greene County veterans and families on the lawn of the county courthouse. With the support of the community, the Members have no doubt that they can continue to serve local veterans, serve the community, the nation and with God's blessings create a permanent tribute to all Greene County citizens who have served in the United States Armed Forces or paid the ultimate cost of freedom.

I am grateful that Greene County, located within my district, was granted the opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of veterans and first responders through the American Veterans Traveling Tribute. All those who worked to make this event happen are to be commended for their time and efforts. It was a bittersweet time to remember both those who came home from Vietnam and other wars as well as those who never had the chance.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in honoring our military veterans and their families for their continued and selfless service to the land of the free.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY
HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Sonoma Hispanic