

HONORING COMMANDER PAUL B.
SPOHN, USN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most heartfelt congratulations to Commander Paul B. Spohn, United States Navy, for a distinguished career. Commander Spohn recently retired as the Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Crane, one of the many command posts throughout his career. I would like to especially recognize Commander Spohn for his leadership at NSA Crane, the world's third largest Naval Installation, based in Indiana's 8th Congressional District.

Commander Spohn began his 35 year career by enlisting in the Navy as a Boiler Technician in January 1977 and received his commission in June 1990 through the Limited Duty Officer Program.

His many achievements in academics and the Navy have made him an officer that all sailors and citizens should emulate. His dedication to our nation has spanned many decades and many posts and for that I would like to thank Commander Spohn.

HONORING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE USO CENTER AT THE
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIR-
PORT

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, on January 18th, 2012 the USO Board of Governors voted to approve the establishment of the USO Center at the Tampa International Airport.

This has been a long process, but thanks to a hardworking team of volunteers, the USO in Tampa is excited about serving the roughly 40,000 active military and their families living in the Tampa Bay area that may use Tampa International Airport as well as the approximately 300,000 that fly in and out of the Tampa International Airport on a yearly basis.

As both a Congressman and a father of three sons in the U.S. Army, I know how important the USO services are to our men and women in uniform. When I visit with the veterans in my district, I hear their stories of watching Bob Hope in the USO Concerts and receiving packages with urgent supplies from the USO on Christmas. Today's USO centers give our active duty heroes a place to relax, if only for a few minutes.

The new facility in the Tampa International Airport will allow members of our local communities the opportunity to recognize the service and sacrifice of this Nation's proud active duty servicemembers and their families.

I am a proud supporter of this outstanding institution and welcome its arrival in the Tampa International Airport.

AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has been a valuable ally to the United States in a turbulent region. In the true spirit of friendship, it seems appropriate for Congress to note the 20th anniversaries of two important events in their country's history which take place in late-February.

February 26 marked the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy which is the largest of Azerbaijani civilians in the country's history.

The town of Khojaly is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and was then home to some 7,000 Azerbaijani citizens. On February 25–26, 1992, in a period of less than 12 hours, 613 citizens were slain at the hands of Armenian forces.

In the wake of these atrocities, Human Rights Watch described the advancing forces as committing "unconscionable acts of violence against civilians as they fled." Given our deepening ties with Azerbaijan it is important for American citizens to remember this event.

February 28 is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Azerbaijani-American diplomatic relations, which is an event forming a partnership which of importance to both countries.

The initial focus of these relations was on trade between the two countries and, in particular, Azerbaijan's abundant natural resources. Today, Azerbaijan is a full partner to the United States, working with us and our allies to safeguard our combined security and prosperity.

One of the most telling examples of their commitment to this partnership came in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when Azerbaijan pledged to stand by the United States as in our efforts to secure the homeland and bring justice to the perpetrators of this tragedy.

True to its word, Azerbaijan has supported allied efforts in the War on Terror by allowing unrestricted access to its territory for American aircraft, troops and supplies, as well as committing its own troops to fight alongside our own.

As these two important anniversaries come to pass, I join Azerbaijan in mourning those who died in Khojaly, celebrating 20 years of shared diplomatic relations, and hoping for the continued security and prosperity of our nations in an ever-more dangerous world.

HONORING DWIGHT AND SHARON
POAGE AND THE MAYAN FAMI-
LIES

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Dwight and Sharon Poage and the Mayan Families for their extraordinary passion for causes that have made enduring positive differences in people's lives in the Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala.

This record recognizes the Mayan Families' strong partnership with the Upper Arlington Rotary Club in jointly creating sustainable humanitarian focused projects that provide opportunities, hope and a future for the indigenous and impoverished people in Guatemala.

Your commitment to potable water, children and adult nutrition, education and improving basic essential living conditions in the underserved communities has had a profound impact. On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District I commend your dedicated efforts for the families of Guatemala.

HONORING THE LIVES OF CAPTAIN
RYAN P. HALL OF COLORADO
SPRINGS, COLORADO; CAPTAIN
NICHOLAS S. WHITLOCK OF
NEWMAN, GEORGIA; FIRST LIEU-
TENANT JUSTIN J. WILKENS, OF
BEND, OREGON; AND SENIOR
AIRMAN JULIAN S. SCHOLTEN
OF UPPER MARLBORO, MARY-
LAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy and solemn gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to four of our nation's fallen heroes: Captain Ryan P. Hall of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Captain Nicholas S. Whitlock of Newman, Georgia; First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens, of Bend, Oregon; and Senior Airman Julian S. Scholten of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

These four brave, young men paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation's freedom when their U-28 aircraft went down near Djibouti, Africa on Saturday, February 18, 2012. They were members of the United States Air Force Special Operations Command. Of their dedication to duty, courage of heart, and commitment to their nation, there can be no doubt. They were living examples of the Airman's Creed, "I am an American Airman, guardian of freedom and justice, my nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger. I defend my Country with my life." Upon the altar of freedom, they have fulfilled their vow to defend their country and paid the ultimate price.

The report of this tragic incident pierced the hearts of their families, friends, and the AFSOC community. It reminds us that there is no greater sacrifice than that in which one gives his life for others.

While there are no words that we can say here on the floor today that will bring back Ryan, Nicholas, Justin, and Julian to those who love them and know them best, we can and will honor their service and sacrifice. We have heard many times and know in our hearts the truth that Freedom often demands of us a heavy and at times unbearable price. It is a burden of loss that rests heavily upon those who love them.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor these four men and all of the heroes we have lost. My wife, Vicki joins me in offering our deepest, most sincere condolences and prayers to their families and friends. May God continue to bless them, the AFSOC community, and the United States Armed Forces.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID N.
BODDIE

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the life of David N. Boddie, a resident of Bowie in the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland, who passed away on February 16th. As he is interred at Arlington National Cemetery today, I want to remember the legacy he leaves behind.

For more than 40 years, Dave—as he was affectionately known to his colleagues—was an employee of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), which supplies us with the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and the documents to conduct the business of this House.

Before arriving at the GPO, Dave Boddie served as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam, where he was seriously wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart. After returning home, he worked at the Afro-American Newspaper Company in Baltimore.

Dave joined the GPO in 1970 as an apprentice and three years later was converted to a career employee. In 1976, he was promoted to a new position as a Photocomposition Machine Operator, taking his place within one of the greatest technology changes in the GPO's history, as the agency converted from hot metal typesetting to electronic photocomposition. Two years later, Dave entered the management and supervisory ranks at GPO, and he became a Foreperson in 1987. In August 1999, Dave was named Foreperson-in-Charge, and in 2003, he was promoted to Assistant to the Production Manager, Night Operations, on the second shift. He continued to rise through the management ranks, becoming Printing Officer and Assistant Production Manager in December 2005.

In 2006, Dave was named the third-shift Assistant Production Manager, effectively becoming GPO's Night Production Manager, with the key responsibility for ensuring the completion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other congressional work by morning. Dave was the first African American employee ever named to this position in GPO's 150-year history of service to Congress and this Nation. He retired from Federal service in 2011.

Dave Boddie's record of service to our country, both as a Marine and through his accomplished career as a Federal employee at GPO, was characterized by sacrifice, by hard work and dedication to duty, and most of all by achievement, which was recognized by his promotions leading ultimately to one of the most critically important positions of leadership within GPO. He leaves behind a legacy of service that others can aspire to.

Now that his time on earth has come to an end, it is my hope that David N. Boddie has found the peace he has earned. On behalf of this House, I extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Kim and daughter Monica, and the thanks of a grateful Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUNEDRA KUMAR
KAUSHIK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sunedra Kumar Kaushik, the founder and chairman of the Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College in Rajasthan, India, and a constituent in the 18th Congressional district of New York. On March 2, Dr. Kaushik will be honored by the Indian Consul General in New York after receiving the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Samman Award, India's highest honor for natives living overseas, from President Pratibha Patil. For decades, Dr. Kaushik's work as a Professor of Finance at Pace University and his exceptional leadership at Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College have made an extraordinary impact at home, in the Lower Hudson Valley, and abroad, in his native India.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Kaushik has led a distinguished academic career, shaping the minds of generations of young Americans at Pace, Boston University, Northeastern University, Babson College and other institutions. Over this period of time, Dr. Kaushik has published an impressive number of academic works in economics and finance.

While completing his PhD at Boston University, Dr. Kaushik met the love of his life, Helena Pokotnicki, of Detroit, Michigan, and the two were married in September of 1973. For decades, Mrs. Kaushik employed her skills as a health professional to promote children's health and education issues in India. On her very first day in India, Mrs. Kaushik wasted no time making her voice heard, lobbying the head of the World Health Organization in Delhi on the need to improve health conditions in India and to mitigate the adverse effects of open sewers on the Indian population at large.

In 1991, Mrs. Kaushik tragically suffered a devastating stroke and since has been cared for by her husband at their home in Westchester County, New York. Inspired by his wife's commitment and work on behalf of the children and women of India, Dr. Kaushik founded the Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College in Rajasthan, India, in 1999. Watching his wife in action, Dr. Kaushik understood the tremendous impact hard-working women could have on their communities across the globe. In his native Rajasthan, one of the most poverty-stricken regions of India, Dr. Kaushik was concerned by the lack of educational opportunities for women. He was especially upset by the fact that his hometown of Malsisar, Rajasthan, lacked even a male or co-ed college within a 35 kilometer radius.

For over a decade, the Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College has empowered countless women from rural India, training them to become integral parts of the Indian economy and Indian society. Since its establishment, over 900 of the college's graduates have gone on

to serve their communities as teachers and civil servants, and in an array of other critical professions. Moreover, by operating solely on generous private donations and not charging any tuition fees, the Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's College has made obtaining a higher education possible for numerous low-income women.

Given Dr. Kaushik's inspiring work, it comes as no surprise that President Patil has awarded him one of India's highest honors and that his achievements have been celebrated by both the New York State Assembly and the New Jersey General Assembly. It is time for Congress to also recognize Dr. Kaushik's extraordinary efforts both at home and abroad, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE LEONARD
EDWARDS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Clarence Leonard Edwards, a lifelong South Florida community activist, U.S. Soldier, entrepreneur, pioneer, beloved son, husband, father, neighbor and friend.

Mr. Edwards was born in Jacksonville, Florida on March 3rd, 1930. After attending Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, he moved to Miami. At the age of twenty, he began a career of community service that spanned decades.

Following his service in the U.S. Army, during the Korean War, Mr. Edwards and his first wife of 38 years, Olivia Love, settled in Overtown and became instrumental in community organizing, voter registration and mentoring youth. For thirty six years, they ran a community pharmacy that served as a long-standing community gathering place.

Mr. Edwards had a forty year career with the Seaboard Coastline Railroad (Amtrak). He is also noted for pioneering blacks in the sport of race car driving. He has received numerous local, state and national awards for community and political service including: Governors recognition for his service during Hurricane Andrew, Florida Annual Civil Rights Conference Community Relations award, Proclamation of Clarence Edwards Day from Dade County Mayor, Stephen Clark and City of Opa Locka Mayor, Robert Ingram. Mr. Edwards has also received several letters of appreciation from Presidents, Congressmen and State Representatives.

We, the citizens of the 17th Congressional District, pay tribute to Mr. Clarence Leonard Edwards for his stellar service to the people of Miami-Dade County.