

leader who was taken from us far too soon, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Chairman Richard M. Milanovich.

For those who knew Richard, and for the countless others who did not but were touched by his impact on our community and nation, his passing leaves an enormous void. We shall greatly miss Richard's warmth, humor, humility, compassion and leadership. But most of all, we will miss the man: a beloved and caring leader whose dedication to his people was unmatched and never wavered.

Richard Milanovich's character, and also his vision for a more prosperous future for his people, were shaped by the experiences of his youth and the circumstances confronting the Agua Caliente during an era when the fortunes of the tribe he would come to lead for over a quarter of century were far more challenging and the future far more daunting. In his youth, he was profoundly influenced by the strong leadership of several remarkable women tribal council members, especially Chairman Viola Olinger and Vice Chairman LaVerne Saubel, who helped the Agua Caliente tribe reclaim control of its destiny and establish a model for future tribal land use agreements throughout our nation. Richard always felt a great connection to the Agua Caliente leaders who came before him, and the strength of his will and keen political insight were reflections of their determination and commitment to the tribe.

As tribal chairman, Richard Milanovich, earned the respect of not only his tribe but of all those who witnessed his tireless work ethic, sharp mind and gracious nature. He was revered throughout the nation as a tribal leader who achieved historic accomplishments that directly benefitted his people and numerous other tribes. He rose to become a legendary figure within Indian Country, and yet, he never lost his common touch and remained deeply grounded in the traditions and spiritual connection to the ancestral lands and heritage of his people.

Richard loved life and lived it to the fullest. Even when fighting his last great battle, he deflected concern for his condition and looked first to the welfare of others. I recall his last visit to my office in Washington on behalf of his tribe, only days after he had undergone one of the grueling treatments he endured to keep the cancer at bay, and how the strength of his spirit willed the body to soldier on. I suspect that his comportment during this painful and exhausting time was a reflection of his distinguished service in the U.S. Army; service that provided him with an opportunity to travel the world and experience other cultures and political institutions, and reinforced his fierce love of country.

Of course, one cannot speak of Richard without mentioning his love of family and friends. He was dedicated to his family, his wife Melissa and children Tammy, Travis, Scott, Trista, Sean and Reid, and he made friends wherever he went. Equally comfortable in jeans and boots or black tie, Richard instantly connected with people and was a much in demand guest at any social gathering—not merely due to his stature as a leader in our community but also for the good times that were sure to follow wherever he went. Witty and charming, he could disarm foes and captivate friends with a kind word or clever remark—all delivered with that trademark twinkle in his eye.

The legacy Richard leaves will not be measured simply by the number of hotels and casinos the tribe operates or the political battles he won on behalf of his people. Richard Milanovich's legacy will be measured by the impact his indomitable spirit had on the tribe he led, the community in which he lived, and the country he loved so deeply.

The Agua Caliente believe that the strength of their people is drawn from the sacred origins of the tribe in the mountains, canyons and desert in which they have resided for millennia. Richard Milanovich's spirit has passed from his physical body to reside with the spirits of the great tribal leaders who went before him. When I walk in the Indian Canyons of the Agua Caliente people, I shall feel strongly the spirit of my dear friend in the breeze on my face and the rustle of the wind in the palm fronds.

My deepest condolences go out to Richard's family, the Agua Caliente people and the many others who loved him. Richard will be deeply missed by us all, but he will also remain with us forever in our hearts and memories. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to take a moment and join me in paying tribute to the memory of a truly great American and the late leader of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Chairman Richard Milanovich.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEFFREY MARXEN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, it's an absolute privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jeffrey Leonard Marxen, who died at the age of 60 on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Dr. Marxen was a dedicated, loving father, and renowned orthopedic surgeon. After graduating from college and completing his residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, he moved to San Diego to begin his orthopedic practice. He specialized in replacement and reconstruction of the knee, hip and shoulders.

Anyone who knew Dr. Marxen is aware that he was an extremely respected and accomplished surgeon who took great satisfaction in forming lifelong relationships with his patients over the course of his 32-year practice. He was president of the San Diego chapter of the Western Orthopedic Association and held numerous leadership positions within Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, California.

Dr. Marxen was interested in community service, sports and pursuing his passion and love for music. He loved playing in evening sports leagues, including softball and tennis, within the community. In addition he was an avid fan of the Chargers, Padres and Aztec Basketball. Along with sports, he enjoyed playing the coronet and the trumpet with the Acme Rhythm and Blues band, which performed all over venues in the San Diego area.

My condolences go to Dr. Marxen's wife and best friend, Dr. Annette Conway Marxen; his children, Philip, Jeffrey Christopher and Marissa.

Dr. Marxen was truly an inspiration to the San Diego community. I am honored to have

the opportunity to recognize such a great American and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Dr. Jeffrey Marxen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 111. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3992.

HONORING ROBERT JAMES ZINK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert James Zink. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 38, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Robert has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert James Zink for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SEAPORTS TO THE ECONOMY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, even before coming to Congress last July, ports have been a top priority for me. I served on the Los Angeles city council for ten years and represented the Port of Los Angeles—that, with the Port of Long Beach, are America's ports.

When I arrived in Congress, I wanted to raise awareness of ports and their impact on our nation's economy. So, I started the bipartisan PORTS Caucus to work with my colleagues over the past couple months to educate my colleagues and include ports in our national dialogue. This week, I took the next step in that mission by introducing a resolution honoring our ports.

The United States is served by more than 350 commercial sea and river ports that support 3,200 cargo and passenger handling facilities. Each day United States ports move both imports and exports totaling some \$3.8

billion worth of goods through all 50 states. Additionally, ports move 99.4 percent of overseas cargo volume by weight and generate \$3.95 trillion in international trade. These numbers speak for themselves: ports are a crucial component of our national economy, and they deserve Congress' attention.

This resolution honors both the tremendous contribution ports make to our national economy and the extraordinary service of Americans employed at our nation's ports. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution in order to advance our national dialogue on ports.

HONORING U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JORDAN L. BEAR'S SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Jordan L. Bear. A resident of Elton, Wisconsin, Staff Sergeant Bear died while serving our country in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Jordan Bear died protecting the freedoms we take for granted every day. His heroic sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Bear embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. He served this country with honor and exhibited profound bravery and selflessness. Staff Sergeant Bear was a loving son, a devoted father and now he will forever be known as an American hero. He is remembered by friends and family as a man with a courageous and strong spirit who earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Although the loss of Staff Sergeant Bear left a void in the hearts of many, his dedication and exemplary service has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Staff Sergeant Bear for the sacrifice he made for the United States of America.

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE
MILESTONES

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the work of the men and women of Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we are a country that has been at war for over 10 years. Whether it is the 317th Airlift Group delivering troops and supplies to the front lines, or the 7th Bomb Wing putting metal on target, the missions at Dyess have played indispensable roles in the war against terror. Today I would like to honor two recent major milestones that have been achieved by these exemplary airmen.

Earlier this month the B-1 bomber flew its 10,000th combat mission. Since 2001, the B-1 has been providing intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and close air support to our troops on the ground nearly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In fact, at this very moment, there is a B-1 in the air over southwest Asia. Able to carry a larger payload than any other aircraft in the military, one supersonic B-1 can do the same job of multiple aircraft. It is truly a workhorse in our military.

Additionally, March 7th marked the 3,000th consecutive day of deployment for the 317th Airlift Group. Since December of 2003, more than 7,000 airmen from this unit have been put in harm's way. The air mobility mission is one of the most important missions in the modern military. Operations that used to take weeks or months now take days or hours. The 317th has often been labeled the "busiest C-130 unit" in the Air Force, and this current deployed streak is another honored mark in the long history of Dyess Airlifters.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor today to recognize and celebrate these achievements, and to honor the sacrifices the men and women of Dyess have made. And I am a firm believer that when one member of the family serves this country—the whole family serves. Deployments across the globe over the last decade have meant many missed birthdays, holidays, and special moments for our soldiers and their families. May we never take for granted the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make every day for our freedom and security.

I ask that the two attached articles also be made a part of the RECORD.

[Feb. 27, 2012]

THE BONE NOTCHES 10,000 COMBAT MISSIONS

(By Philip Ewing)

America's favorite low-flying, long-loitering, wing-swinging bomber has flown its 10,000th combat mission, Boeing announced Monday.

The B-1B Lancer in question flew its sortie over Afghanistan—where the Bone has had a second career supporting troops on the ground—and returned to its base in, er, "Southwest Asia," Boeing announced. (The bases in Qatar and the UAE aren't actually there, and the Air Force clings to that non-fact like a vise.)

Here's more of what Big B said:

The heavy bomber entered service with the U.S. Air Force on June 29, 1985, and has been in nearly continuous combat for the past 10 years. The milestone mission took off from a base in Southwest Asia and was flown in support of operations over Afghanistan before returning to base.

"The B-1 brings tremendous flexibility to our nation's defense," said Lt. Col. Alejandro Gomez, mission team lead. "In any mission, the B-1 has the ability to loiter, dash, positively identify targets, show force, and strike targets precisely. Whatever our aircrews are asked to do, they can perform with this aircraft."

B-1 crews in Southwest Asia fly a variety of missions, including close air support for troops on the ground, giving them cover and alerting them to threats they cannot see. On-site maintainers keep the fleet ready to fly.

"10,000 conventional combat missions for a relatively small fleet of 66 B-1s is a major milestone and a testament to the men and women who built, sustain and modernize the fleet, including the U.S. Air Force, Boeing and our subcontractors," said Rick Greenwell, Boeing B-1 program director. "We

continue to draw on expertise and experience from across Boeing to enhance our support of this amazing aircraft."

The B-1 bomber has advanced over the years as it is modified for current needs. The aircraft began as a nuclear bomber and moved into a solely conventional role in the 1990s. It carries the largest payload in the Air Force's long-range bomber fleet—during Operation Iraqi Freedom, it dropped 40 percent of all weapons while flying only 5 percent of the sorties.

Today's B-1 can carry a mixed load of weapons in each of its three bays. Its long range allows it to base far from the conflict and loiter unrefueled for long periods. Its swept wings allow it to fly fast, slow, low or high as the situation demands. With only four crewmembers required, missions can rapidly be adjusted in flight to keep up with adversaries. The radar and targeting pod can be used for positive target identification and the aircraft can employ a variety of other weapons, including Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), Laser JDAMs, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles-Extended Range, and BLU-129 warheads.

"The B-1 fleet and crews have readily adapted to an ever-changing environment to accomplish this 10,000th combat sortie milestone," said Greenwell. "This aircraft has proven its ability to continue to evolve and be effective well into the future."

And as the B-1's adopted parent, Boeing isn't the only one pleased with its performance. The Air Force appears to have quietly shelved its onetime idea of beginning to pare back bombers to save money, at least in the near term. Its fiscal 2013 budget submission this month included this unambiguous sentence: "The Air Force does not plan to retire any bomber aircraft in FY 2013."

That will mean ever more combat missions for the Lancer fleet, at least for now.

DYESS' 317TH AIRLIFT GROUP CELEBRATES
3,000 CONTINUOUS DAYS OF DEPLOYMENT
TODAY

(By Brian Bethel)

They call Dyess Air Force Base's 317th Airlift Group "purple ops" these days, said Maj. Jason Anderson, who bears the lengthy title of 317th operation support squadron assistant director of operations.

"We called the 40th blue squadron, the 39th red squadron," Anderson said, musing about the tail colors that once graced the C-130s of the base's 39th and 40th Airlift Squadrons.

But now the 317th, which today at the base marked 3,000 days of continuous deployment, is one. Since Dec. 20, 2003, Dyess' 317th has had "folks in the theater fighting the war," Anderson said.

"The tails changed," Anderson said. "They're now both red and blue. And the attitudes changed. It's one team fighting for one another."

It takes a four-month on, four-month off rotation to keep up that tempo, he said, with both squadrons, a "maintenance package," and numerous others, from tactics to intelligence, working together to keep planes flying and missions running smoothly.

In general, "a little over 200" people from the 317th Airlift Group are deployed at any time, with more than 7,000 airmen deployed over the 3,000-day period, Anderson said.

"There's always a squadron that's out there at any given time," he said.

Gray Bridwell, an honorary commander for the 317th Airlift Group, said that when the initial deployment began, he was honorary commander for the 317th Maintenance Squadron and "as a civilian" had little understanding about "massive deployments of this nature."