

recipients who trained in Mineral Wells, Texas, at Camp Wolters during World War II and at Fort Wolters during the Vietnam War. On March 23, 2012, the Fort Wolters Gate Committee joined with the citizens of Mineral Wells to honor these brave men with two ceremonies on Medal of Honor Day.

These thirteen outstanding individuals are First Lieutenant Eli L. Whiteley, First Lieutenant James M. Sprayberry, First Lieutenant Charles L. Thomas, First Lieutenant Vernon Baker, First Lieutenant Jack L. Knight, Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy, Staff Sergeant Edward A. Carter, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, Chief Warrant Officer Frederick Edgar Ferguson, Captain Ed Freeman, Captain Jon E. Swanson, Major Patrick H. Brady, and Major William E. Adams.

The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military honor that can be bestowed upon an individual service member by the United States government. It is given to men and women of the Armed Forces who set themselves apart through their uncommon courage, selflessness, and valor which goes above and beyond the call of duty. The recipients of this prestigious award are not only leaders among those with whom they serve, they are also the role models to whom future generations of Americans will always look. I am honored to be able to join in recognizing these heroes before Congress today.

HONORING THE LEGENDARY
CAROLE KING

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about my friend Carole King.

Carole King is a music legend, with hundreds of pop hits, including the recognizable "I Feel the Earth Move." She has won four Grammys, and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Many of her songs have been featured in commercials, TV shows, and movies, and she has worked with many music icons such as Eric Clapton and Celine Dion.

In addition to her fame as a musician, King is also a strong activist for environmental issues. She is often here in our offices on Capitol Hill fighting for the protection of our wildlife and ecosystems, both in her native Idaho and worldwide.

While Carole and I do not always agree on the issues, I have always been impressed by her tenacity. She is truly dedicated to this cause, and her perseverance is something to be admired. Many of us do not have the opportunity to meet someone like Carole. She has a great heart and is a great asset to America.

I want to congratulate Carole King on all of her accomplishments. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years.

MALAWI PRESIDENT JOYCE
BANDA SWEARING-IN ADDRESS
ON APRIL 7, 2012

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the April 7, 2012 swearing-in address by Malawi President Joyce Banda.

This is a unique occasion.
May his soul rest in peace.

I am not here to give a long speech considering the circumstances we are in. Let us focus on mourning our father, former President Mutharika.

I also would like to report to all you people that this afternoon I had a cabinet meeting. We felt the holy spirit in that room. It was a good meeting, as a nation we should realize that, because it was significant and marks a starting point for healing the wounds of this nation . . .

I thank you all for showing me great humility and honor as I accept the huge responsibility. I also thank you all for the peaceful transition and I appeal to the nation to mourn the former president with dignity and thank all of you who have come to witness this occasion from all walks of life, irrespective of political, spiritual, regional backgrounds . . .

I want to ask all of us to move into the future with hope and the spirit of oneness and unity. I sincerely hope there is no room for revenge, that we shall stand united . . .

As a God fearing nation we shall allow God to come before us because if we do not do that, we have failed.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW F.
SIMMONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Andrew F. Simmons, a native of Yonkers, has spent a good deal of his adult life in improving housing in his hometown. He began a partnership with Yonkers 15 years ago in assisting with the development of affordable homes in the distressed southwest area.

Since 1999 he had managed numerous development projects, including the Gazette Building Waterfront Development. He was contractor for the Hamilton Heights renovation project, the Metro North Train Station demonstration projects in Yonkers and Croton-Harmon.

He has helped to lead the completion of the pre-development of three two-family homes and worked as general contractor and developer of an additional three two-family homes. Further, he is developing an affordable twelve-unit condo on the Hudson River.

Andrew Simmons developed Think Services, a consulting firm which works with Community Development Corporations with design phase, budget and community inclusion in project development.

I am proud to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring Andrew Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need it most.

IN HONOR OF GEORGIA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE BOB HANNER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Southwest Georgia's most respected public officials, Georgia State Representative Bob Hanner. Representative Hanner, first elected as a member of the Georgia General Assembly in 1975, recently announced that he will not run for re-election after serving 37 years in Georgia's House of Representatives.

His longevity of dedicated public service and steadfast representation of his constituents in Chattahoochee, Lee, Quitman, Stewart, Terrell and Webster counties, are just a few of the many reasons as to why Representative Hanner has been an invaluable member of the Georgia General Assembly.

Representative Hanner hails from Parrott, Georgia and is a graduate of both Gordon Military and Southwestern Colleges. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in Vietnam from 1967–1968.

Following his collegiate career and military service, he worked in the private sector as a farmer and an estate planner. Prior to being elected to the Georgia General Assembly, he also served as a member of the Terrell County Hospital Authority.

Representative Hanner's first election to the Georgia General Assembly was in a September 1975 runoff in what was then the 130th House District. He successfully claimed 2,811 votes of the 5,442 votes cast in the special election runoff.

Over the course of his distinguished legislative career, he has served as a member of the House Appropriations and Rules Committees and as Secretary of the House Committees on Natural Resources & Environment, and Public Safety and Homeland Security. For the last 15 years, Representative Hanner has served as the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and he co-chaired a state-wide water management study committee.

In conjunction with his legislative responsibilities and other important duties associated with his public service, Representative Hanner has played an active role in several civic and community service organizations in Southwest Georgia. He is a member of the P.T. Schley Masonic Lodge #229 in Dawson, Georgia; the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce; and has served as a past director of the United States Jaycees.

It cannot be disputed that Representative Hanner has achieved numerous successes throughout his life. However, none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the support of his loving wife, Linda. Mr. and Mrs. Hanner are the proud parents of three magnificent children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an outstanding legislator and one of Georgia's most respected public figures, Representative Bob Hanner, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, no one in this body was untouched by the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, which will stand in our history as one of the most infamous crimes ever perpetrated against the people of the United States. It not only cast a shadow of despair over America, but also thrust us into a different kind of global conflict, fighting an unconventional, adaptive enemy that has adopted the mass murder of innocent civilians as a weapon of war.

More than four years ago, we apprehended the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 plot, Khalid Sheikh Mohammad. He and four others are awaiting trial in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility on charges that include 2,973 individual acts of murder. That trial will take place before a reformed military commission.

I believe that such commissions are the appropriate venue for this proceeding. They are modeled on the federal civilian criminal justice system. They protect the rights of the accused. They respect the rule of law. They reflect our core values as Americans. They are transparent. In short, they provide an instrument that is fair, principled, accountable, and effective, one that satisfies the imperative of justice rather than the thirst for revenge.

This confidence is underscored by the fact that Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor of the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay. Gen. Martins is a lawyer of tremendous skill, and a man of great integrity, character, and judgment. Reflecting his commitment to this case, he recently declined promotion in order to see these matters through to their conclusion. As the war against terrorism moves to the legal arena, we are indeed fortunate that Gen. Martins is leading the effort to ensure that justice is fairly dispensed to those charged with the horrific acts of 9/11.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, Gen. Martins and the reformed military commission were the subjects of a news report from National Public Radio. With your permission, I would like to include the text of that report in my remarks and urge that my colleagues take a moment to read this article and learn more about the man that Gen. David Petraeus described as "one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

A PROSECUTOR MAKES THE CASE FOR
MILITARY TRIALS

(By Dina Temple-Raston)

The chief prosecutor for the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is arguing a difficult case: that the commissions are not only fair, but can take pride of place alongside the civilian criminal justice system.

Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor for the commissions, the courts at the naval base that try high-profile terrorism suspects.

He has been called Guantanamo's detox man largely because he has made it his mission to show that the military commissions system at Guantanamo is no longer a toxic version of victor's justice.

When the Bush administration resurrected the commissions system in the days after

the 9-11 attacks, it was seen as a convenient way to process the hundreds of detainees at Guantanamo.

The fullness of time, Martins argues, has turned the commissions into something more: something that actually resembles an adversarial judicial process.

"Law is being applied, judges are interpreting laws, counsel are arguing for different pieces of a particular motion," Martins told NPR in an interview. "Justice is being done, we're just absolutely committed to that. We've worked hard on reforms. Congress has been involved twice. The Supreme Court has ruled upon this."

"The current system is fair, but I understand that people will have to see that for themselves," said Martins, who graduated first in his class at West Point, studied as a Rhodes scholar and then went to Harvard Law School.

CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV FEEDS OF TRIALS

Actually watching the proceedings used to be one of the system's basic shortcomings.

Proceedings were all secret. To see what was going on in the courtroom required traveling to Guantanamo and getting a bevy of clearances. Not anymore. The curious can now watch the trials on closed-circuit television feeds at selected army bases. To get in, citizens just need to show a picture ID, officials say.

Court transcripts are available online. So are motions. Martins says this new transparency is part of a broader effort to convince naysayers that the military commissions aren't so different from civilian courts.

To underscore the point, eight Justice Department attorneys are part of the prosecution teams working on two of the marquee trials the military commissions are hearing: the trial of Abd alRahim al-Nashiri, the man who allegedly planned the attack against the USS *Cole* in Yemen in 2000, and the trial of the alleged Sept. 11 mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and his alleged co-conspirators.

Those Justice Department lawyers work for Martins. He assigns them to cases, and they answer to him as well as the Justice Department.

BLENDING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SYSTEMS

Martins himself is no stranger to the Department of Justice.

For seven months in 2009, between deployments, Martins worked at Justice on President Obama's Detention Policy Task Force.

Then, three years ago, he became the first soldier to have his promotion ceremony held in the Justice Department's Great Hall. The country's top civilian lawyer, Attorney General Eric Holder, spoke at the ceremony as did Gen. David Petraeus who, at the time, was the head of the United States Central Command. Petraeus and Martins have worked together for more than two decades.

At the ceremony, Petraeus praised Martins: "Above all he is one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

Petraeus was Martins' first boss when Martins was a junior JAG officer with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky. Years later, Martins helped Petraeus during the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq. Then Martins served in Afghanistan. He was in charge of a field team that was supposed to transform lawless areas in Afghanistan into law abiding ones. Now he's being asked to transform the military commissions at Guantanamo.

SUPPORT FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Martins has some unexpected allies on this mission, including key people at the Justice Department. Just last month, Holder, the attorney general, called the military commis-

sions "essential to the effective administration of justice."

And he isn't alone. Lisa Monaco, the assistant attorney general for National Security at Justice, said the reformed military commissions have the "same fundamental guarantees of fairness that are the hallmark of criminal trials."

This is a far cry from the grumbling that could be heard coming out of the Justice Department when Congress passed a law that essentially required that detainees at Guantanamo be tried on base.

Still, critics have reservations.

"One of the biggest problems is that today's military commissions carry with them the baggage of the military commissions from the Bush era and there is no way to get around that," says Karen Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School.

That's why Greenberg says Martins has a Sisyphean task of correcting the commissions' difficult history. For example, the Bush era military commissions allowed hearsay evidence and coerced statements—statements that might have come from torture and while the reformed commissions, as Martins calls them, no longer permit that, the old system still manages to cast a pall over the new.

"There are other problems," says Greenberg. "Basic things like attorney-client privilege. Defense attorneys and their clients at Guantanamo have their mail read. This might be okay under some sort of military commission, but it carries with it the legacy that was part of the Bush administration's policy. The Bush administration treated defense attorneys as if they were collaborating with the enemy and that sense hasn't really gone away."

Martins acknowledges the difficulty; he says the Bush-era commissions system in 2001 was flawed. But the case he is making is that today's system is something else altogether.

Now commissions give those on trial a meaningful opportunity to mount a defense. "I believe that as people watch this system and see it is sharply adversarial, it has all the protections that are demanded by our values . . . that they will see that this is a system they can have confidence in," says Martins.

PLANS TO RETIRE FROM THE MILITARY

Martins would like to remain in the post for two more years, but has asked the military to allow him to retire after he finishes his current assignment as chief prosecutor.

"I've decided to request that this be my last assignment in the military," he told NPR in an interview. "That will afford a measure of continuity of the commissions process and it will enable me to stay at least until November 2014."

The departure of a chief prosecutor at Guantanamo has happened before, but under very different circumstances.

One chief prosecutor who preceded Martins was accused of rigging the military commissions process to ensure convictions.

Another quit after he said he felt pressured to include evidence derived from torture in commissions proceedings. He later said that he left because he didn't feel he could do that in good conscience.

Martins says his decision comes out of a need to make the commissions right. He says he wants to finish the job he started.

That job will be under even more scrutiny in the coming weeks. That's when Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other men accused of taking part in the 9-11 attacks are expected to be arraigned in a Guantanamo courtroom. Martins is keenly aware that everyone will be watching.