

airport. I don't know what I'm going to do now that ELTON is retiring. ELTON is a person who is universally admired for his fighting spirit and tenacity. He is someone who will fight to the end for the things that he believes in. I've had the honor of working with Congressman GALLEGLY on a number of issues, including E-Verify, invasive species issues, and regional water projects. Congressman GALLEGLY holds the distinction as the only Member of Congress, by the way—and this is an important thing if you're a Member—who can get from the Capitol to Dulles Airport in 30 minutes or less. I think he holds the record.

From the start, Congressman GALLEGLY has been a leader on immigration issues, most recently as the chairman of the Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement. He understands the nuances of our legal immigration system and the vital importance of secure borders, especially as it relates to his role as vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Congressman GALLEGLY brought a unique perspective to the Foreign Affairs Committee, having served 8 years on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and its Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence Subcommittee.

In the aftermath of September 11, Congressman GALLEGLY chaired the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights and held one of the first hearings on the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, a hearing that led to more than 10 provisions that were included in the final bill.

Congressman GALLEGLY's long and distinguished career has been supported by the love and support of his wife, Janice, and their four children and ten grandchildren. Congressman GALLEGLY's dedication to our national security, strong borders, and legal immigration has contributed immensely to the betterment of our Nation, and we certainly thank him for all the years of his service.

Next I want to talk about my friend, BRIAN BILBRAY. Working alongside Congressman GALLEGLY on immigration issues is Congressman BILBRAY, the chairman of the House Immigration Reform Caucus. Anyone who knows Congressman BILBRAY knows his commitment and dedication to his constituents. He is always on the go, never misses an opportunity to meet and discuss issues important to those he represents.

Congressman BILBRAY is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, with subcommittee appointments to the Oversight and Investigations, Communications, Technology and the Internet, and Energy and Environment. He is chairman of the House Immigration Reform Caucus, where he works with Members on both sides of the aisle to enact meaningful immigration reform.

In this Congress, Congressman BILBRAY was a leader on policy initiatives that would incentivize companies to return their businesses to the United States, as well as encourage the private sector to hire veterans. I personally worked with him on a number of issues, including making E-Verify mandatory.

Throughout his career, Congressman BILBRAY has been supported by his wonderful wife, Karen, their five children and seven grandchildren. It's been an honor to serve with Congressman BILBRAY, and I would like to extend my gratitude to his many years of dedicated service. We're great friends and will continue to be so.

□ 1610

Our final departing Member is someone, as all of these Members, someone I have known very closely and consider a very close personal friend and whose leadership will be sorely missed, Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK, California's only Republican woman in the United States House of Representatives. She's been a trailblazer in the House.

Congresswoman BONO MACK's selection as subcommittee chairman of Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade for the 112th Congress was historic, making her the first Republican woman in American history to hold a gavel on the Energy and Commerce Committee, one of the oldest standing committees in the United States House of Representatives. As chairman, Congresswoman BONO MACK has become a national leader on privacy issues, an expert on technology matters, and a global champion of Internet freedom.

In addition to her impressive chairmanship, Congresswoman BONO MACK passed landmark legislation that called for country-of-origin labeling for fresh fruits and vegetables, in addition to several innovative energy-saving bills, rewarding companies for utilizing clean-burning fuel technologies, and increasing the energy efficiency of Federal buildings. The House of Representatives also overwhelmingly passed MARY BONO MACK's SPY ACT, which helps to protect Americans' personal information on the Internet.

Congresswoman BONO MACK is married to fellow Congressman CONNIE MACK, has two children, three stepchildren, and is now a new grandmother. All of us will certainly deeply miss Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK's humor, intellect, compassion, and expertise; and I know we'll see her in town.

On a personal note, I remember shortly after Sonny was killed a number of years ago visiting her along with Congressman JERRY LEWIS. It was a very difficult time, but she stood in the breach and came in, as DANA mentioned, under very tragic circumstances but represented her beloved Coachella Valley in a wonderful way and has been a fantastic member of the California delegation. Again, we will sorely miss her service.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to mention that among the seven departing Members, the House is losing 163 years of experience. The careers of my colleagues have had a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of constituents, Californians and Americans.

Due to schedule changes, not everyone could be here, but I'm sure as we go through the remainder of this session, they will find an opportunity to say their farewells to the House.

With that, I thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

DELEGATES' PLEA FOR JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I come to the floor with other Delegates to make a plea for respect that we are pleased to say that the House has already honored. Mr. Speaker, this House has seen many disagreements on many issues, and that's what the American people expect. We believe and the House has shown that it believes that some matters, however, are beyond dispute. There are some matters where unity is to be expected. These matters go to basic respect for our members of the armed services.

The House, to its great credit, has already demonstrated that respect, and I want first to thank the Delegate whose provision, whose amendment, was chiefly responsible, Delegate GREGORIO SABLAN from the Mariana Islands, whose amendment has, I believe, twice been put in the House defense authorization bill that requires that when the flags of the 50 States are raised or honored by our Armed Forces that the flags of the Territories and of the District of Columbia also are honored.

I want to also thank House Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK MCKEON and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH for putting this provision in the defense authorization bill that is now pending. This bill will be considered, I suppose, in conference by the House and the Senate. It is in the House bill. We regret that it is not in the Senate bill, and so the Delegates and I have come to the floor to ask that the Senate follow the lead of the House on this matter of common courtesy and respect.

Delegate SABLAN's provision in the House-passed bill simply requires that the flags of the Territories and of the District of Columbia be respected when the armed services choose to honor the flags of the 50 States. I have, in addition, written a letter to the President asking for a Presidential memorandum directing all Federal agencies including the Armed Services to do the same. I regret to report that the Army alone recognizes the D.C. flag and the flags of the Territories as a matter of policy. I

want to give one example that I think will make the House understand why this is so important to us. A mother wrote me of having attended the graduation of her son from the Naval Station Great Lakes. She had wanted this boy to go to college. He had gotten admitted to college. He wanted to go to the Navy and so they said, to the Navy you will go. As graduation day came at the Naval Station Great Lakes and they called the names of the graduates one by one and they got to one name, Jonathan Rucker, and they called his name, the flag of every other graduate had been raised when the name of the graduate was called, but this young man, graduating from boot camp induction into the Navy, had his name called but his flag was not raised, the flag of the District of Columbia.

His parents were heartbroken, as you might imagine, and as the mother wrote me. It was from that example that I understood how very important this was and understood how important my fellow Delegate's bill, now adopted by the House, is. It was personal disrespect for the young man as he became a member of the United States Navy. It was disrespect for the District of Columbia flag. It was disrespect for the residents of this city who have served and died in every war that our country has ever fought, including the war that created the United States of America.

To let you know how much this means to those of us who have no vote but whose constituents pay taxes the same as the rest who are Members of this House and go to war, you now see the huge disproportion, at least in my own district. You will find this disproportion in the districts of the other Delegates as well.

World War I, 635 casualties, more than three States.

World War II, 3,575 casualties, more than four States.

Korea, 547 casualties, more than eight States.

These are all District of Columbia residents.

And from the Vietnam war, 243 D.C. casualties, more than 10 States.

We are calling on our Senate colleagues to follow the example of the House and include the language requiring the Armed Forces to fly the D.C. flag and the flag of the Territories whenever the flags of the 50 States are raised.

Mr. Speaker, we think that is far from too much to ask in light of the young men and women we represent who are in the Armed Forces today and those who have given their lives for the United States of America.

It is my privilege to ask the sponsor of the successful amendment, Delegate SABLAN from the Northern Mariana Islands, if he would speak at this time.

□ 1620

Mr. SABLAN. Thank you very much, Congresswoman NORTON, the distinguished representative of the District

of Columbia. She represents me whenever I am not at home, and has done an exceptional job. And I thank you for sponsoring today's Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, just imagine returning home to the United States after many months of life-threatening combat. Imagine the relief you feel to be safe and the joyfulness of the welcome you expect to receive. Then, imagine as you enter that welcoming ceremony you see displayed the flags of every State, but the flag of your own home is missing. This is a sad experience for some 36,000 servicemen and -women whose home is the District of Columbia or one of the United States territories—American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and my own district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

The flags of our home jurisdictions are often missing from the flag displays at military installations during welcome-back ceremonies, deployment ceremonies, and graduations. A constituent alerted me to this problem about 2 years ago. This individual had noticed the absence of the Northern Marianas flag from a display of U.S. State and territorial flags at Fort Drum, New York. She reported how troubling it was to her as a member of our armed services from the Northern Marianas, returning from combat duty, looking up to see her own flag missing from the ranks of flags there at Fort Drum.

Let me read what she said:

It's been 9 months, still no CNMI flag displayed at Fort Drum, New York, military base. No CNMI flag displayed at a field where deployment ceremony being held, and no CNMI flag displayed where welcoming ceremony being held welcoming back our soldiers from deployment. I wonder what is going on to our CNMI elected leaders. There are Micronesian and Guam flags, no CNMI flag. Very sad.

I remember coming back from the first Gulf War and seeing the rest of my unit being greeted by family and friends. As a single soldier back then I did not have family waiting for my return. However, the Guamanian family that I frequented while in Fort Lewis was there to greet me with hugs, mwar-mwars, and leis. What made them stand out and is forever etched in my mind is our CNMI flag being wielded by these friends of mine. The pride of seeing our flag waving at that concourse was overwhelming and gave me—an NMI native—the sense of belonging to these United States. As a veteran, and more so as a proud NMI Chamolinian, I hope the lack of representation in Fort Drum is corrected.

This was not an isolated incident. Last year, I visited a soldier who was receiving treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. A grand display of the flags of the 50 States lined the lobby of the main facility. Unfortunately, the flag of that young soldier, who was lying upstairs in a bed, painfully recovering from his wounds, was missing from the grand display downstairs. None of the territory flags nor the flag of the District of Columbia were present at Walter Reed.

I also received a report of the same situation at Fort Jackson in South

Carolina. A family there to see their nephew graduate from basic training saw the flags of all 50 States and every territory on display—all except the flag of the Northern Marianas.

Let me read what they said in that email:

Congressman Kilili, my nephew graduated from basic training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, yesterday. My niece and my sister-in-law were looking for the CNMI flag to take pictures with the graduate. Seems they could not find the CNMI flag so they had to settle with the Guam flag to have their picture taken. Please look into this—why the CNMI flag was not displayed during basic training graduation.

On another occasion, several of my constituents attended a basic combat training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The venue where the ceremony took place was adorned with flags from all the 50 States and every territory—except the Northern Mariana Islands. Those soldiers shared their deep disappointment with me. They felt that their command and their country did not recognize their contributions or their home.

Another constituent informed me that the Northern Marianas flag was not flying with the State flags at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, where her husband worked.

Here's what she wrote:

Good morning, sir. I happened to stumble upon an article regarding our flag being raised in all U.S. Army installations during ceremonies. Well, my husband works on the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, and I am tiring of him complaining about not seeing our flag during graduations here. Could you please extend this to other armed services as well? Thank you, sir. Respectfully, Julie S. Tebuteb.

Over 20,000 Marine recruits pass through there every year. So not only are our own soldiers feeling forgotten but recruits from other areas are being sent a message that the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories are not really a part of the Nation those marines will be defending.

Of course, I brought all these cases to the attention of the Pentagon. The Secretary of the Army responded with an assurance that our flag would be flown at Army installations whenever the flags of the States are on display. And many of the individual installations I mentioned took corrective action when I contacted them. But despite this response, I continue to receive reports of situations where territorial flags are forgotten.

The problem is there is no uniform regulation governing the inclusion of the flags of the District of Columbia and the territories. Though the Army Secretary took action, it is the policy of the Air Force, Coast Guard, the Marines, and the Navy to let local commanders have the discretion to display State flags with or without the flags of the territories on their installations. I have requested that all the services modify their regulations to include our flags, but no action has been taken. And I believe it should not be at the

discretion of individual base commanders to decide to exclude any part of the United States—or the fighting men and women from any part of the United States—from recognition. It is a point of pride for all of our brave members of our armed services from the District of Columbia or the Northern Mariana Islands or any of the U.S. territories to see their home flag on display. That flag confirms that the sacrifices and risks these men and women take are recognized and appreciated. That flag demonstrates that their territory is a part of this great Nation of ours.

That's why I included a provision in this year's National Defense Authorization Act requiring the flag of all the States and all U.S. territories and the District of Columbia whenever and wherever the official flags of all 50 States are flown on U.S. military installations. That's why we're here this afternoon. Speaking on behalf of those 36,000 servicemembers from our districts, we are asking the other body, the Senate, to include the same provision in their bill. This provision ensures recognition for all our country's servicemembers no matter what part of the United States they call home.

I just celebrated Veterans Day in the Northern Mariana Islands at the American Memorial Park. There is in this park a court of honor for those soldiers who died there during World War II. And guess what, Mr. Speaker? All the flags—the territories and the 50 States—were displayed there in recognition of our great Nation, the United States of America. Not one State was left out. Not one territory was left out. They're all displayed there.

So let us all spare our soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen, and our veterans the disappointment of not seeing their flags together with the flags of the U.S. States whenever they fly.

I thank you for sharing your time with me. Congresswoman NORTON, thank you for your leadership and for taking a leading position on this issue.

Ms. NORTON. I thank you, Delegate SABLAN, because you are the leader on this issue with your provision that you succeeded in getting included in the House Defense authorization bill.

May I inquire of the Speaker how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady has 14 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. I thank you very much.

I did want to mention that Delegate SABLAN indicated he had received these complaints from his constituents. That's how we know about this issue. The veterans, the members of the Armed Forces bring it to our attention. And he also mentioned that some commanders had the discretion as to whether or not to fly our flags. I note that Under Secretary of Defense Erin Conaton has indeed issued a memorandum to all parts of the armed serv-

ices, and her word was that she “encouraged” but left to the “discretion”—“encourage” is her word, “discretion” are her words—of commanders whether to display the flags of the territories and the District of Columbia when the flags of the 50 States are displayed.

DEFENSE, PENTAGON,
Washington, DC, August 28, 2012.

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE
MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

Subject: Display of District of Columbia and United States Territorial Flags during Official Ceremonies

Our Nation's Armed Forces are more diverse than ever, and brave men and women from all our states and territories continue to answer the Nation's call to duty. On these occasions where you intend to display the flags of all 50 states, I am urging you also to display the flags of the District of Columbia and United States (U.S.) territories. I especially encourage this practice as our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines graduate from entry level training.

This memorandum is not intended to affect the authority or discretion of commanders. Rather, it encourages the appropriate recognition of residents of the District of Columbia and U.S. territories at official ceremonies.

ERIN C. CONATON,
Under Secretary of Defense for
Personnel and Readiness.

□ 1630

Now, I would ask the Undersecretary of Defense, I would ask the President of the United States, I would ask the Secretary of Defense whether there would ever be discretion left to a commander whether to fly the flags of Virginia or Utah or North Carolina or Florida. That would be considered an insult to those States; we consider it no less.

I'm pleased to yield time as well to the delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman NORTON, for holding this Special Order. And thank you, Congressman SABLAN, for your steadfast leadership on this issue of significant importance to our constituents, but particularly to the military men, women, and families from the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

Last year, Congressman SABLAN successfully worked to include his provision in the House National Defense Authorization Act, and it was opposed by the Senate due to cost. How much could six extra flags cost? It could not even be a fraction of a blip in the defense or the military budget. But I'm proud to stand here with my other distinguished and hardworking colleagues in strong support of our veterans, our active military, National Guard, and Reservists and to ask for respect for our flags.

We are here to call on our colleagues in the other body to follow the example of the House and include language requiring all branches of the Armed Forces to fly the flags of the District of Columbia and the five territories of the United States whenever the flags of the 50 States are displayed.

All national flags are potent patriotic symbols. As proud Americans who have sacrificed for our Nation in every conflict, it should naturally follow that wherever and whenever all flags from the 50 States are represented, we also see the flags of the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands right alongside—just as our men and women serve bravely alongside other Americans on the battlefield.

As we said earlier, the Senate reasoned that if flying the D.C. and the territories' flags at each military installation where there are now State flags were to be legislatively mandated, these bases would need to tap into their budgets to pay for those six flags. In my estimation, this is but a minuscule repayment of the debt we owe to the men and women of the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia—who serve in the military in higher per capita numbers than many States—for their service and ultimate price that many have paid to protect our country.

A major goal of the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act is to rebuild our military after a decade of war. Part of that rebuilding process should be respecting all who have served and are serving and ensuring that they receive the recognition they deserve with their fellow Americans from the 50 States.

The U.S. territories and the District of Columbia have long and distinguished military histories. In our case, the Virgin Islanders have fought in every war and conflict, including the American Revolution. Not only did we serve, but the then-Danish West Indies played a role in keeping the Revolutionary Army supplied with gunpowder, and the story is told that our rum helped to keep Washington's troops warm in cold, wintery conditions.

Alexander Hamilton, who grew up on my home island of St. Croix, served in the Revolutionary War. At the start of the war, he organized an artillery company and was chosen as its captain. He later became senior aide-de-camp and confidant to General George Washington.

A Virgin Islander designed one of the first offerings for a flag for the 13 Colonies, and it's reported that we were the first to salute the Stars and the Stripes in one of our beautiful harbors.

As of last year, the U.S. Virgin Islands had a total of 1,807 men and women armed service personnel serving in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, and Navy. We have 734 enlisted men and women and 108 offices proudly serving in our National Guard and Air Guard. And sadly, we too lost soldiers; we lost eight in the Afghan and Iraq wars.

Presently, as we've heard, the decision on which flags fly and are displayed on military installations rests with the individual base commander.

The display of flags of the territories and the District on U.S. military installations, both at home and abroad, varies. The Department of the Army is the only branch of the military that has taken steps to ensure a servicewide policy requiring display of all 56 flags.

I stand today with my five delegate colleagues to again call on the Senate to adopt the House bill that includes language requiring all branches of the Armed Forces to fly the flags of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands whenever the flags of the 50 States are displayed. We are tired of being overlooked in programs and initiatives, but today we draw the line at disrespecting our soldiers and, by extension, my constituents and those of my fellow delegates. We are part of the United States, and flying our flag with all of the others is the least that our military men, women, and their families deserve.

The following is my statement in its entirety: Thank you, Congresswoman NORTON for holding this Special Order and Congressman SABLAN for your steadfast leadership on this issue of significant importance to our constituents, but particularly to the military men, women and families from the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. This is the second consecutive year in which Congressman SABLAN has successfully worked to include this provision in the House National Defense Authorization Act. Last year, the measure was added to the FY 12 Act but was opposed by the Senate because of the “cost.”

Cost??? How much could 6 extra flags cost? It would not even be a fraction of a blip in the defense or military budget.

It is a shame that we have to come to the floor on this issue, but here we are and I am proud to stand with my other distinguished and hard working colleagues in strong support of our veterans, active military, national guard and reservists and to demand respect for our flags. We are here to call on our colleagues in the other body to follow the example of the House and include language requiring all branches of the armed forces to fly the flags of the District of Columbia and the five territories of the United States whenever the flags of the 50 States are displayed.

All national flags are potent patriotic symbols. Like all 50 States, each U.S. territory has its own flag which we hold in high honor just as we do the stars and stripes of our Nation. As proud Americans who have sacrificed for our Nation in every conflict, it should naturally follow that wherever and whenever all flags from all 50 States are represented, we also see the flags of the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands right alongside—just as our men and women serve bravely alongside other Americans on the battlefield. If they are flown at non-military places—and they are—then surely we should see them at all military installations.

As we said earlier, the Senate reasoned that, if flying the DC and the territories' flags at each military installation where there are now State flags were to be legislatively mandated, these bases would need to tap into

their budgets to pay for those six flags. In my estimation, this is but a minuscule repayment of the debt we owe to the men and women of the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia who serve in the military in higher per capita numbers than many States, for their service and the ultimate price many have paid to protect our country.

A major goal of the FY 13 National Defense Authorization Act is to rebuild our military after a decade of war. Part of that rebuilding process should be respecting ALL who have served and are serving and ensuring that they receive the recognition they deserve with their fellow Americans from the 50 States.

The U.S. territories and the District of Columbia have long and distinguished military histories.

In our case, Virgin Islanders have fought in every war and conflict including the American Revolution. Not only did we serve but the then Danish West Indies played a role in keeping the revolutionary army supplied with gunpowder and the story is told that our rum helped to keep Washington's troops warm in cold wintery conditions.

Alexander Hamilton, who grew up on my home island of St. Croix, served in the Revolutionary war. At the start of the war, he organized an artillery company and was chosen as its captain. He later became senior aid-de-camp and confidant to General George Washington.

Beyond his military service, one cannot overstate his contributions to our Nation as a Founding Father, economist, political philosopher and strategist, one of America's first constitutional lawyers and the first United States Secretary of the Treasury.

A Virgin Islander designed one of the first offerings for a flag for the 13 colonies and it is reported that we were the first to salute the stars and stripes in one of our beautiful harbors.

As of last year, the U.S. Virgin Islands had a total of 1,807 men and women Armed Service Personnel serving in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps and Navy. We have 734 enlisted men and women and 108 officers proudly serving in the National Guard and Air Guard. Sadly, we lost 8 soldiers in the Afghan-Iraq war.

Presently, the decision on which flags display and fly on military installations rests with the individual base commander. The display of the flags of the territories and the District on U.S. military installations, both at home and abroad, varies. The Department of the Army is the only branch of the military that has taken steps to ensure a service-wide policy requiring the display of all 56 flags. I stand today with my 5 Delegate colleagues to again call on the Senate to adopt the House bill that includes language requiring all branches of the armed forces to fly the flags of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin islands whenever the flags of the 50 States are displayed.

We are tired of being overlooked in programs and initiatives, but we today draw the line at disrespecting our soldiers and by extension my constituents and those of my fellow Delegates.

We are a part of the United States and flying our flag with all of the others is the least that our military men, women and families deserve.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the delegate for those very important remarks and certainly join her in those remarks.

We have another delegate who has come to the floor. I am pleased to invite Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa to step forward at this time.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentlelady from the District of Columbia for giving me this opportunity to speak today.

As negotiations begin on the final fiscal year 2013 Defense Authorization bill, I rise today with my fellow delegates to urge the Senate to adopt the House provision in the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act. This provision would require in statute the integration and display of the flags of each of the U.S. territories at U.S. military installations when and where the flags of the 50 States are flown or displayed.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of a unified Armed Forces policy requiring the display of the flags of our U.S. territories is indeed a serious oversight. It is an oversight on the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories who are part of the American family and who have unique histories with our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in our Nation's history, soldiers have fought valiantly in battle, but at times with little recognition—from the hundreds of thousands of African Americans who fought for our Nation since the time of the Revolutionary War, to some 200,000-plus soldiers who made up 10 percent of the entire Union Army in the Civil War, to the tens of thousands of Japanese American soldiers who fought alongside their fellow Americans in Europe during World War II.

Servicemembers and veterans of the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories are marginalized by this oversight, despite our significant contributions to our Nation. As a matter of fact, the U.S. territories were, in large part, acquired for the very purpose of our national defense and important strategic and military interests.

A noted Navy admiral, Alfred Mahan, was one of those who advocated the theory during the late 19th century that a nation who controls the oceans would rule the world. At a time in the world when words like “colonialism” and “imperialism” and “manifest destiny” were accepted norms of foreign policies of various nations, Admiral Mahan's theory was proven correct when a little island nation known today as the United Kingdom, or Great Britain, or England, established one of the most powerful nations ever in the world. It was due primarily to the fact that Great Britain had the most powerful navy in the world.

During World War II, the Samoan islands were a major staging location for some 40,000 marines and soldiers before they were transferred to Guadalcanal,

Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and other destinations in the war against Japan during World War II.

For years, the U.S. naval officials pleaded earnestly for the United States to show presence in the South Pacific, and the suggestion was the harbor in Pago Pago on Tutuila island in the Samoan islands would be an ideal place to build a coaling station and a naval facility to allow U.S. naval ships and commercial vessels to utilize especially during the hurricane season.

In 1899, in Washington, D.C.—not known to the Samoans—the United States, Great Britain, and Germany held a conference whereby a tripartite treaty was agreed upon so that Germany and Great Britain would continue their colonial policies of figuring out how to control the two largest islands—Savai'i and Upolu—and the U.S. was free to deal with the traditional leaders and chiefs of the islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u, and Manu'a. And by consent of these chiefs, they ceded these islands to the United States in 1900 and 1904. These proposed treaties were never approved by the United States Congress until 1929.

□ 1640

Some ask today, Is a territory like American Samoa still relevant to our Nation? And to that I would argue, absolutely—especially given the U.S. pivot of focus on the Asia Pacific region, from our continuous involvements for over 10 years now in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the question, What would happen if the leaders of Samoa or perhaps Fiji or Vanuatu or the Solomon Islands or Tuvalu or Kiribati would agree to have, let's say, China perhaps build a submarine base on these islands? I would be curious if our Department of Defense or the Pentagon or even the Congress might indicate some concern in this region of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran and as a representative of a district with high rates of military enlistment, I respectfully urge the Senate to adopt the House provision that would give due honor to all of our servicemembers from the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

I thank my colleagues who have gathered here today. And with one voice today, we say, Do the right thing and honor the ultimate sacrifices of the tens of thousands of our men and women who proudly served the armed services of our Nation who are from our U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I want to note for the record that I know that our colleague, the gentlelady from Guam who is also a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, would have been here. But because of other commitments, she was unable to join us in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am reminded again of a statement made by a retired U.S. Marine brigadier general and a dear Republican friend of mine, a native Chamorro from Guam, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a very dear Republican friend, as I said, and former colleague of ours in Congress. He was a former Member of this House. He observed that in our relationship between our Nation and the Territories, he said, We are equal in war but not in peace.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that our colleagues in the Senate, Chairman CARL LEVIN; the distinguished Republican Senator, the senior ranking member and dear friend as well, JOHN MCCAIN; and all the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee will support this provision.

And to the gentlelady from the District of Columbia, I cannot help but to say more. There are 600,000 U.S. citizens living in her district. They pay Federal income taxes, and yet she is denied the right to vote on the floor. I think this is something that is unbecoming of what we call "democracy," if I will.

Ms. NORTON. You have heard movingly from three of my colleagues. I hope the Senate has been as moved as I was by hearing from them.

I want only to say now, Mr. Speaker, you've heard from all of us who are American citizens who represent American citizens and American citizens who fight and have fought for their country, who were pleased and continue to volunteer in disproportionate numbers into the Armed Forces, who are among the less than 1 percent, who carry all of us, who carry all of us on their shoulders. That's what the volunteer Army is all about today.

We've asked the Senate to do what we congratulate and commend and thank the House for having already done. Thank you, House of Representatives, for respecting our flags and for respecting us as representatives of the American people and of American veterans.

And I yield back the balance of my time.

BACK TO CONGRESS TO PROTECT THE HOMELAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on 9/11, I was in the city and, therefore, was an eyewitness to the impact of the attack on the United States in the Capital City.

I had a friend who was on the airplane that was crashed into the Pentagon. There was a gentleman who was a partner in the law firm that I had just joined who was on that airplane. A young man who had attended school with my children and his family had worshiped at the same Catholic church

was on the level hit by the first airplane in the Twin Towers.

And understanding the nature of the attack against the United States, at that time, I felt a strong urging to once again be involved in public service. And that was the genesis of my decision, when the opportunity presented itself several years later, to return to this body. That was the compelling reason.

I was privileged to be appointed to the permanent Homeland Security Committee, and I was privileged to serve as chairman of one of the subcommittees; and since that time, I have been privileged to continue to serve on that committee as well as to serve on the House Judiciary Committee where we had responsibility for, among other things, the PATRIOT Act and FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, both of which were, in my judgment—and are, in my judgment—essential to our response to the threat that existed at the time of their creation and the threat that remains.

One of the ironies of my service is that I am elected from a district in Sacramento County, California, nearly 3,000 miles from the site of the attack in New York and the attack here in Washington, D.C. And while we have had a plot to blow up L.A. airport that was thwarted by tremendous work by a Federal employee on our northwestern border, it has been somewhat difficult to articulate in sufficient terms the threat that remains to us, as a Nation, to my constituency.

But those in California are not alone in their failure to understand the urgency of the moment. I think we, as a Nation, have, as a result of the successes that we have achieved in our defense of this Nation, allowed ourselves some level of complacency and a misapprehension of the danger that remains.

When I served in the Congress in my first tour of service from January of 1979 to January of 1989, I for several years was a member of the House Intelligence Committee. At that time, the phrase "homeland security" or the word "homeland" was never uttered. If you had uttered it then, it would have a foreign sense to it. Protect the homeland, wasn't that what Hitler was talking about? There was a strange notion to that term.

It, of course, began to be used in normal parlance after 9/11. And now it regularly trips off our tongues, "homeland security," "the Committee on Homeland Security," "the defense of the homeland," because we understand that the nature of the war in which we are presently engaged is very different than the wars that we have engaged in in the past.

Those were wars of territorial conquest. Those were wars where you could gauge success or failure by the amount of territory that you had taken, by the number of people who had died, by the men and armaments that were proceeding into battle. And