

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES CHESTER MOHN

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Private First Class James Chester Mohn who went missing in action in the Himalayan Mountains on June 6, 1943. I am honored to share these brief remarks as part of his final farewell, today, August 4, 2013.

James Chester Mohn was a Tacoma area native. Growing up in the Fern Hill area, he graduated from Lincoln High School with the class of 1939. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted in the Army Air Corps and worked as a radioman on C47-A cargo transport planes. Loaded with munitions, Mohn and his crew left Lalmanirhat, India on the 25th of May, 1943 and they were reported missing in action on June 6, 1943.

In November of 2010, nearly 70 years after the cargo plane was last seen, remnants of the plane were discovered and the plane was identified. Now, we join Gladys Terry, the sister of James Mohn and Virgil James Holman, Mohn's nephew, in celebration of his life while paying respect for his ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to help VFW Post 91 and the greater Tacoma community in their acknowledgement of this local serviceman. In addition, I am grateful to the Lincoln High School R.O.T.C. and the Puyallup Tribe Veterans Committee for their participation on this occasion.

With the final farewell of James Mohn, we are reminded of the enormous sacrifices that the servicemen and women of our armed forces make each day for the safety of Americans at home and abroad. While it is with heavy hearts that we recognize this unfortunate loss of life, this occasion also gives us the opportunity to again thank the men and women who help protect and defend our nation and our way of life.

I am pleased to recognize James Chester Mohn and all of our servicemen and women today, who continue to honor our nation with their bravery, loyalty, and devotion.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. MARCINE AND NITA LOU WEBB

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Mr. and Mrs. Marcine and Nita Lou Webb of San Angelo, Texas. Over the past three decades, Mr. and Mrs. Webb have made it their mission to visit all 50 state capitol buildings throughout the United States. Their 35-year journey culminated in June when they traveled to Augusta, Maine.

Their adventure took them from the dusty West Texas plains to every corner of this nation. It has given them the opportunity to witness firsthand the vast beauty found through-

out our country and experience the people, traditions, and history that make America great.

The most endearing part of their story is that they made this journey together, side by side, with the help and support of their family and friends. The latest visit to Augusta was an early wedding anniversary gift from their loving children Becky, Penny, Dennis, and Marcie to help them celebrate their 65th anniversary together on August 28, an astonishing feat on its own.

Their devotion over the years is a testimony to their love of our country, to each other, and their family. As they gather with family and friends to celebrate this occasion, may they be blessed by their wisdom and learn from their experiences. I congratulate them on their accomplishing their long sought-after goal and their many years together. I wish them many more.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUGLAS H. OWENS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AFTER MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Lieutenant General Douglas H. Owens on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after more than 33 years of faithful service. Lieutenant General Owens will retire on October 1, 2013, concluding his duty as the Vice Commander of Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

General Owens is a command pilot with more than 3,100 hours in various aircraft, including the T-37, T-38, T-41, T-6 and A/OA-10. He flew combat missions in the first A-10 squadron deployed to operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels, and served in a variety of operational and staff positions. These include assignments in the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Checkmate Division and Operations Directorate on the Joint Staff, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other operations worldwide. He has also served as a numbered air force vice commander and as deputy commander of a joint task force for Pacific Command. General Owens has served five tours in the Pacific, including an assignment as the Vice Commander of Pacific Air Forces supporting combat readiness, theater security cooperation, enhanced force posture and presence throughout the theater.

General Owens is a 1980 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and obtained his Masters Degree from the University of Phoenix in 1988. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and National War College where he earned a second Masters degree in 1998. General and Mrs. Owens have two adult children: John and Michael, and four grandchildren. Both John and Michael have continued the family tradi-

tion of service and are also currently serving as officers in the Air Force.

Among his many military duties that spanned his career and included 18 Permanent Change of Station moves, General Owens served as the 36th Wing Commander at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. It is during this assignment that I had the opportunity to get to know both General Owens and his wife Teresa. During his tenure as the Wing Commander he was responsible for the conduct of the Pacific Command's Continuous Bomber Presence, Theater Security Packages, numerous exercises supporting the region, and contingency response operations from Andersen Air Force Base. General Owens was responsible for the well-being of more than 8,000 military and civilian personnel on Andersen AFB and also was tasked to ensure the successful employment, deployment, integration, and enabling of air and space forces from the most forward sovereign U.S. Air Force base in the Pacific. His leadership was critical during the stand-up of Joint Region Marianas and during the planning phases for the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. He also continued to ensure successful implementation of certain portions of the current Pacific Airpower Resiliency strategy. Additionally, his support of the local community on Guam was extraordinary, and I am very thankful for the lasting relationships he built between the military and civilian community which remain strong today.

I again congratulate Lieutenant General Owens on the occasion of his retirement. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his exceptional service to our great nation and thanking him for his contributions to our community. Although General Owens and Teresa will be greatly missed, I wish them both all the best as they transition to the next stage of their life and enjoy a long and happy retirement together.

IN HONOR OF THE APTOS HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS CLUB

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Aptos High School Robotics Club—winners of the 2013 International Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Underwater Robotics Competition. The club, which independently designed, built, operated, and competed with their remote operated vehicle (ROV) in this year's competition, has won the MATE competition for the second time in three years. This year's original design, "The Kracken", is a deep-water ROV engineered to maintain ocean observing systems. This fully functional submersible, a collaborative effort by fourteen bright and young scientific minds, demonstrates that people of all ages have much to contribute to the science and technology necessary to better understand our treasured oceans.

The MATE competition challenges K-12, community college, and university students from all over the world to design and build ROVs to tackle missions modeled after real world modern science scenarios. The competition requires students to think of themselves

as “entrepreneurs” and transform their teams into companies that manufacture, market and sell “products.”

In addition to engineering their ROVs, the students are required to prepare technical reports, poster displays and engineering presentations that are delivered to working professionals. This structure allows competitors to experience the “real world” aspects of bringing such products to the marketplace; not only highlighting the importance of ocean observation and exploration, but also the intrapersonal and professional skills needed to effectively contribute in a professional environment.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud of these talented and hardworking young oceans leaders from my congressional district and congratulate them on their remarkable achievement. These students have proven, on an international level, that the innovative mind and entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in all generations of Americans. Constituents in my district have long recognized the value of our oceans and coasts and the Aptos High Robotics Team has developed an important prototype that will help scientists gather more ocean observing data. I commend the team for their efforts and encourage them to continue to pursue their passion for ocean science and exploration.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FARMER'S MARKET WEEK

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Farmer's Market Week, which will take place August 4, 2013 through August 10, 2013.

In New Hampshire, the agricultural industry contributes nearly one billion dollars to our local economy every year. With over 400,000 acres of land across the Granite State devoted to everything from timber operations and greenhouses to dairy farms and apple orchards, agriculture is an integral part of our landscape and history. I am proud to be the first Representative from New Hampshire to serve on the House Agriculture Committee in seventy years.

Farmer's markets are a vital part of our communities in New Hampshire, connecting the farmers who grow our food with the families who consume it. In fact, farmer's markets could be found in New England all the way back to colonial times. Currently, there are nearly one hundred farmer's markets throughout the Granite State, from small summertime gatherings to year-round markets—and the number is still growing. Many of these markets were created by individual citizens with a passion for serving their community and the willingness to roll up their sleeves and make it happen.

Farmer's markets strengthen our communities by supporting local farmers and providing consumers with fresh, nutritious food. It's a win for our economy, a win for our health, and a win for the environment. That's the New Hampshire way.

The growing number and popularity of these markets is truly a testament of the commitment that Granite Staters have to our commu-

nities. National Farmer's Market Week recognizes the important role that farmer's markets play in our food system, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the nearly 8,000 farmer's markets across our great nation.

#### SEQUESTRATION'S EFFECT ON PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year President Obama signed into law The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act. This law takes an important step to accelerate research on pancreatic cancer and other cancers with the highest mortality rates and for which there has been little progress on diagnosis or treatment. In recent decades, steady progress has been made in improving the survival rate for many forms of cancer, but today only 6% of individuals diagnosed with pancreatic cancer will survive more than five years. This staggering statistic, which has not improved in 40 years, only begins to tell the story of the enormous toll this disease has taken on these patients and their families.

Under the new law, the National Cancer Institute at the NIH will develop a scientific framework to attack pancreatic, lung and other deadly cancers. The NCI has started this process by convening a working group of experts in the field of pancreatic cancer research and releasing an initial report with recommendations about high-priority research areas. When fully implemented, this law holds promise to lay the foundation for the development of better diagnostics and treatments that pancreatic cancer patients desperately need.

Now, sequestration is putting this progress in doubt. In one fell swoop, the sequester chopped \$1.55 billion from the NIH budget. Even before these cuts took effect in the middle of this fiscal year, the threat of the sequester caused NIH to delay or trim down the size of research grants. Now that it is in effect, the sequester has impacted every area of medical research and every Institute and Center within NIH. NIH-funded researchers in labs across the country will receive 700 fewer research grants this year than last year. And the bite of the Budget Control Act's cuts to NIH could deepen next year if Congress does not correct it.

The Director of NIH, Dr. Francis Collins, has said that “if the Budget Control Act—imposed caps on discretionary programs continue, and NIH funding is reduced proportionally over the next 10 years, funding will decline by about \$19 billion. The consequences will be harmful to scientific progress and to American leadership in science.”

The erosion of NIH's budget represents bad policy and missed opportunities. Advancements in science and health care take time and sustained funding. Breakthroughs occur only after years of incremental gains. The sequester is disrupting and delaying the efforts of our nation's leading researchers and scientists who are toiling to understand complex and unsolved medical problems. The squeeze of the sequester is also jeopardizing the future biomedical research workforce by making it

more difficult to recruit and train the next generation of scientists and bio-engineers.

The science and research community is sounding the alarm. Congress needs to provide strong, stable funding for NIH in order for our global leadership in science and biomedical research to continue and for our researchers' discoveries to benefit patients as soon as possible. Let's not allow ideological budget battles to jeopardize our country's investments in the health of our citizens any longer. I urge my colleagues to listen to the experts, work together, and take action to replace the arbitrary cuts of sequestration with a balanced plan that reflects public priorities and common sense.

#### RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE JO BONNER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of my good friend and colleague from Alabama, JO BONNER. Both JO and I are privileged to represent portions of the Gulf Coast. Our constituents in Alabama's First Congressional District and Florida's First Congressional District share inextricable bonds built on family, friendship and faith.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with JO over the past decade, and I can truly say that he is one of the hardest working lawmakers here in Washington. He is also a man of unimpeachable character, and his integrity as a public servant was reflected in his tenure as Chairman of the House Ethics Committee. Serving as Chairman of such an important House committee is a great challenge, but JO has served in some of the most challenging roles here in the House, including as a member of the Appropriations Committee and as Assistant Whip.

Despite taking on demanding leadership roles in Congress, JO has never stopped fighting on behalf of his constituents to help lure economic development to the Gulf Coast. JO helped lead the Gulf effort to bring the newly opened Airbus A320 assembly plant to Mobile, which is the company's first American production facility. The thousands of jobs that the Airbus plant has brought to the Gulf Coast come on top of other efforts led by JO to promote the Gulf Coast as a region open for business. In 2007, JO was a crucial figure in the construction of the \$4.8 billion ThyssenKrupp Steel plant, which brought thousands of jobs to the area, and he has also helped already established businesses, such as Austal USA, expand and create new jobs. JO's unwavering efforts helped businesses create thousands of jobs for both his constituents and mine, and the entire Gulf Coast region will continue to benefit from these projects for decades to come.

JO has been a leader in the Gulf community in good times, helping to promote economic growth and job creation; however, he has also been there during devastating disasters such as the recovery from Hurricane Ivan in 2005, and, most recently, the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010. JO worked closely with federal, state, and local authorities to coordinate