

The Central Park Band Shell has twice been threatened by demolition. It has survived all these years and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which has proved to be the catalyst for a community-wide preservation effort. In 2004, the Orion Band Shell was awarded Illinois' highest preservation honor, the Richard Driehaus Project of the Year Award, by Landmarks Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to recognize the village of Orion on this notable event, and am glad that places like this exist, helping to bring people together.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM A. "BILL"
CRAIG

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Dr. William A. "Bill" Craig and his many accomplishments during his career.

After receiving a bachelors degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University, Dr. Craig began his civil service career in 1960 with Dr. Werhner Von Braun's Astrionics Laboratory before moving to the Army Ballistic Missile Defense Agency in 1970, and then as a charter member to the Army Missile Command's Missile System Software Center when it was established in 1976.

Since 1988, Bill Craig has served as the Director of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Software Engineering Directorate (SED). Through his leadership, the SED, as an organization, attained a Level 4 rating against the Software Engineering Institute's (SEI's) Software Capability Maturity Model in 2000. During Dr. Craig's tenure, the SED has experienced significant growth, greatly expanding its customer base as well as enlarging its facilities. As one of only three Life Cycle Software Engineering Centers in the Army, the SED provides software and systems engineering support for most of the Army's major weapon and aviation systems. Under the leadership of Dr. Craig, the SED organization is the responsible agent for the development and fielding of numerous Army Systems, including: Joint Battle Command-Platform and the Aviation Mission Planning System. Also, the SED, in partnership with the Program.

Executive Officers and Program Mangers, has established numerous Aviation and Missile System Integration Laboratories for the analysis and test of tactical systems and software. These laboratories provide the capability for Joint Services Interoperability Certification as well as Intra Army Certification. The SED also is responsible for development and deployment of the America's Army Program. This program includes the public game, weapon systems trainers, and Army recruiting applications.

The SED collaborates with a number of other organizations/agencies, including: Space and Missile Defense Command for Cyber Security, Jackson State University for Homeland Security, and as a Technology Transition Partner with the Software Engineering Institute. The SED has also made significant progress

in workforce development, in partnership with the University of Alabama in Huntsville, including a very robust Co-op Program, and advanced degrees in Software Engineering and Systems Engineering. These opportunities allow the expansion and growth of the SED workforce to remain relevant in the complex areas of the digital world.

Dr. Craig is a highly respected leader and visionary in the community and a strong proponent of the greater Tennessee Valley area. In 2004, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Additionally he serves on the advisory board for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Other honors include induction into the Order of Saint Barbara, an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery Association, recognition as supervisor of the year in 1985 by the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women, and the first recipient of the Joseph C. Moquin Award given by the Huntsville Association of Technology Societies in 2006. In 2010, the Tennessee Valley National Defense Industrial Association presented Dr. Craig with the Medaris Award for demonstrating technical excellence in promoting the defense preparedness for the nation.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FIREMAN'S FUND

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of a California company that has dedicated itself to serving the residents of our state for 150 years. Founded in San Francisco, the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company has been protecting the future for individuals, families and businesses since 1863. The Fireman's Fund name, which is well-known across California, emanates from the founder's arrangement to pay 10 percent of the company's profits to support the widows and orphans of firefighters who died in the line of duty. That tradition continues today through the company's Heritage Program, providing fire departments throughout the nation with life-saving equipment and training. Working in combination with its employees, agents and brokers, the company has distributed more than \$30 million to support firefighters for safer communities since 2004, with over \$8 million contributed in California. The company has also been a benefactor for numerous charities in the San Francisco Bay Area and its generosity has added tremendously to the vitality of our communities.

Over the past 150 years, Fireman's Fund's contribution to our nation's history extends far beyond California. The Fireman's Fund has insured the construction of some of our nation's most treasured landmarks, including the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge and even Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. During our nation's most trying times of crisis, the company delivered on its promises. Following the Chicago Fire of 1871 and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, the Fireman's Fund played a critical role in rebuilding after the

devastation. The company was also present when needed most for many displaced people after the Northridge earthquake of 1994, which devastated much of Southern California.

Throughout its history, the Fireman's Fund has prided itself on also being innovative; it prides itself on being the first insurance provider to write a standing grain policy in the U.S., the first carrier to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance, and the first company to add "green rebuild" insurance to their offerings for homes and businesses. Back in my hometown of Bakersfield, California, Fireman's Fund remains one of our region's largest agricultural insurers, providing essential risk control services to hundreds of farm producers in my Congressional District. Its 150 years of service has established a name and reputation which resonates well with insurance agents and brokers who distribute their product in our local communities.

Today there are more than 1,200 Californians working for Fireman's Fund. Together they make up a great company that remains one of California's most enduring financial institutions. Given the time of rapid change in which we live, it is comforting to know that companies like Fireman's Fund still endure, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them well with the hope that they will still be protecting the future for individuals, families and businesses for another 150 years.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AND THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ITS BEDTIME STORIES
LITERARY GALA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of Humanities Washington and the 15th anniversary of its Bedtime Stories literary gala in Seattle.

Since its founding in 1973, Humanities Washington has served the state with humanities programming, sparking conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across Washington State. As Washington State's flagship non-profit for the humanities, it plays a critical role in addressing an immediate and growing crisis concerning community identity and understanding, respect for other perspectives, and the ability of communities to work together to shape a better future.

Humanities Washington's work in cultural education—ranging from Speakers Bureau to Traveling Exhibits to Family Reading—promotes awareness of the history of local communities and its residents, provides opportunities for people to gather and learn more about their unique past and shared present, and nurtures relationships that enable us to move forward towards a more prosperous future.

The humanities—including history, literature, philosophy, ethics, law, and other fields of inquiry—encourage us to investigate, speak, listen, read, reflect, question, think, grow, and act. Using the disciplines of the humanities, Humanities Washington provides programs and experiences of lasting value, creating insight, understanding, wisdom, and a deeper

appreciation for a variety of perspectives and all that we share as Washingtonians and Americans.

This year also marks the 15th anniversary of one of Humanities Washington's signature events: Bedtime Stories. Bedtime Stories is an annual literary celebration featuring critically acclaimed Northwest writers unveiling new short stories created specifically for dinner galas in Spokane and Seattle. National Book Award Winner Charles Johnson has called it "the region's premier literary event." Johnson is one of the founders of the gala, and will receive the 2013 Humanities Washington Award at Bedtime Stories in Seattle on October 4.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my congratulations to Humanities Washington for 40 years of excellent, necessary work sharing the humanities with Washingtonians. I salute Humanities Washington as it works to ensure that the humanities are key to civic life for generations to come.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—
CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about one of our Nation's most coveted rights. The freedom of religion granted to all Americans by the First Amendment. Our Founders knew this was one of the freedoms worth fighting for.

In 1775 the Continental Congress under the advisement of General Washington created the chaplaincy. They knew the war ahead would not only try every Soldier physically, but also spiritually. They knew these Soldiers would need guidance, sound advice, and a helping hand to discharge their duties.

Many times throughout the early beginnings of this nation the Congress has come together to reaffirm the importance of the Chaplaincy. In 1791 the Congress empowered the President to employ a chaplain. Since then the chaplaincy has been an intricate part of our Nation's service men and women. The task of these chaplains has long been to facilitate the religious and spiritual needs of the Armed Services.

Recently members of the House of Representatives repelled an attack on the Chaplain Corps, led by senior leaders in the Pentagon. Leaders in the Pentagon attempted to circumvent current DoD regulations by allowing Atheist Chaplains to serve in the military. Such a policy destroys the historical intent of the Corps, and its current ability to address service member's spiritual needs. Pentagon leadership has no right to bypass DoD regulations as it deems fit.

This episode brings to mind a quote I heard from an Army Soldier, "A Service member's faith is not a weapon but a shield." It is no secret that many people going to war encounter some type of religious conversion. Those already observing a religion attribute their successful return from combat to their deity. Why put someone's religious guidance in the hands of a counselor with indifferent feeling towards a belief system.

A chaplain's duty puts him in the foxhole, the cockpit, or at sea. I listen to a service

member's deepest fears and often present when they celebrate their highest moments. In both, their handling of the situation is dictated by faith. Congress needs to adhere to a new battle cry; faith under fire is faith worth fighting for.

I stand today with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remind Congress of the free exercise clause in the constitution that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion prohibiting the exercise thereof."

COMMEMORATING THE 230TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF PARIS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 3, 2013, as the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, thus ending American Revolutionary War and declaring the "United States to be free, sovereign and independent states." The Continental Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris on January 14, 1784.

I am proud to represent Virginia's First District, frequently referred to as "America's First District," which is home to Yorktown where the Revolutionary War ended on October 19, 1781. With the help of our French allies, the decisive Battle of Yorktown resulted in the surrender of the British Army commanded by British lord and Lieutenant General Lord Cornwallis.

A resolution of the Continental Congress, dated October 29, 1781, called for a "Yorktown Monument to the Alliance and Victory". The Senate Committee on Military Affairs in its report dated March 16, 1880, stated that "the surrender at Yorktown was the crowning success of the revolution, and its event should be commemorated by national authority." The grounds were secured and the cornerstone laid on October 18, 1881. Today, the Yorktown Battlefield, site of the last major battle of the American Revolutionary War, is administered by the National Park Service and is part of Colonial National Historical Park.

Virginia's First District has a rich history of military service, beginning with the Revolutionary War and continuing today. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris and recognizing the significance of the Battle of Yorktown.

IN HONOR OF AZEM HAJDARI:
LEADER OF ALBANIA'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Azem Hajdari, an Albanian democratic leader and parliamentarian who was assassinated in 1998. Today, September 12, marks the 15th anniversary of his tragic death.

Born in 1963 into a working class family, Azem Hajdari grew up in Albania's mountainous northern region of Bajram Curr. While he was a student in Tirana, Albania's capital, the collapse of the Soviet Union led to increased popular unrest in the communist states in Central and Eastern Europe. In Albania, thousands took to foreign embassies in an effort to escape the country. As political and social tensions continued to escalate, in December 1990, students began protests against their worsening living conditions.

Azem Hajdari was committed to democratic change in Albania and quickly emerged as a leader of the student movement. The student demonstrations helped to precipitate the fall of the regime, and Azem then became one of the founders of the Democratic Party, the first non-Communist political party in Albania since the Second World War. He became the Democratic Party's first chairman and was elected in 1991 to the Albanian parliament, where he championed democratic reforms.

In 1997, Azem was shot inside the Albanian parliament and severely injured, yet he refused to be intimidated. He persisted in his mission to build democracy in Albania despite several additional attempts on his life. However, on September 12, 1998, Azem was murdered as he stepped out of his party's offices in Tirana.

Azem Hajdari's death shocked the nation and he was posthumously recognized as a martyr for democracy. Through his words and actions, he taught the people of Albania that freedom is not given—it must be won, through struggle, determination, and faith.

During the conflict in Kosova, Azem also supported the Kosova Freedom and Independence Movement. He was a close friend of Kosova's President Ibrahim Rugova and dedicated significant time and energy to the Kosovar cause.

Today, Albania has made great strides. It has a vibrant political system and is a member of NATO, and Albanians are able to travel freely throughout Europe. Kosova also is a free and independent country, aspiring to join the European Union. Both Albania and Kosova are building strong democracies, just as Azem dreamed.

Azem Hajdari has received many awards after his death, including Albania's "Order of the Flag" on what would have been his 50th birthday earlier this year, the "Honor of the Nation" award, and the "Gjergj Katriot Skenderbeu" ("Skanderbeg's Order"), which was conferred by Albanian President Bujar Nishani and former presidents Alfred Moisiu and Bamir Topi.

On the 15th anniversary of Azem Hajdari's untimely death, the Albanian people will once more honor a truly historic leader of Albania's democratic movement. On this day, September 12, Albanians from across the country and from around the world, including Albanian Kosovars, will gather to remember Azem and escort him to his final resting place in Tirana's Martyr's Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, Azem Hajdari was a stalwart champion of democratic values and hero to many Albanians. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Azem Hajdari for his historic contributions to building democracy in Albania.