

RECOGNIZING MIRIAM HUGHEY-GUY FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY WORK AT BARCROFT ELEMENTARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miriam Hughey-Guy on her retirement following 20 years of extraordinary service as the principal of Barcroft Elementary School in Arlington, Virginia.

For 20 years, Ms. Hughey-Guy has been the energizing force motivating Barcroft students to be active learners. The innovative educational programs she brought to Barcroft have produced one of the best, most flexible schools in the County, which has some of the best schools in the country.

Ms. Hughey-Guy was the first to introduce the modified school year to Arlington County, reorganizing Barcroft's school year to provide more continuous learning, dividing the long summer vacation into shorter, more frequent breaks. Ms. Hughey-Guy recognized the benefit children received from these shorter breaks, and ensured that the intersessions between telms kept the students engaged, supported, and challenged.

She was also the leader in bringing the Leonardo da Vinci Project to Barcroft, which brings creative and scientific thought to the learning experience, challenging students with focused thinking and problem-solving activities. Ms. Hughey-Guy promotes this type of learning every day, by engaging the children directly in conversations about experiential learning and consistently calling on them to make a difference with their new found knowledge.

Her dedication, and these innovations, are just part of the reason she is consistently recognized as a leader within her profession. In 2001–02 she was awarded the Woman of Vision Award. In 2002–03, she was Arlington Public Schools' Principal of the Year. In 2003, the Washington Post awarded her with a Distinguished Leadership Award. And, in 2003, Miriam Hughey-Guy was given the Ebone Image Leadership Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Northern Virginia Chapter. Further, she is recognized as a leader among the numerous organizations that call on her to speak, such as NPR, CNN, the Virginia State Reading Association, and within the Arlington County school system.

Miriam has shared her life with hundreds of children and families over the years, many who continue to call for her advice. She has supported her staff with their ideas, goals, and professional growth. Mrs. Hughey-Guy has truly led by example. She is a mentor, boss, leader, teacher and advocate for Barcroft's children, their families, and the teaching profession.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to salute her for a job well done and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING BEN LAUGHLIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ben Laughlin. Ben is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

THE KIDNAPPING OF FORMER MARINE ARMANDO TORRES IN MEXICO

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern for former Marine Corporal Armando Torres who was reportedly kidnapped by members of the Mexican Cartel during a visit to Las Barrancas, Tamaulipas, Mexico while visiting his father and uncle.

On May 14, 2013, Mr. Torres crossed on an Internat'l bridge into Mexico and had planned to return the next day. Family members in Mexico report that Mr. Torres along with his father and uncle were forcibly taken by members of the Mexican Cartel.

Corporal Torres is a combat veteran who served his country honorably in Iraq. I have asked the F.B.I in McAllen, Texas and the U.S. Consulate General in Matamoros, Mexico to help bring this marine and his relatives back safely to their loved ones. Each agency has been working on this case every day. They report the Mexican Government is cooperating with them on their efforts to find the victims of this outrageous crime.

I commend the quick action taken by both the F.B.I. and the U.S. State Department. I urge them to continue to do all they can to find and return our former Marine, Armando Torres, back safely to the U.S. and to bring his relatives back home.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2216) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important amendment.

As I'm sure my colleagues know, last November Coloradans voted overwhelmingly in favor of Amendment 64, which legalized the recreational use of marijuana in our State.

Marijuana policy is a public health issue, and should be regulated like one.

Americans across the country already know that the so-called 'War on Drugs' is a failed Federal policy that clogs our prisons, drains Federal resources and disproportionately penalizes African-American and Latinos.

But Amendment 64 represents even more than an acknowledgement of failure and a Triumph of common sense.

For Colorado veterans who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder, Amendment 64 measure offers them something more: relief.

And for combat veterans who have tried everything the VA has thrown at them to fight their symptoms medical marijuana may be their only relief.

Colorado service men and women have fought valiantly for their country in every American military conflict.

It is not just Iraq and Afghanistan—from Korea to Vietnam to military engagements around the globe, over 420,000 veterans live in Colorado today.

Our commitment to our veterans should not end once they are back on American soil, and in most cases, it does not.

But for a number of veterans—those who the system denies when they try to access one of the few treatments that actually works for them—we are not living up to our promise.

If we continue to prescribe powerful, addictive drugs with dangerous side effects—but prevent even preliminary medical research into the efficacy of medical marijuana—we are not living up to our promise.

Some estimate that nearly 20 percent of returning Iraq and Afghanistan war vets are suffering from PTSD.

If we continue to fail to provide relief to veterans suffering from this condition, we are not living up to our promise.

Eighteen States and the District of Columbia currently allow some form of marijuana use. A third of Americans live in one of these States, and more States are approving these common-sense measures every year.

But the Federal Government continues to stand in the way of progress. Is there any other situation where this would be acceptable? Where some of our bravest men and women could be denied effective care by their own government?

Our servicemen and women deserve better treatment from the country they defend.

I believe the Federal Government should get out of the business of telling states they can or cannot do something that States are perfectly capable of regulating themselves.

But that's a big step. At the very least, the government that sent our troops into harm's way should not turn around and stop them from accessing treatment that works for them—sometimes the only treatment that works for them.

How many more veterans have to suffer the emotional and physical scars of war before we listen to what they have to say?

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

GREAT FALLS MEMORIAL DAY
SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day I had the privilege of attending a ceremony in Great Falls, Virginia, honoring those who have fought for our great Nation.

I was joined at the service with dozens of Great Falls residents, along with other community leaders, to pay tribute to the 25 men and women of Great Falls who died in battle or from attacks on America.

The service began with a friendly welcome from Mr. Bruce Ellis Fein, a member of Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. In 2002, Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial was created with the goal of building a memorial site in Great Falls dedicated to those residents who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The highlight of the service was the keynote speech by Lt. Gen. Norman H. Smith who served our country in the Marine Corps for over 35 years. In his address, Lt. Gen. Smith discussed his recent trip to the island of Iwo Jima, specifically, his visit to Mt. Suribachi with several surviving veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Lt. Gen. Smith has had an established military career and has been awarded numerous decorations for his service. He now serves as president of the Iwo Jima Association of America and currently resides in my congressional district in Winchester, Virginia.

I submit Lt. Gen. Smith's remarks from the Great Falls Memorial Day Service and a recent news article from the Great Falls Connection.

ADDRESS BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL NORMAN H. SMITH, USMC (RET) OF WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA AT THE MEMORIAL DAY 2013, THE GREAT FALLS FREEDOM MEMORIAL

Good Morning.

I'm going to take a bit of keynote speaker's prerogative to point out one special guest for today's service, and he is Marine Tommy Cox, a veteran of the Iwo Jima campaign of World War 2.

I'm honored to speak to you this morning on this particular day, in this particular place, which is dedicated to those residents who have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

I'm a Marine, but it is my great privilege to be here today to represent all of our

Armed forces. All of them contribute mightily to the security of our nation. It is an even greater honor, on this Memorial Day 2013, to speak about the tens of thousands of our fellow citizens who have given their lives in the defense of our country, its people, and its principles.

For me, Memorial Day came early this year, in mid-March on the island of Iwo Jima. I went there with a group that included military historians, writers, students from the Young Marines organization and, first and foremost, 14 veterans of the battle of Iwo Jima and the Pacific campaign of World War 2.

These men who are now in their late 80's and early 90's were, most of them, teenagers in February of 1945, when the battle began. The ultimate goal of the Iwo Jima campaign was to gain ever closer access to the Japanese home islands in the event that an invasion of Japan would be necessary in order to end the long, bloody war.

Iwo Jima in 1945 was a barren volcanic island covered with ash and stone. There was nowhere to take cover, no trees, nowhere even to be able to dig a fighting hole, for the soil was ashy sand that acquired a name of its own: the black sands of Iwo Jima.

Beneath this forbidding surface lay noxious sulphur beds that stank, and many miles of tunnels, caves and reinforced fighting positions crammed with small arms, machine guns, mortars and artillery pieces. The Japanese defenders, well prepared for an assault on the island, intended to inflict massive casualties on their enemies. They did.

Sixty-eight years later, the 14 Iwo Jima vets I traveled with returned to the site of a savage battle that went on without pause and without quarter, on either side, for 36 days. They went back to remember their own experiences and to keep alive the sacrifices they witnessed. Six thousand eight hundred Marines died during the 36-day battle. 22,000 were wounded. More than 20,000 Japanese were killed. In February 1945 the Iwo Jima veterans of today were fighting for their lives and the lives of their brother Marines and sailors. They were fighting, too, for the lives of many Army Air Corps crewmen who would have died were it not for the emergency landing field built by Seabees while the battle still raged. It is estimated that more than 20,000 U.S. airmen were saved by landing their battle damaged B-29s and B-24s as they returned from bombing raids over Japan. All the American Armed Forces contributed to the victory on Iwo: the Army, Navy, Navy Air, the Army Air Corps, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the often forgotten Merchant Marine.

The almost accidental photograph of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi became an iconic image of American valor. Today, Mt. Suribachi is the site of a very different annual ceremony, a ceremony that none of the 14 returning veterans could have believed possible in 1945. This, the annual Reunion of Honor, is attended by American and Japanese alike, who meet every year to commemorate the historic battle and the post war U.S.-Japanese alliance.

The Reunion of Honor began in 1995, when the Iwo Jima Association of America joined with the Iwo Jima Association of Japan in order to honor warriors on both sides who died for their respective countries on that desolate island, 600 miles from Japan. This memorial service is not about lauding the victors nor humiliating the vanquished. Nor does it attempt to glorify war. Far from it. Iwo Jima was a killing ground and, like our own Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley and other places, it is also hallowed ground where the remains of the missing still lie. To the Japanese families of soldiers whose bodies were never recovered,

it is an annual pilgrimage undertaken to honor their ancestors.

This year the hour-long service took place in perfect weather, on an island that looks far different from the hellish place it was 68 years ago. What was black sand and scarred rock is now green with scrub trees and shrubs. Dirt roads have been paved, memorial markers have been placed. The beaches, however, are still black sand. Japanese and American military and governmental officials spoke during the service and wreaths were laid on the memorial stone markers. A military band played, a band composed of both American and Japanese musicians.

Following the ceremony the American group boarded mini-vans for the trip up the serpentine road to the top of Mt. Suribachi. During the battle, this mountain—about the height of the Washington Monument—was honeycombed with gun emplacements that rained deadly fire on the U.S. forces. On the third day of the invasion, elements of the 28th Marine Regiment made a tortuous and deadly ascent up the steep side of the mountain, to its peak. It was here that the now famous flag raising took place. The photo taken was used to create the magnificent bronze monument in Arlington Cemetery: the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Atop Suribachi the Iwo vets and others visited the unit memorials placed there. Photos were taken and more stories from the vets were forthcoming as they gazed down upon the landing beaches and the now peaceful landscape of Iwo Jima.

As we stood on Mt. Suribachi some of the vets talked about their recollections of the battle . . . and the rest of us listened.

Donald Graves is 87. He was 18 then. He remembered having steak for breakfast at 0700 on the day he went ashore in the 3d wave. Once on the black beach he lay with his face in the sand, very scared. He told me he was clinging to a ledge on Mt. Suribachi with his flamethrower, just a few feet from where the flag was raised.

Bill Montgomery is 89. In 1945 he was not long out of high school. On Iwo Jima he was the only survivor of his small unit. When he saw the flag raised on Suribachi, he thought it was all over . . . but the battle went on for more than a month. He told me that he had not wanted to revisit the scene of so much tragedy, but decided to come now to remember, and to honor his fallen brother Marines.

Lieutenant General Larry Snowden, 92, a native Virginian, was a young company commander on Iwo Jima. When he talks about the battle he never fails to remember the men he lost there. To this day he holds them close in loving memory of their courage and honor.

In today's world, 68 years is a very long time. To the younger generations, it may seem like an eternity. In the 68 years since the battle of Iwo Jima, much has happened that we might prefer to forget. The young men who survived the battle, which was after all, but one of countless such battles in the European and Pacific Theaters of World War 2, may have wanted nothing more than merciful forgetfulness . . . and who could blame them?

The men I stood with on Suribachi have not forgotten. They spoke with quiet dignity about those who died there. They grieve for them still. The stakes during the dark days of any war are so high . . . so high. Those who make the greatest sacrifice have no tomorrows. They have given them to us. For those who have given their lives, we must and will be strong, be faithful, be free. To them we owe all that we now possess. Our duty is clear; we will never forget our Nation's debt of gratitude to those who died in the defense of our liberties.

Thank you.