

[From the Great Falls Connection, May 28, 2013]

GREAT FALLS MARKS MEMORIAL DAY

(By Alex McVeigh)

Retired Lt. Gen. Norman H. Smith was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps in December 1955, more than 10 years after the Battle of Iwo Jima. But 68 years later, he accompanied 14 surviving veterans to the Japanese island, and he was struck by the stories he heard.

"As we stood on Mount Suribachi, some of the vets talked about their recollections of the battle. Donald Graves, 87, was 18 then. He remembered having steak for breakfast on the day he went ashore third wave. Once on the black beach, he lay with his face on the sand, very scared. He told me he was clinging to a ledge on Mount Suribachi with his flamethrower, just a few feet from where the [American] flag was raised," Smith said. "Bill Montgomery, 89, 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 the battle was over, but instead it raged on for more than a month. He told me he had not wanted to revisit the scene of so much tragedy, but decided to come to remember and honor his fellow Marine brothers."

Smith was the guest speaker at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial's Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 27. One Iwo Jima veteran was present at the ceremony. Tommy Cox of McLean was a member of the 5th Marine Division, 28th Regiment, and witnessed the famous raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

Dozens of residents gathered at the memorial to pay tribute to the 25 men and women of Great Falls who died in battle or from attacks on America, as well as the thousands of Americans who had what Abraham Lincoln called "laid so costly a sacrifice on the altar of freedom."

After the names were read, scouts from Boy Scout Troop 55 raised the flags at the memorial from half-mast.

"According to the Flag Code, flags should fly at half staff until midday, to mourn the sacrifices of the past," said Bruce Ellis Fein of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. "The flags should be raised at midday to full staff to celebrate the future that those sacrifices have made possible."

After the ceremony, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) presented the family of Tony Blankley, a Great Falls resident and member of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial who passed away in January 2012.

Blankley was a press secretary for Newt Gingrich while he was Speaker of the House, the editorial page editor for The Washington Times and a regular panelist on The McLaughlin Group. He was also a prosecutor with the California attorney general's office and even briefly a child actor, appearing in Humphrey Bogart's last film, "The Harder They Fall."

"It's fitting that we honor Tony today, because he and [his wife] Linda were very committed to the military, and were so involved in setting up this memorial, and Linda continues that legacy today," Comstock said. "Tony was truly a Renaissance man. He led such a rich, interesting and well-led life, and he was well respected by all his friends and colleagues, which many of us here are proud to call ourselves."

Blankley's wife Linda Davis, her mother and their daughter Anna accepted the resolution awarded by Comstock. Davis is still active with many military causes, and spent last weekend volunteering with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

"I'm so thankful for this tremendous honor, and I know Tony would be very humbled by it as well," she said.

Smith said in his concluding remarks that though many of the men and women of the armed forces may wish to forget the tragedies, injuries and losses they have endured in service of country, "Those who have made the greatest sacrifice have no tomorrows," he said. "They have given them to us, and for those who have given their lives, we must be strong, we will be faithful and we will be free."

HONORING WILL ORDING

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 Will Ording. Will 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.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Will 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, Will has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER FORD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Peter Ford for his extraordinary service to the Nation while serving in the United States Army Reserves and National Guard for the past 32 years.

Lieutenant Colonel Ford started his military career in 1981 as an enlisted Soldier—an infantryman—in the Virginia National Guard. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College, where he was the only ROTC Cadet at Gustavus, Lieutenant Colonel Ford was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Ordinance Corps. After the Officer Basic Course, Lieutenant Colonel Ford in his civilian capacity was sworn in as a Special Agent with the State Department Diplomatic Security Service.

While serving as the Regional Security Officer (RSO) at the embassy in Switzerland, Lieutenant Colonel Ford was assigned as a Military Intelligence Officer at the Military Intelligence Group at the 7th Army Reserve Command in Germany. In 1997, he was called up to support the war in Bosnia. Upon his return to the United States, he joined the Office, Chief of the Army Reserves, as a Reserve Congressional Liaison Officer and also served as a Reservist with the 157th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment.

In 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Ford was assigned as a Congressional Detailee to the

Homeland Security Committee and was named Executive Officer of the 157th that same year. After serving as RSO in Armenia, he was detailed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

In the fall of 2007, at the beginning of the "surge" in Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Ford volunteered to serve as an Army Reservist in Iraq. He was attached to the American Embassy in Baghdad and, as the Director of the Office of Hostage Affairs, was responsible for resolving U.S. kidnapping cases in Iraq. Following the completion of his military tour, Peter continued his service in Iraq. For an additional year, he worked as a DSS Agent with the State Department in the same position.

Returning to the U.S., Peter obtained a Masters Degree from the National Defense Intelligence College and joined Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Affairs as a drilling Reservist. He was subsequently assigned to the Diplomatic Security's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). In October 2011, Lieutenant Colonel Ford took command of the 157th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment. During his military and civilian careers, Lieutenant Ford has worked in over 110 countries.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Peter Ford for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVENEL FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Avenel Fire Company No. 1 on its 100th Anniversary. The volunteer fire company continues to provide exemplary service to the residents of Woodbridge Township's Fire District #5 and is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Organized and chartered as Avenel Chemical Company No. 1, it legally changed its name to Avenel Fire Company No. 1 on July 12, 1913. There were 12 charter members, with Joseph Szabo serving as the first Fire Chief (a position he held through 1915) and Edward Moran serving as the first President. The first firefighting equipment purchased for the company was kept in a shed owned by member Joseph Praver. Over the years, the company was housed at different locations, finally settling at its current property on Avenel Street in 1929. It was renovated in 1995 to update and expand the structure.

Avenel Fire Company No. 1 continues to ensure the safety of its residents by replacing outdated equipment and adding new tools and apparatus to its fleet, including a ladder truck and zodiac boat. In its 100 year history, it has seen the installation of emergency response apparatus throughout the district, including fire hydrants, fire alarm systems and fire alarm boxes. Today, its 42 volunteer members answer approximately 600 alarms each year and service over 5000 addresses.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Avenel

Fire Company No. 1. Since its inception, Avenel Fire Company No. 1 upheld its duty to serve and protect the community and its dedication is to be celebrated.

THANKING RODRIC J. MYERS FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House of Representatives, today I pay tribute to Mr. Rodric J. Myers, Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms. Rod has served this institution with distinction for over 40 years, as an officer with U.S. Capitol Police and with the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. On June 14, 2013, Mr. Myers will retire from the House of Representatives. His capable guidance, trusted mentorship, and steady leadership have been invaluable assets not only to his staff and colleagues, but to every Congressional office.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Rod Myers joined the U.S. Capitol Police in June 1972. He began as a uniform patrol officer eventually working his way to an Administrative Specialist for the Capitol Division. Rod was responsible for nearly 100 officers, the daily roster assignment of those officers, all while still working active policing assignments outside of his administrative duties. His 29 years of service were marked by a remarkable attention to detail, devotion to the institution, and professionalism of the highest order.

During Rod's tenure with the U.S. Capitol Police he had the distinct honor of working ten Presidential Inaugurations, 40 State of the Union addresses, and countless special events in between. Over the years, he met numerous dignitaries and heads of state, but as a loyal Dallas Cowboys fan, those meetings paled in comparison to greeting the Super Bowl Champions. As the U.S. Capitol Police administrative specialist, he knew this assignment needed his personal attention.

On July 9, 2001, Rod was appointed Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant-at-Arms. Over the last 11 years, he has worked tirelessly to strengthen parking procedures to enhance the safety and security of Members and staff Coordinating with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Office of the Attending Physician, Rod created comprehensive on-going training programs for all Garages and Parking Security staff, ensuring the House is prepared for any eventuality. His involvement in continuity and contingency planning with the Sergeant at Arms has been invaluable. He worked closely with the Committee on House Administration over the years, and will be sorely missed by our Members and Staff.

Rod Myers' deep and profound commitment to this institution is second to none. From the tragedy of September 11, to the anthrax scare, to an unprecedented earthquake, his gentle nature projected a sense of calm and assurance to all who encountered him. His leadership by example and ability to motivate are benchmarks in a long and distinguished career.

Please join me in commending the outstanding service of Mr. Rodric J. Myers, to the Congress of the United States and congratulating him on his retirement. We wish you well in all your future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTEN-
NIAL CELEBRATION OF THE
TOWN OF GATES, NEW YORK

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial celebration for the Western New York town of Gates, New York, which is appropriately known as "a community for all people."

Incorporated on April 1, 1813, the Town of Gates, New York was named in honor of American Revolutionary General Horatio Gates. The Town was one of the very first in Monroe County, New York, when in the year 1821 the New York State Legislature approved creating a new county named after the 5th President of the United States.

Today the Town of Gates, New York is comprised of over 28,400 residents and remains the geographic center of Monroe County. It is also the proud home and nationwide headquarters of Wegmans' Food Markets. As well, the Town hosts the Greater Rochester International Airport, Rochester Tech Park and other essential businesses which positively impact the economic vitality of Monroe County, the Greater Rochester area and the State of New York.

A most notable former resident of the Town of Gates is the revered leader of the American Women's Suffragist movement, the incomparable Miss Susan B. Anthony. History records that in the year 1845, she and her family first resided in the Town of Gates upon their arrival in the Rochester area and that their Gates farmhouse actually became a meeting place for anti-slavery activists, including Frederick Douglass.

Among notable living Americans who were born, raised and educated in Gates, New York is famed rock vocalist and songwriter, Lou Gramm, who is recognized around the world for his monumental contributions to the American and global music industries.

Today it is my esteemed honor and great privilege to recognize in front of this august body, the Town of Gates, New York and its government and residents, as we joyfully commemorate the 200th anniversary of its establishment.

It is from small towns like Gates where the American Dream was defined. Whether it is a parade through the town square on Memorial Day, the crack of the bat at local ball fields, or the crackle and boom of fireworks on the Fourth of July, towns like Gates imbue our nation with the richness of American life that we hold dear.

So I rise today to commemorate all that Gates, New York has contributed to American life, to congratulate the people of Gates on achieving such a milestone, and to wish this special New York town the fortune and providence to celebrate 200 years more.

HONORING PARKER WRIGLEY

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 Parker Wrigley. Parker 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 1394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Parker has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 34 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Parker has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Parker raised funds for the purchase and installation of a monument sign for Hobby Hill Park in Gladstone, Missouri, in addition to providing landscaping and painting improvements to the park.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183. I had to return to Georgia due to the death of a longtime friend, and to attend the wake/funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

EQUAL PAY ACT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Equal Pay Act and to call for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

On June 10, our nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act.

Yet, women still earn on average only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. In Columbus, Ohio women are paid only 81 cents for every dollar paid to men.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it's a family issue.

Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay women have less for the everyday needs of their families.

90,527 households in the Columbus metro area are headed by women. Eliminating the wage gap would provide much-needed income to women whose salaries are of critical importance to them and their families.

When women succeed, so does our economy.