

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND FATHER CHRISTIAN
R. ORAVEC

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Reverend Father Christian R. Oravec and to remember this dedicated man of faith who did so much for the people of Pennsylvania.

Father Oravec made it his life's work to give back to the community through service. He was a respected leader, serving as President of St. Francis University for 27 years. During that time he was instrumental in driving the school's continued growth, as well as offering guidance to generations of students as they passed through the university's doors each year. His leadership allowed St. Francis to thrive, and his frequent sightings across campus were a cherished part of the college experience for countless students. He was someone that students could look to for guidance, and was a person that they knew they could trust.

Father Oravec's leadership extended far beyond campus. He maintained a deep commitment to the community, serving as a leader and role model with involvement in over 16 different civic organizations. He was a devout man who dedicated his life to humbly serve a higher calling, and ministered at parishes both in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and overseas in Europe. With Father Oravec's passing, Pennsylvania has lost one of its most beloved sons, but the memory of his work will remain with all those whose lives he touched. I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Father Oravec and remembering the lasting difference that he made for so many.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
PINEVILLE CITY MARSHAL,
LARRY JEANE

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Pineville City Marshal, Larry Jeane, who recently passed away at the age of 68.

A resident of Pineville, Louisiana for more than 45 years, Mr. Jeane's service to his local community earned him numerous honors and awards. He served as City Marshal for 17 years and spent 24 years working in the criminal justice, public safety and corrections field where he received the Charles Dunbar Career Civil Service Award for his service. Mr. Jeane was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pineville and an avid supporter of his alma mater, Louisiana College, where he was heavily involved in the athletic department.

Mr. Jeane exemplified strong leadership and dedication to all who had the honor of knowing

him. I am grateful for his years of dedicated service to his community and for the pride he brought to the City of Pineville. It is with great pride that I recognize the life of such an accomplished and admirable man, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating Mr. Larry Jeane and his achievements.

HONORING RETIRED U.S. AIR
FORCE MAJOR GENE EARDENSOHN

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember retired U.S. Air Force Major Gene Eardensohn of Charlotte, Vermont who passed away this year on the 29th of June. Major Eardensohn dedicated his life to the defense of our country. After college, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He served as a pilot and flew combat missions throughout the war. He later served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He fought as a command pilot, flying both B-47 and B-52 aircrafts; later becoming an instructor in 11 different aircrafts. He retired having performed an impressive 29,000 flying hours. Major Eardensohn defended his country through three wars; but he was also a father of four children and a grandfather of seven grandchildren. Since retirement his family and friends nicknamed him, "Pilot Extraordinaire" and that is exactly what he was, extraordinary. His courage, devotion and patriotism are now forever preserved in our country's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 435, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL LYNCH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a fellow community member and small business leader, Michael Lynch. Mr. Lynch's exemplary contributions to Turlock and surrounding communities in my district have earned him recognition by the Turlock Chamber of Commerce. Not only has the Turlock Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Lynch, Cal Chamber, California's statewide chamber of Commerce, has awarded him the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. This award was created in 1996 by CalChamber to recognize small business owners who have dedicated themselves to small business advocacy not only at a local and state level, but also at a national level.

In 1973, immediately after graduating from Santa Clara University, Mr. Lynch, began his long career of public service by becoming the Administrative Assistant to Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Melarkey. Mr. Lynch worked for Mr. Melarkey for five years before accepting a position at a law firm as a consultant.

After a short time in the private sector, Mr. Lynch accepted the Principal Consultant position at the California Assembly Office of Majority services in 1980. After his service at the California Assembly office, in 1984, he accepted a position as Chief of Staff for California Assemblyman Gary Condit, where he served for 13 years improving the lives of California citizens.

In 2004, Mr. Lynch became the Chief Operating Officer of Great Valley Center. Founded in 1997, the Great Valley Center is an organization whose mission it is to engage the public to take an active role and participate in local government. As the COO of Great Valley Center, Michael Lynch advised and oversaw the organization's efforts in the California Central Valley to promote their mission. One of Mr. Lynch's greatest accomplishments while in office at the Great Valley Center was the merging of the organization with the University of California, Merced. After the successful integration of the university, Mr. Lynch returned to the private sector to found his own consulting firm. Although he runs his own firm, he still finds the time to advance the mission of the Great Valley Center by advocating for small businesses and bringing critical issues to the forefront of public discussions.

In order to effectively promote small business issues, Michael Lynch volunteered as Chairman of the Turlock Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee. As chair of the committee, Michael invites experts to discuss issues with local small business owners in order to keep his community informed. In addition, Mr. Lynch informs the general public and the national small business community about issues affecting Americans by being published in newspapers and business journals.

With his success as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors took notice of his expertise and appointed Mr. Lynch to serve on the County Water Advisory Committee. As part of the committee, he has been a strong advocate for small businesses who are dependent on the water supply. One of the highlights of his service on the advisory committee was the scheduling of regional water issues forums focused on the challenges that face Stanislaus County. Along with scheduling speakers for the forum, Mr. Lynch led conference calls and other outreach activities in order to secure the support and participation of key organizations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Turlock Chamber of Commerce in honoring Michael Lynch; not only for being awarded the CalChamber Small Business Advocate of the Year Award, but also for continuing to volunteer his services to empower citizens and businesses in the Central Valley. California and the members of my district appreciate the 30 years of service Mr. Lynch has put into our great state and community and look forward to his continued support in the future. Thank you Michael Lynch.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANK E. PETERSEN JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General (LtGen) Frank E. Petersen Jr., the first African-American to serve as a three-star general officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. At the time of his retirement after 38 years, LtGen Petersen was the senior ranking aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy with the respective titles of "Silver Hawk" and "Gray Eagle". He will be honored on July 28, 2014 for his selfless acts and lifetime of dedication to the Marine Corps and his country.

A Topeka, Kansas native, LtGen Petersen enlisted in the United States Navy in 1950 as a Seaman Apprentice where he served as an Electronics Technician. One year later, he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, earning his commission and the rank of Second Lieutenant with the U.S. Marine Corps upon the completion of flight school in 1952. LtGen Petersen served during the Korean War, where his first tactical assignment was with Marine Fighter Squadron 212. After flying over 64 combat missions, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his combat leadership and bravery on June 15, 1953. He also flew 250 combat missions during the Vietnam conflict, receiving the Purple Heart after enemy anti-aircraft fire brought down his F-4B over the demilitarized zone. In addition, the Marine Corps Aviation Association honored his Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 (VMFA-314) with the inaugural Robert M. Hanson Award for best fighter attack squadron during the Vietnam conflict.

LtGen Petersen was the first African-American to command a Marine Fighter Squadron, a Marine Air Group, a Marine Aircraft Wing, and a major Marine base. On February 23, 1979, he was promoted to Brigadier General, becoming the first African-American general of the Marine Corps. Prior to his retirement, he served as the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Virginia.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps on August 1, 1988, LtGen Petersen concluded a military career of remarkable "firsts". He commanded at every level of command and stood as a trailblazer for all Marines. His autobiography, "Into the Tiger's Jaw", is known as the story of the modern U.S. Marine Corps, providing vital insight into the history of Marine aviation as well as the racial integration of the Marine Corps. Throughout the book's narrative, LtGen Petersen reflects on key moments that defined his life's sacrifices, triumphs, and key personal moments in addition to unequivocally chronicling the racial integration of the Marine Corps.

Throughout his career, LtGen Petersen confronted racism inside and outside the Marine Corps. Nevertheless, as he reflects in his book, the Marine Corps ethos enabled Marines to ultimately triumph over racism. Indeed, his life's commands illustrate the Marine Corps' triumph. In 1970, as deteriorating race relations threatened to rend the nation asun-

der, LtGen Petersen became the Special Assistant for Minority Affairs to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. His guidance to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense served the Marine Corps and the country well during this challenging period.

LtGen Petersen spent his civilian years as vice president of corporate aviation for du Pont de Nemours, Inc. He was also appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education to serve as a Board Member of the Educational Credit Management Corporation.

LtGen Petersen's personal awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with Combat "V"; Distinguished Flying Cross; Purple Heart; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; Air Force Commendation Medal; Robert M. Hanson Award for the Most Outstanding Fighter Squadron while assigned in Vietnam, 1968; Man of the Year, NAACP, 1979; Honorary Doctorate, Virginia Union University, 1987; and the Gray Eagle Trophy, August 21, 1987–June 15, 1988.

LtGen Petersen has certainly accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 39 years, Alicia, and his children; Frank III, Gayle, Dana, and Lindsey.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, the United States Marine Corps, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant General Frank E. Petersen Jr., a pioneering leader who, in addition to achieving the distinction of a number of "firsts" for African-Americans, has the respect, admiration, and affection of his fellow Marines and leaves behind an outstanding legacy of service and leadership in the Marine Corps of the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 24, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, including attendance at the memorial service of a distinguished educator and community leader, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 442 through 450. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 442 I would have voted "no." (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 4935 and H.R. 3393.)

2. On rollcall No. 443 I would have voted "no." (H. Res. 680, Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 4935, Child Tax Credit Improvement Act and H.R. 3393 Student and Family Tax Simplification Act.)

3. On rollcall No. 444 I would have voted "yes." (Kilmer/Hinojosa/Bachus/Petri/Tsongas Amendment to H.R. 4984, Empowering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act, ensuring each individual is aware of financial management resources provided by the Treasury Department's Financial Literacy and Education Commission.)

4. On rollcall No. 445 I would have voted "yes." (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4984, Em-

powering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act.)

5. On rollcall No. 446 I would have voted "yes." (Final Passage of H.R. 4984, Empowering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act, Rep. GUTHRIE—Education and the Workforce.)

6. On rollcall No. 447 I would have voted "yes." (H.R. 5111, To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking Rep. BEATTY—Education and the Workforce.)

7. On rollcall No. 448 I would have voted "yes." (Motion to Recommit H.R. 3933, Student and Family Tax Simplification Act.)

8. On rollcall No. 449 I would have voted "no." (Final Passage of H.R. 3393, Student and Family Tax Simplification Act, Rep. BLACK—Ways and Means.)

9. On rollcall No. 450 I would have voted "yes." (Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3230, Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. Motion offered by Mr. PETERS of California would instruct conferees to recede from disagreement with section 702 of the Senate Amendment, which is related to the approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program conditional on in-State tuition rates for veterans.)

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RON LEGLER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Ron Legler.

Ron is President and CEO of Florida Theatrical Association (FTA). Of his many accolades, Ron was recently recognized as Orlando Business Journal's Most Influential Businessman (Non-Profit) and the Downtown Orlando Partnership's Downtowner of the Year (DOTY). The Metropolitan Business Association of Orlando also awarded him the Debbie Simmons Community Service Award in 2013.

Ron is extremely active in the Orlando community. He serves as a Mayor-appointed Board Member of See Art Orlando. He is also a member of Leadership Orlando—Class of 55 and the Broadway League. Ron has previously served as an Arts Groups Advisory Board member at the Downtown Performing Arts Center, Vice President of the Central Florida Performing Arts Alliance, Chairman of the Downtown Arts District, Vice President of the Central Florida Performing Arts Alliance, and Vice Chairman of Orlando's International Fringe Festival.

Aside from his work with FTA, Ron has helped to spearhead the revitalization of the South Eola district of downtown by purchasing 25,000 square feet of space in The Sanctuary. Ron developed new offices in this space and opened two amazing new entertainment venues, The Abbey and The MEZZ. He formed a partnership with the surrounding businesses and branded the new area "Eola Square." Ron has worked with the Orlando