

IN RECOGNITION OF NAOMI
PATRIDGE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Naomi Patridge who is leaving the Half Moon Bay City Council after serving a remarkable career of leadership spanning almost two decades.

Naomi and her husband, Howard, have lived in Half Moon Bay for nearly 45 years. Naomi is the Energizer Bunny of Half Moon Bay. For example, prior to serving on the council, she served for 14 years on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. She has also served on the board of the Half Moon Bay Beautification Committee, the organizer of the annual Art and Pumpkin Festival. Half Moon Bay is a thriving, seaside community that annually hosts tens of thousands of visitors on one weekend in October when the pumpkins come to market and the tourists from around the country come to this charming town. The festival is a major fundraising event for civic improvements. Naomi has been at the heart of the festival for many years.

When the girls of Half Moon Bay think of softball, they think of Naomi Patridge. She has spent decades with the Half Moon Bay Girls Softball League and was instrumental in creating a permanent field as a home for generations of young ball players. Some may mourn the recent passing of Candlestick Park in San Francisco, but in Half Moon Bay the citizens celebrate the field that Naomi spent decades to secure. Her focus is on healthy living, and it is evident in the energy she poured into teams that always had good sportsmanship and fun as the center of their purposes.

Naomi has also been instrumental in creating a coastside bike trail that bears her name. Half Moon Bay is filled with bicyclists who travel for both pleasure and work. Naomi was concerned about the workers who had to peddle in the early morning hours and who were not safe. She was equally concerned about tourists who might get into trouble riding along the coastal highway. While she joined with others to create this wonderful amenity, it was her advocacy before local funding agencies that helped to secure much of the money for a trail that ultimately bore her name.

Mr. Speaker, as fun as it may be to bicycle along the coast or on Main Street in Half Moon Bay, Highway 92 can be a real headache for coastside residents. Naomi Patridge pushed relentlessly for a coastal road that fit in with local sensibilities about growth and development while also helping to relieve the frazzled nerves of residents.

When one thinks of Naomi, one also thinks of the quiet, dedicated employee of the school district. One thinks of the quiet, dedicated advocate and volunteer for seniors. One thinks of the vocal advocate for Half Moon Bay's library, and of the woman behind the table dishing out a heaping plate of hot food at the annual Farm Day luncheon. One also thinks of the advocate for housing the elderly and lower income farm worker residents of Half Moon Bay.

However, when thinking of Naomi, one must inevitably also think of the cool city councilmember evaluating a tough decision,

and then casting a tough vote. There were times in the city's history when its finances were in order and times, particularly after recessions or a court judgment, that the city's finances were in deep distress. Naomi took the heat for difficult decisions during all of these budget hearings. When improving, fixing or supplementing basic public infrastructure was the concern, Naomi was a well-reasoned voice.

In fact, Naomi has been a voice of moderation and common sense for so many decades that one might also call her a civic thermometer. If it gets too hot in the debate, Naomi acts to cool things down. If the community isn't concerned enough about needed services or improvements, Naomi switches on to heat things up a bit, and to stir up questions and dialogue. Always moderate, Naomi can be counted on to keep the civic area of Half Moon Bay as comfortable as possible despite the inevitable challenges that occur in local democratic governance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Naomi a dear friend and colleague. I dare say there has not been a more constructive leader in Half Moon Bay than Naomi Patridge. While we will miss her service to us all, we will have her example of thoughtful citizenship to inspire us for years to come.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL GUARD PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about efforts to establish a National Guard presence in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Sept. 28, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA REQUESTS EXPEDITED ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that as a follow up to his discussions with Major General Robert Lee, Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, he is requesting expedited assistance in establishing a Hawaii National Guard presence in American Samoa.

General Lee and I have been discussing how best to establish a National Guard Unit in American Samoa. Congressman Faleomavaega said. We have agreed that the best way is to establish a branch of the Hawaii National Guard in American Samoa. Governor Linda Lingle of the State of Hawaii supports our efforts as does Governor Togiola.

At this time, General Lee and I have agreed that it is in the best interest of American Samoa that our Guard unit should be a weapons of mass destruction and civil support team which will respond to terrorist threats and natural disasters. Our team will be locally recruited in American Samoa and will be based in the Territory.

The only remaining issue is that we must encourage the National Guard Bureau to expedite our request. The Bureau has been working on this request for more than a year and, for this reason, I have written to General Lee and asked for his assistance. General Lee is the Commander of all National

Guard Units for the State of Hawaii and our branch would be under his Command.

Once our request is approved, ASG will need to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Hawaii. Governor Linda Lingle and Governor Togiola stand ready to sign this MOU and I am hopeful that with our latest efforts this will be in the very near future.

As always, I thank General Lee for his continued support for the people and troops of American Samoa. General Lee is to be commended for his dedication, commitment and leadership. I also thank Governor Lingle for without her support we could not move forward in establishing a branch of the Hawaii National Guard in American Samoa. I also thank Governor Togiola and, above all, I thank our military men and women for their service to our country, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Nov. 16, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA AND MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT LEE MEET TO DISCUSS THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he met with Major General Robert Lee, Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, to discuss their ongoing efforts to establish a National Guard Unit in American Samoa. The meeting was held in the Congressmans Washington office.

As a follow-up to our efforts to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa, Major General Lee and I met again to discuss the progress we are making, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Senator Inouye has been supportive of our work for a number of years now and I am pleased that based on our discussions Major General Lee has forwarded my most recent correspondence and also a new Memorandum to Lieutenant General Stephen Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau.

Dated October 26, 2005, Major General Lees Memorandum requests allowances for Hawaii to support a National Guard Unit in American Samoa. The Memorandum states: American Samoa continues to express great concern about the lack of local response capability. The CSTs (Civil Support Teams) currently within the region would be hard pressed to support an incident in American Samoa without substantially degrading its own abilities to respond to and sustain operations in support of a local incident. The additional team would be in lieu of creating and stationing a CST, or portion thereof, in American Samoa.

The team will be stationed in Hawaii with the HIARN responsible for recruiting to fill the additional positions. Soldiers will be sought from Hawaii and American Samoa. The additional team will operate and train under the command and control of the 93d CST. The primary training location will be Hawaii, with training in American Samoa also being a necessity in order to provide for advance planning and coordination with proper offices and agencies local to American Samoa.

We are pleased that Governor Togiola of American Samoa and Governor Lingle of Hawaii have joined in to support our efforts and that both are ready to enter into an agreement regarding the stationing, training, and employment of the Civil Support Team. At this time, General Lee and I are hopeful that General Blum will act to expedite our most recent request especially since this matter has been pending for some time.

Once again, Major General Lee has noted that the Hawaii National Guard stands ready to support its neighbors in the Pacific and, in turn, we thank the State of Hawaii for

standing with us. At this time and on behalf of the people of American Samoa, I thank General Lee for his continued support. As a people, we are deeply appreciative of the service he renders in support of our troops and we commend him for his dedication, commitment and leadership, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Mar. 13, 2009]

FALEOMAVAEGA PUSHES AIR NATIONAL GUARD FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is pushing to establish a Hawaii Air National Guard unit in American Samoa. On January 28, 2009, Faleomavaega wrote to Senator Inouye and also met with the Senator on January 29. On March 12, 2009, he sent a letter to General Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. A complete text of the letter, which was copied to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, follows:

Dear General McKinley:

I am writing as a follow-up to discussions I have had with U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Major General Robert Lee who is The Adjutant General (TAG) for the State of Hawaii, and also Major General Darryll D.M. Wong, Commander of Hawaii Air National Guard, regarding the establishment of a Hawaii Air National Guard unit in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Major General Lee and Major General Wong have informed me that you are aware of this request, and that our efforts look promising. I thank you for your support which is critical to our success, and I am hopeful that you will join me in sending a joint letter to Governor Togiola Tulafono so that we may expedite this process.

As you may know, American Samoa has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is higher than any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad, and I believe this relationship would only be strengthened by establishing a detachment of the Hawaii Air National Guard in American Samoa.

Faleomavaega concluded his letter by stating, "I am hopeful to work with you on this important initiative, and I congratulate you on being the first four-star General in National Guard history."

[Press Release, June 11, 2014]

CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA MEETS WITH GENERAL WOJTECKI TO DISCUSS NATIONAL GUARD FEASIBILITY STUDY

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he met with Brigadier General Timothy Wojtecki, Vice-Director of Force Structure, Resources and Assessment for the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to discuss the feasibility study now underway for a National Guard unit in American Samoa. Colonel Mike Mellor, Branch Chief of the Force Capabilities and Requirements Analysis Division, and Master Sergeant (MSG) Bryan Rotherham, Joint Programs Legislative Liaison, also attended the meeting held in the Congressman's Washington, DC office.

"I want to personally thank BG Wojtecki for the update he provided me regarding the feasibility study on establishing National Guard units in American Samoa and CNMI," Faleomavaega said. "In 2013, the House and Senate agreed to my request to include language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizing a feasibility study and I am pleased that the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Guard Bureau have formed the study team and are now conducting an assessment."

"BG Wojtecki works under the command of General Grass of the National Guard Bureau, and the NGB is coordinating with the DOD as this study moves forward. With the United States pivoting towards the Asia Pacific, I have asked the DOD and NGB to consider foremost the strategic importance of both American Samoa and CNMI, especially since our military men and women serve our nation in record numbers. BG Wojtecki agreed that this would be a top consideration."

"Other areas that are being reviewed are force structure, demographics, what units would be best suited and if a National Guard unit can be sustained in American Samoa since the local government would have to participate in cost-sharing. Also, there are many legal matters which must be addressed, including the need for lawyers to assess how National Guard legalities would fit with local law but I am confident we can resolve any issues that might be of concern."

"One issue that BG Wojtecki and I agreed on, which Governor Lolo also supports, is that due to legal issues American Samoa may not be able to have a guard unit function under the Hawaii National Guard because, unlike the Reserve, different rules govern the National Guard."

"And so, if the study team recommends a guard unit for American Samoa and should the DOD agree, our next step would be to include funding in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2016, and after that we could still be looking at three years out before we transition into a fully functioning National Guard. If we succeed, then the Governor would select an Adjutant General but a Colonel would also be appointed who would work directly with General Grass of the National Guard Bureau. The Colonel would oversee all U.S. fiscal funding, property, and equipment and would report directly to the National Guard Bureau."

"In hopes that we can one day make this a reality, I also suggested, and the Brigadier General Wojtecki agrees, that we should consider having a National Guard unit co-share the Reserve building, and the study team would review this option as a cost-savings to strengthen our case for establishing a National Guard presence in American Samoa."

"BG Wojtecki also informed me that the timeline for the study to be completed could be as early as September or as late as November or December of this year, given that the NGB needs to coordinate with DOD, USAR, and other federal agencies to make sure the study team has the most accurate information possible upon which to base its recommendation. BG Wojtecki and I firmly believe the NGB and DOD must receive input from Command Sergeant Major Iuniasolua Savusa, who was once a candidate for CSM of the Army."

"In fact, they said that the study requires his input since he is the Director of Homeland Security in American Samoa. To alleviate any concern about his time commitment, I was assured in today's meeting that the time commitment on CSM Savusa's part would be minimal making it possible for him to devote all of his time and attention to his job as Director of Homeland Security while also contributing his unparalleled expertise to this historic study."

"I very much look forward to working closely with Governor Lolo to make sure that the study put forward by the team is as strong as possible in hopes that the recommendation from the NGB and the DOD will be for the establishment of a National Guard unit in American Samoa. With the support and the prayers of the people of American Samoa, it is my intent to work hand in hand with Governor Lolo and our local leaders until we accomplish our goal," Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Dec. 11, 2013]

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR 2014

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2014 contains a provision requiring the Department of Defense (DOD) to do a feasibility study on establishing National Guard units in American Samoa and the CNMI. The House is expected to vote later this week.

In the case of American Samoa, Faleomavaega has worked on this issue since 2004 with the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye and 2005 with Major General Robert Lee, former General of the 9th Regional Support Command.

As previously stated, "While I am pleased that the U.S. Congress supported efforts to construct a new \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center in American Samoa, I am hopeful that the Congress will now give serious consideration to the establishment of a National Guard unit in the Territory as I believe that it is in our national interest for the United States to increase its military presence in American Samoa," Faleomavaega said.

"During WWII, the naval station in American Samoa served as a critical refueling point for U.S. troops. With increasing tensions in the Asia Pacific region, now more than ever the U.S. needs to reconsider its relationship with U.S. insular areas in the Pacific."

After many discussions and delays in Congress, in May 2013, the Congressman provided testimony before the House Committee on Armed Services where he urged the Committee to finally include language for a feasibility study for a National Guard in American Samoa. The Committee decided to include CNMI as well because it does not have a National Guard unit.

In June 2013, Congresswoman Bordallo offered an amendment at Faleomavaega's request and the amendment was passed. The language is now included in the final bill to be considered.

A feasibility study is the first step for the establishment of a National Guard unit in American Samoa, and the conferees to the NDAA agreed to include language authorizing the study. The House is now expected to vote on the NDAA as early as tomorrow.

JORDAN'S MIXED SIGNALS HARM REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an incident that occurred on November 16, 2014 in which two American rabbis and three Israeli citizens were brutally murdered in a West Jerusalem synagogue by two cousins associated with the Har Nof terrorist group.

While I appreciate the role Jordan, her government, and her people play in fighting terrorism and promoting regional stability, I am deeply disappointed at the Jordanian government's response to this sickening, ruthless act of terrorism and murder.

While the Prime Minister's office officially condemned the action and its extremist ideology, these admonishments are rendered moot when they are followed by a letter of condolence from Jordanian Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour to the terrorists' family. Additionally, the Jordanian parliament not only condoned but celebrated the murders by holding