

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

a minute of silence on the parliament floor to memorialize the perpetrators. Such mixed signals from the Jordanian government are unconscionable and counterproductive to ongoing efforts toward regional stabilization and peace.

Praising those who commit acts of terrorism promotes the culture of political violence that continually shocks the neighborhoods of East and West Jerusalem, further derailing an already strained reconciliation process at each turn. Such official endorsements send the wrong message to Jordanian citizens and Muslims worldwide, especially youth who are faced each day with the decision to turn to violence or toward peace.

The U.S. Congress must encourage the Jordanian government to stand in condemnation of such acts of violence.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. GERALDINE
"JEWEL" BLUE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful Chicagoan, Geraldine Blue, who passed from this world on November 22, 2014.

Affectionately known as "Jewel" to her friends and family, she was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 8, 1940 to Blanche and Willie Johnson, Sr. Jewel's passion for music and dance started early. As a young child and teenager, Jewel competed in multiple talent competitions with her sisters and cousins. Indeed, the multiple invitations to perform locally that they received serve as testimony to the skill she and her family possessed. Her family used to say that Jewel would "sing her way to heaven and dance right out of her shoes". This description makes me smile because it captures her zeal for music and life. As a young woman, Jewel decided to move to Chicago where she met the love of her life, L.C. Blue, with whom she celebrated 30 years of marriage. Her friends emphasize her devotion to her family and commitment to ensuring their well-being. Jewel was a wonderful stay-at-home mother to four lovely children, Norris Timothy, Regina Pierre, Vonda Yvette and Levelle Christopher. Her nurturing nature and talent with children led her husband to encourage her to start a home day care. Her 30 years of service to her Chicago community as a local child care provider gave hundreds of children and families the strong foundation and support needed to thrive in life.

Jewel's enthusiasm for life and dedication to others also showed in her work with the church. She served God via multiple ministries; she used her glorious voice in the music ministry and her passion for helping others as a member of the Adult Usher Board, Junior Missionary Board, and Alter Workers. I understand that her church family appreciated the unconditional love she gave to so many without judgment or shame. She was genuine and loving. What a beautiful combination.

Jewel was preceded in death by: her husband L. C. Blue; son Norris Timothy; parents Blanche and Willie Johnson, Sr.; and siblings Credale Johnson, Emma Jean Brown, Robert

Johnson, Sr., and Willie Johnson, Jr. Jewel leaves many family members and loved ones to cherish her lasting memories, including: her children Regina Pierre, Vonda Yvette, and Levelle Christopher; her sisters Rosetta Williams, Lula Phillips, and Mary Walton (Raymond); her grandchildren Monique D. Johnson-Smith (Rodney), Chanel E. Moore, Jarrett L. Moore, Brandon D. Brazziel, Maya A. Moore; her great-grandchild Myles X. Smith; and her 38th Street Church family. We are grateful to Geraldine "Jewel" Blue for her tremendous contribution to so many in Chicago and our nation; her nurture and love strengthened individuals and communities.

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Paul United Church of Christ on its 175th anniversary.

From humble beginnings in 1839, St. Paul's has seen an incredible cross section of American history in the Midwest. Born from Belleville's German immigrants, the church first held services at the local court house, while awaiting a physical structure to be built.

St. Paul's provides worship and community appeal to the Belleville area and beyond. What makes St. Paul's exceptional is its mission to serve those who need it most.

Through Christmas and Thanksgiving charitable programs, the Franklin Community Neighborhood Association, Tuesday Community Dinner, afterschool programs, a food pantry, and much more, the church reaches out to every age group and background in the community.

A shining star of St. Paul's Church is the love and care that developed and grew St. Paul's Home into the senior community it is today. For over 85 years, St. Paul's Home has faithfully provided respite care, memory care, assisted living services, and skilled nursing to the elderly in Belleville and surrounding communities. And today, the church can proudly boast its new additions coming soon.

St. Paul's is proud to call the Illinois metro east home, and Belleville is proud to call St. Paul's one of its own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Paul's United Church of Christ on 175 years in the Belleville community.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON'S AUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES TO SAMOA IN RESPONSE TO DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

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, infor-

mation about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's authorization of emergency relief supplies to Samoa in response to the devastating tsunami of September 29, 2009.

[Press Release, Oct. 10, 2009]

SECRETARY CLINTON GETS IT DONE; EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES TO BE AIRLIFTED FROM GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA TO SAMOA IN RESPONSE TO DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, and Congresswoman Laura Richardson (D-CA), announced today that the U.S. Department of State called them this morning to inform them that Secretary Clinton has authorized the use of funds from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to get emergency relief supplies airlifted from the greater Los Angeles area to Samoa in response to the devastating tsunami that struck Apia on September 29.

In his capacity as Chairman of the Asia Pacific Subcommittee which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. foreign policy affecting the region, including Samoa, Chairman Faleomavaega personally spoke to Secretary Clinton on Oct 1 and, in letters dated Oct 4 and Oct 5, followed up with her regarding the specific need to airlift emergency supplies to Apia, which were gathered by the Samoan communities and congregations in the greater Los Angeles area.

The Samoan communities in the greater Los Angeles directly contacted Faleomavaega for assistance because many of their families and relatives live in his district of American Samoa or Samoa. Congresswoman Laura Richardson has worked closely with Faleomavaega throughout this process given that she represents part of the greater Los Angeles area, and the Samoan communities living in that area are her constituents.

"I want to personally thank Secretary Clinton for her untiring efforts in getting these relief supplies airlifted," Chairman Faleomavaega said. "Since the tsunami struck, Secretary Clinton has spared no effort in coming to our aid, and even called upon the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to quickly move these supplies from the West Coast to Samoa. Last evening, Congresswoman Richardson and I learned that DOD had agreed to move the supplies but that due to legalities of moving privately-donated goods, the process would take too long."

"In a previous conference call yesterday, anticipating that DOD might be unable to quickly move these supplies, we requested the State Department to fund a commercial flight through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance should we encounter any problems with DOD," Faleomavaega and Rep. Richardson said. "Last night, upon learning that the DOD process would take too long and in consideration of our request for a more immediate airlift, Secretary Clinton assessed the options while en route to Europe, and this morning the State Department informed us that Secretary Clinton has agreed to fund the flight with OFDA funds."

"The agreement is that this will be a one-time airlift, and our Samoan communities should make future donations in cash, rather than in commodities. We will not be able to airlift frozen goods, and our offices will work closely with the communities to gather the supplies to a central location for the airlift. Also, the airlift provided by the U.S. Department of State can only be authorized to land in Samoa. While we were also hopeful to get supplies in to American Samoa, all matters relating to American Samoa are decided between the Governor and FEMA, according to federal law."