

from one of our most dedicated party members who also just happened to be the "Conscience" of the Party. Even though he seemed to breathe politics, he also had another passion which was gardening. His green thumb caused his family to always be able to have fresh vegetables and even fruits at times.

Lalie was also a family man, proud of his children; loved his grandchildren and was overjoyed being in the presence of his great-grandchildren. His and Cavelle's home was the center and heartbeat of the family.

As I bring my congressional tenure to closure and reflect on the beginning: the joy, happy memories, the sadness of losing him and appreciation of him and all that he brought to me, my life, family and campaigns; always contributed to making it extremely difficult to think and write about him. It is so easy to be sad in nostalgia but, he would not want us to feel anything but happiness for Life and Opportunity to move on and improve. May he rest in peace.

JOHN WILSON

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career of John Wilson. His remarkable broadcasting accomplishments and his outstanding work in the Tampa Bay community is worthy of recognition by all.

Mr. Wilson grew up in a small coal-mining town in Virginia. When he was 15, Mr. Wilson started his work in broadcasting as a disc jockey and news reporter for his local television station. After graduating from the Virginia Commonwealth University, Mr. Wilson was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served with the Armed Forces Radio in Panama. He was honored with the Army Commendation Medal for Excellence in Broadcasting for his service.

Mr. Wilson's tremendous career has led him across the country and around the world. Before settling in the Tampa Bay area in 1981, he anchored primetime newscasts in Richmond, Norfolk, Charlotte, and St. Louis. His passion for reporting took him abroad several times to conduct special reports about hard-hitting issues in Normandy, Guantanamo Bay, Saudi Arabia, Haiti, and Moscow. Over his 50 years in broadcasting, Mr. Wilson has been recognized with three Emmy Awards, numerous Associated Press awards, and most recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Broadcasters Club of Florida in 2013.

Not only has Mr. Wilson impacted the Tampa Bay area with his excellent journalistic reporting, he has also strengthened our community through his support of nonprofit organizations. Mr. Wilson and his wife of 48 years, Mary K., regularly volunteer by singing and performing for many civic and charitable organizations including The Boys and Girls Clubs, the National Red Cross, St. Anthony's Hospital, and The Junior League of St. Petersburg. Mr. Wilson is also a gifted and popular emcee, narrator, and speaker.

As Mr. Wilson moves towards retirement, he must be particularly proud to have his son, Mark, continue his legacy as the evening

news anchor for WTVT. Mr. Wilson's innumerable achievements are a true reflection of his exceptional success in the broadcasting industry. His insight, professionalism, and support of our community have earned him an unprecedented level of respect that is well deserved. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community that has greatly benefited from his dedicated service, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Wilson on his remarkable career.

# HISTORICAL RECORD OF U.S. ARMY RESERVE FACILITY IN AMERICAN SAMOA

## **HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the U.S. Army Reserve Facility in American Samoa.

[Press Release, July 20, 2000]

U.S. ARMY RESERVE GETS APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT \$20 MILLION FACILITY AT TAFUNA AIRPORT

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is ready to release to the American Samoa Government 6.5 acres of land at the Tafuna Airport so that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) can begin construction of its new \$20 million training facility.

There was considerable amount of time spent on discussions between my office, the FAA and the USAR to work out this deal, and I am just glad that we have resolved it, Faleomavaega said. With this agreement from the FAA, the ASG and USAR can now begin the process to secure the property and enter into detailed lease negotiations.

As it now stands, the FAA has agreed to release the land from Federal obligation and redesignate the property for non-aeronautical purposes. The FAA has also agreed to extend a 55-year lease to USAR. For its part, USAR has agreed to pay fair-market value for the property. Its a win-win for everybody, Faleomavaega said. Prior to this agreement, the airport stood to lose Federal funding if ASG leased the site to USAR at a nominal lease rate. Now that the military has agreed to pay fair-market value, the airport will retain its right to Federal funding and will still receive fair-market rates from USAR. In turn, the military will be able to construct its \$20 million facility on a site that is best-suited to meet the training needs of our troops.

All that's left is for ASG to submit a formal request to the FAA Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region to release the said property, Faleomavaega said. In fact, Mr. Herman C. Bliss, Manager of the FAA Western Division has already been notified to expedite the handling of this FAA request and to coordinate with ASG the preparation and submission of the release. Beyond the details of the lease agreement, Faleomavaega also noted Senator Inouye's involvement in securing funds for construction of the new military facility in American Samoa. Senator Inouye and I have worked on this project for the past five years, Faleomavaega said. I am confident this facility will be both a boon to our economy and a much-needed and welcome operation.

I thank Senator Inouye for his commitment and assistance and I also thank Governor Tauese and his staff for their support in getting this project underway,

Faleomavaega said. I think it's fair to say that we're all looking forward to groundbreaking and to renewed and strengthened relations with the United States Army Reserve.

[Press Release, Feb. 8, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA RECOMMENDS THAT NEW ARMY RESERVE CENTER BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE SFC KONELIO PELE

In response to recent inquiries from the press and public, Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that on January 25, 2006 and also on April 7, 2004 he wrote a letter to Brigadier General John Ma, Commanding General, 9th Regional Readiness Command, in Hawaii recommending that the newly built \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center in Tafuna, American Samoa be named in honor of the late Sergeant First Class (SFC) Koneilio Pele. I am pleased that in the January 30, 2006 issue of Samoa News, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Mapu Jamias announced on behalf of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars that they were also recommending that the new Army Reserve Center be named in honor of SFC Koneilio Pele. I was unaware that our veterans made the same recommendation but I am pleased by this outcome, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

SFC Koneilio Pele was assigned to the Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division based in Hawaii and was deployed in Vietnam under the command of Major General Carpenter. On July 25, 1966, SFC Koneilio Pele was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest medal for valor, for his gallant service in the field of battle during the Vietnam War. SFC Pele served in three wars and was awarded a Bronze medal, two Purple Hearts, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

On July 25, 1966, the Department of the Army issued General Orders: Number 4997 awarding SFC Koneilio Pele the Silver Star for his actions on May 29, 1966. The citation states: Sergeant First Class Pele distinguished himself on 29 May 1966 while serving as a platoon sergeant securing a landing zone in the Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon moved out from the landing zone to render assistance to other elements of the company that were pinned down by a large Viet Cong force, Sergeant First Class Pele repeatedly exposed himself to the intense hostile fire as he maneuvered his platoon. During the course of action, he singlehandedly charged a Viet Cong machine gun emplacement, killed two of the crew members with his rifle, and caused the remaining insurgents to flee. After he covered the evacuation of the dead and wounded, he carried the hostile machine gun and ammunition through the bullet swept area to friendly positions. When he returned to the landing zone, he realized that a wounded member of his platoon had been left behind. Sergeant First Class Pele, with complete disregard for his safety, moved several hundred meters across open terrain, found his fallen comrade, and carried him back to be evacuated. Through his heroic efforts, the Viet Cong were defeated in that area. Sergeant First Class Pele's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

SFC Pele's action is a pure example of personal courage. His unit and the U.S. Army recognized his selfless actions and for this reason he was awarded the Silver Star. It is my understanding that SFC Pele was also recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions but there were problems in processing the paperwork

through the higher command and his recommendation never made it through. I feel that SFC Pele was not awarded the full recognition that he deserved, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

In fact, SFC Pele's combat record reminds me of some 52 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross Award that were presented to the Japanese-American soldiers who fought in Europe during World War II. There was only one Medal of Honor awarded to the brave Japanese-American soldiers who sacrificed so much during World War II, despite the tremendous amount of bigotry and racism brought against these Japanese-American Citizens.

As I recall, in 1996, Senator Daniel Akaka authored a provision in the Defense Authorization Act mandating a review of the service records of the 52 recipients who received the Distinguished Service Cross. As a result, 19 additional Medals of Honor were awarded to our Japanese-American veterans including Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

I believe that SFC Pele's record is very similar to that of our Japanese-American veterans and I feel that it is only appropriate to request the Department of Defense to review his actions during the Vietnam War and it is my intention to consult closely with Senator Daniel Akaka on this matter. We will explore all options on how best to reexamine SFC Pele's war record, and see if he should be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

At the same time, I am also recommending that our new Army Reserve Center be named in honor of SFC Pele. SFC Pele lived his life to the fullest and represented all seven values of the United States Army including loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. For his commitment to God and country, for his example to you and me, I am hopeful that the U.S. Army will recognize his distinguished service and name the new Army Reserve Center in his honor, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, June 30, 2006]

#### NEW U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER IN AMERICAN SAMOA WILL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF SAMOAN SOLDIERS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the new U.S. Army Reserve Center in American Samoa will be named in honor of Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele and Staff Sergeant Frank F. Tiai.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SFC Konelio Pele who served in three major wars and was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest medal for valor during the Vietnam War. SFC Pele is also a recipient of the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

The Maintenance Storage Facility of the Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SSG Frank Tiai, a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, who was killed in July 2005 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Tiai was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals.

Congressman Faleomavaega and the American Samoa Veterans of Foreign Wars both recommended to the U.S. Army that the newly built Army Reserve Center be named after Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele.

I am pleased the U.S. Army accepted our recommendation to name the Army Reserve Center after SFC Konelio Pele in recognition of his distinguished service, said Congressman Faleomavaega. To my knowledge, SFC Pele's Silver Star is the highest award received by any Samoan for courageous valor in the field of battle.

I am also pleased the U.S. Army decided to name the Maintenance Storage Facility after SSG Frank Tiai who as I recall, was the first local reservist from American Samoa to die in the war in Iraq.

Both war heroes have served our country with utmost dedication and honor. They are a great example of the determination and selfless service of our many Samoan sons and daughters who have served or are currently serving in the military today.

The dedication ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, July 15, 2006 at the new Tafuna facility. Congressman Faleomavaega and Governor Togiola are both invited to the ceremonies. At this moment, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the U.S. Army for its commitment to American Samoa. Most of all, I want to thank all Samoans in the military and their families for their sacrifices and service to our country, concluded Faleomavaega.

#### ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMTRAMCK FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders of the Hamtramck Fire Department (HFD) as the community celebrates the department's centennial anniversary. This historic milestone in HFD's history is a testament to the thirty-one brave men of the department and their predecessors, who have made the safety of their community their livelihood.

First responders are a critical part of communities across our nation—dedicated individuals who are putting themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety of our communities. For the HFD, the roots of this deep commitment to its community extend all the way back to 1857, before Hamtramck was even incorporated as a village. It was then that the Hamtramck Spouters first organized and formed the Spouters Company Number Eleven. Forged with a mission of protecting the citizens of Hamtramck and their property, it formally became the Hamtramck Fire Department in 1914, and has diligently dedicated itself to fulfilling its mission.

Like all first responders, the HFD provides support and protection to the residents of its community in their moments of greatest need. This support and protection includes: responding to fire emergencies, preventing fires, mitigating hazardous situations, investigating fire emergencies for potential arson and providing emergency medical services—in 2011, the HFD responded to over 3,000 emergencies.

As the HFD has grown, it has continued to obtain and incorporate new technology, equipment and training, to strengthen its ability to protect the community. All of these resources, along with those of neighboring fire departments in Detroit and Highland Park, were put to the test on August 6, 1984, when the HFD responded to a five-alarm industrial fire. The HFD and the other responding departments were instrumental in containing this fire and preventing its spread to neighboring residences and properties. It serves as a poignant example of the important role of first responders

in protecting the safety of our communities.

For the firefighters of the HFD, their commitment and dedication to their community are principles which motivate their actions, both in their first responders' duties and in the other endeavors they lead to strengthen Hamtramck. These efforts include: raising funds to support breast cancer research, leading community clean-up days and providing the support necessary for Hamtramck to hold Independence Day festivities for its residents.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders deserve our admiration, our respect and our unending gratitude for the incredible responsibility they shoulder on a daily basis. They provide the security and protection that help bind our communities together, both in their official duties and their volunteer endeavors, which are often focused on supporting the members of our communities that are most in-need. It is my honor to congratulate and thank Fire Chief Paul Wilk, the firefighters of the Hamtramck Fire Department and their families who support them, for the incredible impact they have made and continue to make on their community. The centennial of the HFD is a significant milestone in its history and I wish all of its firefighters and their families continued success and safety in their endeavor to protect the residents of Hamtramck.

TED AND FRANI BICKART

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ted and Frani Bickart for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor's Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Ted and Frani Bickart for their service to the Golden community, specifically their support of Golden's culture, civics and students. Ted served as President of the Colorado School of Mines from 1998 to 2000. During that time and after, Ted and Frani devoted themselves to deepening the town-and-gown bond and to enriching Golden's quality of life. Today Ted serves as chair of the Golden Urban Renewal Authority and devotes time to high school and university education issues. Frani has been chair of the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Board and the Symphony International Young Artists Competition, as well as a longtime volunteer for the Foothills Art Center, Golden History Museums, and Golden Fortnightly Club.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ted and Frani Bickart for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES ALLEN, A  
HERO TO OUR COMMUNITY

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a very important and influential citizen of this Good Nation, Mr. James Allen. Mr. Allen has recently stepped down as Executive