

. . . that these Americans served in a noble and a necessary cause, and their sacrifice has made our nation and the world more secure. We will honor their memory forever." Through this moment of reflection, we can help keep Sgt. Holmquist's memory alive. We owe him nothing less than to remember, and to give thanks for all he has done on our behalf. Sgt. Holmquist is survived by his wife, Jasmine, and his young son, Wyatt, for whom Rachel and I offer prayers of comfort.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I ask that we salute him, and pledge that we will never forget.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 449 on H.R. 2256, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL R. REGNER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor Major General Michael R. Regner, for his thirty-nine years of service to our nation in the United States Marine Corps.

Major General Regner's extensive career started in 1976, when he received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps after graduating from The Citadel.

Major General Regner's storied career is distinguished by his willingness and desire to serve the Marine Corps each and every day. He is a man who has served faithfully and to the best of his abilities in all positions in which he has been assigned, which has made him invaluable to the Marine Corps and to our nation. He has successfully used his skills as Commanding General, both in the field and in garrison. It is likely that most of Major General Regner's service will never fully be recognized, but his leadership will truly be felt for years to come.

During his decades of service, Major General Regner has served with distinction in support of anti-terrorism operations, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his time as a field grade officer, he commanded at the battalion and Marine Expeditionary Unit level and also deployed to Somalia, Bosnia and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Mike Regner continued to serve tirelessly after successful command tours and was selected as the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Operations Officer where he helped plan the liberation of Fallujah as well as overseeing the first free elections in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

In 2005, Mike Regner was promoted to Brigadier General and served as the Legislative Assistant to Commandant. During this time he was successful in instituting multiple programs

and ideas, including publishing the U.S. Marine Corps' Legislative Strategy. This ultimately increased congressional awareness and funding of over \$1.2 billion for fundamental Marine programs. In 2009, Mike Regner deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to serve as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Joint Operations at the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command. Major General Regner retires from his post as Staff Director at Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D.C.

Major General Regner's achievements go far beyond his impressive resume and hand in relentlessly protecting and serving the American people. Mike Regner established the Department of Defense Enlisted Defense Fellowship Program. This program, created originally for the Marine Corps, has become the model for the entire Department of Defense as all the services now have enlisted members serving in this program. The program has enabled Congressional members and staff to obtain invaluable insight into the workings of all military services, allowing them to make appropriate decisions that affect the military. Mike Regner was recognized in the U.S. House of Representatives for his work as a Marine Corps' Liaison Officer from 1999–2002, before being assigned as the Commanding Officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

Major General Regner closely assisted in the establishment of the Wounded Warrior Employment Program, acting as a spokesman on behalf of all those service members who were wounded in combat and their families to the United States Congress and worked with then Speaker NANCY PELOSI on the implementation of this program. This program has specifically helped over 130 military service members obtain employment to date. Mike Regner is a passionate advocate for those that are wounded, ill, or injured, and continually uses his voice to speak on behalf of those who have served our country relentlessly.

Of the many words used to describe Major General Regner, strategic planner and coalition builder would be two that best characterize him. Mike Regner has worked with the U.S. Congress to testify on multiple issues that relate to military personnel. He has worked with Former Senator James Webb on instituting the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, which was signed into law in 2008 and has benefited thousands of service members and their families.

Mike Regner has acted as a lead facilitator when providing security during Afghanistan's presidential elections, and further displayed his ability to form alliances with co-authoring The Republic of Korea Counter Provocation Peace Plan. Mike Regner's ability to plan strategically has led to the creation of the NATO International Joint Command, which produced increased security and operational effectiveness within Afghanistan.

Over the three decades that Major General Regner has served our nation, Mrs. Mary S. Regner, Major General Regner's wife, has equally served the people of the United States. Noted as an educator and leader, Mrs. Regner serves as a member of the Board of Governors for the National Military Family Association. Mrs. Regner is also a Spouse Ambassador for The White House Joining Forces Initiative, Military Spouse Employment Partnership.

Her greatest professional accomplishments stem from her time working as a Department

of Labor contractor for the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program, where she was able to further support military spouses in careers as trainers and managers. Mrs. Regner is a woman that continually educates those around her, and has presented on various topics at the Marine Corps' Cornerstone Spouses' Courses and at Department of Defense conferences.

Mrs. Regner is involved in and serves a multitude of other organizations in the Washington, D.C. area while being a wife and a mother to three adult children who also strive to make a difference in their daily lives.

Their family includes their oldest son, Michael, who is serving in the Marine Corps as an Infantry Officer, and he is married to Erin, who is busy raising three small children, Michael, Caroline and Charlie. Their daughter, Julia Linton, is working for the South Carolina Research Authority, in Charleston, S.C., as a Project Administrator for SC Launch. Julia and John, an attorney, are expecting their first child. Finally, John Regner, their youngest child, is a high school teacher in Lynchburg, VA, and his wife, Katie, is a social worker.

I have personally known the Regner family since 1998, and I am extraordinarily proud of the work they have done for our nation and will do in the future. I have many fond memories of both Mike and Mary from my early days in Congress, but my favorite memory is the story of USMC K-9, Lex. When Lex's handler, Corporal Dustin Lee, was killed in action in 2007, the Lee family wanted to have the injured Lex retired and adopt him. I turned to my good friend Mike Regner to help make this happen. On December 21, 2007, Lex was officially retired with a Purple Heart and turned over to the Lee family. Without Mike Regner, this would have never happened. It is something for which the Lee family and I will be forever grateful.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Major General Regner's outstanding accomplishments, courageous attitude, and past and present devotion to our nation. I wish to congratulate him, his wife Mary, and children, Michael, Julia, and John on the completion of a long and highly distinguished career.

In closing, may God continue to bless the Regners and may they have "fair winds and following seas" as they embark on a new journey of service to our beloved nation.

Semper Fidelis.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MELBA CURLS FOR HER DEDICATED CAREER TO THE KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding dedicated employee of the Kansas City community. On July 31, 2015, Ms. Melba J. Curles will officially retire as the councilwoman of Kansas City's 3rd District-at-large, having served the last eight years on the Kansas City City Council. Her commitment to shaping and improving the Kansas City, Missouri community is unparalleled. She is a trailblazer, civil rights activist, a

devoted family woman, and a community leader who has dedicated her life to serving others.

Born on October 3, 1941, Melba Curls is a lifelong resident of Kansas City. She graduated from Central High School where she was one of the first classes in an integrated school. She later went on to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia. At an early age, Melba was active in politics and the civil rights movement. She was active in the NAACP's Youth, and actually met her future husband, the late Missouri Senator Phil B. Curls, on a civil rights trip with the organization. The Curls were married for 43 years before his untimely passing in 2007. She is the proud mother of four amazing children: Phil Jr., Michael, Monica and Louis.

Melba has been involved in public service most of her career. She spent several years working for the City of Kansas City where she served the citizens in the Personnel and Legal Departments and as a Staff Assistant to then Mayor Charles B. Wheeler. She also worked on the staff of U.S. Senator Tom Eagleton. Melba spent almost 15 years working at the KCMC Child Development Corporation in support of the Head Start Program and early childhood education in Kansas City.

In 1999, Melba was elected by the citizens of the 41st District to represent them in the Missouri House of Representatives, where she served for seven years. During her tenure in the State Legislature, she was able to work with colleagues, government officials from all branches, and community leaders, regardless of their political affiliation, race, gender or socio-economic background, to help find solutions to the problems plaguing the community. Melba also served as the Chairperson of the Committee on Urban Affairs, from 2000 to 2002, and as the Vice-Chair of the Ethics committee, from 2004 to 2006. She then successfully ran for City Council in 2007.

Councilwoman Curls' interests in helping better the lives of others through various organizations in our community include her involvement with: The De La Salle Education Center, the Jackson County Board of Domestic Violence Shelters, and the American Jazz Museum, just to name a few. She also currently serves as an Executive Board Member to the longest-serving civil rights organization dedicated to serving the needs of Kansas City's African-American community—Freedom, Incorporated. Kansas City Mayor Sly James selected Councilwoman Curls to serve on the Neighborhoods, Housing and Healthy Communities and Transportation and Infrastructure committees.

Over the years, Melba has been able to earn the respect of her colleagues by working hard to be a bridge-builder between individuals and organizations. She is an active member of the City Council, and is very focused on participating in community activities and being involved in the community that she serves.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Ms. Melba Curls for a lifetime of devoted commitment to the Kansas City community. While she embraces this next phase of life in retirement, I wish to thank her for her tireless service to the Kansas City Community for the past three decades. Demonstrating unparalleled dedication, Melba serves as an inspiration and role model for our community.

HONORING ETHEL C. MANGUM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Ethel C. Mangum who is a native of Madison County. Many of her formative years were spent in the Virden Addition Area. She attended school at Walton Elementary and Brinkley High School. At Jackson State University she earned B.S. and Masters degree in Social Work and Guidance.

For twenty-eight years she has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church and its E. B. Topp Missionary Circle.

Mrs. Mangum has done extensive volunteer work which included: teaching and reading at Powell Middle School; serving as Co-Chairperson of Lake Hico Eubanks Creek Neighborhood Association; working as an HIV/AIDS educator for the American Red Cross; working with children to prevent teenage pregnancy; and motivating them toward moral and academic excellence.

Mrs. Mangum has been a "first" in opening opportunities for others by becoming the first African American woman to hold a professional position at Baptist Children's Village; the first African American woman to work for Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. Consulting Engineers; and for SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect). She was one of two females who integrated the lunch room at St. Dominic's Hospital.

Mrs. Mangum currently strives for excellence in the community through her position as Administrative Assistant for Ward 3.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ethel C. Mangum for her dedication to serving others.

EXPANDING UNARMED AP-
PROACHES TO PROTECT CIVIL-
IANS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, we are besieged daily with news of intensifying brutal attacks on innocent civilians in South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and many more places throughout the world. Women and children are increasingly being targeted.

Anthony Lake, the executive director of UNICEF, recently wrote about South Sudan: "The details of the worsening violence against children are unspeakable, but we must speak of them . . . Survivors report that boys have been castrated and left to bleed to death . . . Girls as young as 8 have been gang raped and murdered . . . Children have been tied together before their attackers slit their throats . . . Others have been thrown into burning buildings . . . Children are also being aggressively recruited into armed groups of both sides on an alarming scale."

When confronted with such atrocities, our typical response is to send in the bombers

and drones, ship military equipment, train "the good guys," or even put our own troops on the ground. By doing these things, we create a state of on-going war. Is it any wonder the result is more violence, rather than less?

The UN High Commissioner on Refugees reported last month that 59.5 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide. This is the largest number since UNHCR began keeping records. UNHCR's Annual Report tells us that every day last year, an average of 42,500 people had to flee their homes, a four-fold increase in just four years. That's like everybody in a city the size of Duluth, the largest city in my district, fleeing from their homes every other day.

But there are effective alternatives that are protecting civilians and deterring violence in some of the most brutal war zones around the world. You probably haven't heard about them because, unlike terrorists, these nonviolent peacekeepers seldom make the headlines.

During this time of crisis, it is imperative that we examine new and less conventional methodologies as we try to fulfill our responsibility to protect our fellow civilians as best we can. One such approach is unarmed civilian protection (UCP), pioneered by Nonviolent Peaceforce, an organization that originated in Minnesota. UCP provides unarmed, specially trained civilians who are recruited from many different countries to live and work with local civil society in areas of violent conflict. Currently there are more than a dozen non-governmental organizations DIRECTLY protecting civilians, using only nonviolent methods, in places like South Sudan, Colombia, Guatemala, Palestine and the Philippines.

Their approaches are strategic, thoughtful, and tailored for each specific situation. These unarmed civilian protectors model peace by practicing it. For example in South Sudan, displaced women leaving the Protection of Civilians areas to gather firewood and water face rape by soldiers lurking at the edge of the sites. The women routinely have to make excruciating choices between their family's sustenance and their personal safety. UCP workers found that when two or more trained, unarmed civilian protectors accompany 20–30 women, the soldiers look the other way. No woman has been attacked when accompanied by an unarmed civilian protector.

Imagine if we had 10,000 unarmed civilians protecting civilians in South Sudan, instead of the 150 that Nonviolent Peaceforce struggles to fund. We can afford them, because these unarmed civilian protectors cost a fraction of the cost of a soldier.

In their report released on June 16, the UN High Level Peace Operations Review Panel recognized UCP as a key reform for protecting civilians under threat of violent conflict.

The Panel Chair, Nobel Laureate Jose Ramos Horta, stated, "The Panel reviewed the excellent input by Nonviolent Peaceforce, which shared with us its positive experience in protecting civilians in war-torn situations. In our Report, we recommend that the UN engage more of those brave people working in the field, unarmed, to protect civilians".