

Rev. Margaret Fountain Coleman of Mount Vernon New York and the father of one son and three daughters.

I am honored to help welcome Rev. Coleman to Messiah Baptist and I wish him nothing but the best in his tenure.

HONORING U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAINT PAUL DISTRICT ON 150 YEARS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Saint Paul District on 150 years of service to residents of Minnesota and the entire upper Mississippi region. The Saint Paul district has, over the past century-and-a-half, conserved our aquatic habitats, managed the effects of drought and flood damage, provided outdoor recreation areas for the public, and ensured that the products and services produced in our region have the ability to be transported safely via our waterways. This is only to name a few of the critical tasks performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Saint Paul District.

The Saint Paul District celebrates its birthday on August 17th every year because it was on that day in 1866 that Major General G.K. Warren, a West Point Graduate acclaimed for his leadership in the battle of Gettysburg, arrived in Saint Paul. His orders were seemingly modest: To establish an engineering office. He could not have known at the time, but the office that he established would go on to be entwined with the economy and history of the entire region. The first emergency that the St. Paul District responded to was the collapse of the Eastman Tunnel of Nicollet Island in Minneapolis. With expertise and precision, the Saint Paul district constructed structures to save both the island and nearby St. Anthony Falls. The structures that they built are still in use to this day.

Later on its history, the Saint Paul District supported the nation's mobilization during World War II. The Saint Paul District dredged the Minnesota River to the Port of Cargill, where Minnesota-based Cargill was building ships for the war effort. In addition, they also built an ordnance plant in Arden Hills, Minnesota, and airports in Fargo and Devil's Lake, North Dakota.

Today, any visit to the Mississippi River in St. Paul, showcases the work that the Saint Paul District does. The 13 locks and dams, and 9 foot navigation channel that the Saint Paul District operates and maintains, goes to support economically crucial inland navigation that benefits the entire upper Mississippi region. One of the most important tasks that the Saint Paul District has is to help communities combat the effects of flooding through disaster support and by the construction of flood risk management projects. This includes 16 large reservoirs for flood risk reduction that also offer recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Another little known operation of the Saint Paul District is the operation of 49 separate recreation areas open to the public.

The Saint Paul District has supported the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, and thousands of people in the upper Mis-

issippi River region for 150 years. Every task that they undertake goes to benefit the people they serve by strengthening the local economy, enabling the movement of goods and people, maintaining and restoring natural aquatic ecosystems, and reducing and preventing the effects of floods and droughts. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Saint Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on 150 years of service.

USS "JOHN P. MURTHA" (LPD-26)

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commissioning of the USS *John P. Murtha*, the new naval vessel named in honor of the late Congressman Jack Murtha, who will fondly be remembered as a decorated combat Marine, statesman, and dear friend to colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

On Saturday, October 8, 2016 in Philadelphia, PA, the Navy's 10th *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock, named the USS *John P. Murtha* (LPD 26), was commissioned by his beloved widow Mrs. Joyce Murtha and daughter Ms. Donna Murtha.

During his 58 years of service to our nation, 38 in the U.S. Marine Corps and 35 as a Member of U.S. Congress from Johnstown, PA, Rep. Murtha was an indefatigable champion for the Armed Services, rising in 1989 to chair the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. His detailed knowledge of the U.S. military, deep friendships across the various services, respect from his Congressional colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and wry sense of humor drew people to him and made him a highly effective lawmaker. Jack was a father of three children, the first Vietnam War combat veteran elected to Congress, recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, and staunch representative of his people. His own wartime experience as a battalion staff officer in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, gave him deep insight into the political and military complexities of modern warfare.

An author, From Vietnam to 9/11: On the Front Lines of National Security with a New Epilogue on the Iraq War, he wrote: The Congress—the people's branch of government—has an obligation to make an independent assessment of key foreign policy issues. The way we go about collecting, analyzing, and using intelligence information is one of the most important determinants of our success or failure in world events. Unfortunately, it is a lesson we have had to learn too often, at a heavy price in American blood and treasure. What is certain, is that intelligence must always be used as a tool of statecraft, not as a political tool.

As this ship performs its missions on behalf of the American people, I have full confidence Jack Murtha's patriotic and strong spirit—Semper Fidelis—will be guiding the vessel if it encounters troubled waters as it navigates toward fair winds and following seas.

I include in the RECORD the remarks of Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI given at the commissioning of the USS *John P. Murtha*.

PELOSI REMARKS AT USS JOHN P. MURTHA COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

PHILADELPHIA.—House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi delivered remarks today, October 8, 2016, at the commission ceremony of the USS John P. Murtha. Below are the Leader's remarks:

"Good morning. Thank you very much, Admiral William Moran for your kind introduction but more importantly, for your great leadership. As one that grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, I have a great loyalty to the Naval Academy, so I appreciate your comments about the Navy—but I had four brothers who served in the Army so . . .

[Laughter and applause]

"It is an honor to be with you today, with Secretary Valdez—please give our regards to Secretary Mabus—to Major General Christopher Owens—it is a proud day for all of us to come together for the Navy and the Marine Corps, for the Commissioning of the USS John P. Murtha.

"Chairman Murtha—as you have heard—was a legislator of unsurpassed talents, a soldier of extraordinary courage and a public servant to the end. Mr. Brady—my colleague, Congressman Brady is correct: we will never see his light again.

"I thank the Murtha family for the opportunity to make this address today. I appreciate this opportunity to bring the greetings and congratulations from Jack Murtha's many friends in the Congress of the United States, on both sides of the aisle, on both sides in the Capitol and all the way down Pennsylvania Avenue.

"I am glad to be with my colleagues—present and former—the Undersecretary of the Army Patrick Murphy—as he mentioned, the first Iraq veteran to serve in the Congress—Congressman Bob Brady, in whose district we are and great friend of Jack Murtha's, Congressman Keith Rothfus, he represents the district that Jack represented in Congress, and as well as Mark Critz, who followed in Jack's footsteps, and Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, who is here as well—who represented Philadelphia in Congress. It is also an honor to be here with Lieutenant Governor Michael Stack—recognizing the important role that Pennsylvania and Philadelphia play in our national security.

"It is appropriate for us to be here in Pennsylvania to honor Jack Murtha—a state he loved and was proud to represent and to serve. In the House Chamber—Congressman Bob Brady mentioned the 'Pennsylvania Corner'—Jack took great pride that in the House of Representatives, the 'Pennsylvania Corner' was the most bipartisan corner in the Chamber. In the Chamber, everyone gravitated toward Jack Murtha—Democrats and Republicans alike.

"To Brian Cuccias—Brian and the Ingalls shipbuilders, thank you for the skill, hard work and patriotism of all the men and women of labor who built this fine ship that enters service today. And many of you were in Mississippi when Donna christened the ship. It is wonderful to see so many of you here today. Thank you. Thank you for making today possible.

[Applause]

"Commanding Officer, Captain Kevin J. Parker, it was a privilege to be with you last year in Mississippi at the Murtha's christening when you were the prospective commander, and now at this time-honored commissioning ceremony to become the Commanding Officer—that is when Donna gives the signal. When Donna gives the signal—we're all waiting for her.

"And to the sailors and the Marines—the men and women who will crew this ship over the oceans and perhaps ride it into battle, take it to humanitarian assistance—to you,

and your families—thank you for honoring our country, all of us with your bravery and service.

[Applause]

"It is a joy to be with the family members, as my colleagues and others have said, Jack's daughter, our ship sponsor, Donna, his sons John and Pat, grandchildren, nephews and nieces and others.

"I send the congratulations and thanks of my colleagues in Congress to Joyce—Joyce, the love of Jack's life. She and Jack were both so proud of having this ship named in his honor but Admiral Joyce was very proud to comment that the ship that she christened, the USS Bonhomme Richard, was a bigger ship. Not a competition, though.

"Service runs deep in Jack Murtha's family from his brothers, Kit and Jim, to his nephews Brian and Bob—all proud Marines—and his grandson, Lieutenant Jack Murtha in the Air Force, and to Jack's wife, Captain Amanda Murtha.

"Today, as you commission, as we all commission, the USS John P. Murtha, I want to tell you a little bit about the man your ship is named for—his legacy of strength, effectiveness and fidelity. As was mentioned by my colleague, as a child, John's grandmother told him: 'You are put on this earth to make a difference.' And that's exactly what he did. John P. Murtha dedicated his entire life to the service of our nation.

"Jack Murtha was a fiercely proud Marine, who volunteered for combat in Vietnam—earning two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. In the end, Congressman Murtha would leave the Corps with 37 years of service to his name. How proud he was of that.

"In the Congress, Chairman Murtha was a formidable legislator and a towering leader. To watch Jack Murtha legislate was to observe a master at work. But more indicative of his character was to watch him communicate, with our troops in theater, at the Pentagon, and in their hospital rooms.

"His experiences in the battlefield of Vietnam was what fueled his boundless dedication to our men and women in uniform—with that connection to those warriors he frequently visited in Washington, across the country and around the world.

"A few of us had the privilege of traveling in bipartisan delegations with Jack—and this one in particular to Kuwait, a few weeks before the initiation of hostilities into Iraq—we observed the level of detail with which Jack conversed with the soldiers, whether it was the comfort of the seats in their Humvees—how much they could endure as they did their jobs—responding to their needs, providing body and vehicle armor and reliable radios—you name it. Again, not just the big picture, but down to the personal comfort and safety of our troops.

"In those moments, Jack bonded with them, sharing his own personal military experiences, and caring for them really as a father—as Secretary Murtha said, he treated them as family. And they returned his respect.

"We often saw this when he would take groups of us—as Bob mentioned—take groups of us on regular visits to our wounded warriors in the hospitals. One day as we were going into one of the rooms and the nurse came and said, 'Hold up. Hold up for a while.' We wanted to be very respectful and sensitive to the privacy of the soldiers. But when we walked in to the room, we saw a young, injured soldier standing at attention by his bed and saluting Jack Murtha wearing a Pittsburgh Steelers jersey right after they had won the Super Bowl.

[Applause]

"That was football but it was very personal with Jack.

"It is important to note that Jack defined our nation's strength, not only in our mili-

tary might—as important as our military is and the priority that it is—but also our strength is measured by Jack in the health and well being of the American people.

"Chairman Murtha fought for the armed forces—whether it was for what they needed, for our troops, facilities—but he also fought to advance scientific research to seek treatments and cures for breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS—the list goes on and on. Today, at Walter Reed, the John P. Murtha Cancer Center carries forward his commitment to the health of our entire community.

"John Murtha made a difference—for our national defense, for our nation's health, for the men and women who wear our nation's uniform.

"Commander Parker, as this fine ship comes alive with her outstanding crew, the strength of the USS John P. Murtha will embody our nation's promise to stand with you and your crew—through the storm and the calm, both as you defend democracy abroad, and when you come home safely. And when our men and women in uniform come home, Jack wanted them to feel safe as well.

"In the military, he always told us: on the battlefield, we leave no soldier behind. And when they come home, we leave no veteran behind. So I join all of those saluting our veterans who are here today. That was a priority for Jack Murtha.

[Applause]

"Semper Fi' was the watchword of Jack Murtha's life. And always faithful he was: to his principles, to his promises, to his family and to the nation he loved.

"As we place the Murtha into active service, we also renew our pledge to also always be faithful to you—the sailors and Marines who will board her today, and to every crew who follows.

"Like John P. Murtha, each of you has stepped forward and answered the call to 'make a difference'—for our country, and for the world. Be proud of the legacy that has been passed down to you, be proud of your ship's namesake and motto, and be proud of the values you share.

"May God bless the USS John P. Murtha.

"May God bless the brave men and women who will serve aboard it—and the privilege of serving as the first crew for one of these great ships, who will be transported within it—and the families who wait for their safe return. You are family to all of us. You will always be in our prayers.

"May God bless you and may God bless the United States of America."

HONORING BOB STAUF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a former school teacher, I know just how dedicated our educators are to their students as well as the community as a whole. In the Bronx and Westchester, no one has displayed that dedication more than Bob Stauf, one of the honorees at this year's American Irish Association of Westchester Annual Dinner.

Involved in the world of education for a half century, Bob Stauf has taught elementary and junior high students at St. Philip Neri School in the Bronx, in the Yonkers Public School system and Yonkers and Tarrytown Salvation Army citadels. His work with the Salvation Army has also extended to its Advisory Board,

on which he currently serves as President for the Yonkers chapter. Bob is also the President of the 3rd Precinct Police Community Council, Vice President of the American Irish of Westchester, and facilitator of programming of Brahma Kumaris in Westchester. He has also taught adult education and home school instruction with the Yonkers School System and the Children's Village Yonkers Satellite program.

Bob has also made a difference at the local level through his work in City government. He has chaired the Yonkers Human Rights Commission under two administrations, chaired the Mayors Community Relations Committee and Mayor's Committee on Irish Affairs, chaired the Yonkers Community Action Program and was Vice Chair of New York State Community Agencies.

In addition, Bob is a good friend who was personally helpful to me just prior to my first trip as a Member of Congress to Ireland. He was a wonderful resource on Irish matters, and even traveled with me on that trip.

This year the American Irish Association of Westchester is honoring Bob Stauf at their Annual Dinner Dance. I want to congratulate Bob on this well-deserved honor and thank him for his many contributions to both the Bronx and Yonkers communities.

CELEBRATING KAZAKHSTAN'S 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on December 16th the people of Kazakhstan will celebrate 25 years of their independence. From the collapse of the Soviet Union to the present day, Kazakhstan has become a valued member in the international community and is a respected voice as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council. For the United States, the first country to recognize Kazakhstan's independence, this moment not only symbolizes Kazakhstan's remarkable development, but also marks 25 years of cooperation and friendship between our two nations.

Our strategic partnership was founded on a shared interest in nuclear nonproliferation and security. When the Soviet Union dissolved, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear stockpile in the world. Rather than using those resources in unproductive ways, through President Nursultan Nazarbayev's leadership this nuclear arsenal was decommissioned and Kazakhstan has continued to cooperate in these efforts.

Over the 25 years the economic relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States has greatly expanded as well. The Kazakh economy is dynamic and open to the world. From 1993 to 2013 American firms invested more than \$42 billion in Kazakhstan, and trade between our nations is measured in the billions of dollars per year.

The government and the people of Kazakhstan have made great strides in building an economically diverse, multi-ethnic and prosperous country. Kazakhstan exemplifies a country of religious diversity and shows the world how people of various faiths can live together in peace. I congratulate them on that