

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CAP- TAIN ANDREW D. BYERS

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Captain Andrew D. Byers, who died on November 3, 2016, in Kunduz province, Afghanistan.

Captain Byers was assigned to B Company, Second Battalion, Tenth Special Forces Group, based at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as part of the mission to train, advise, and assist local forces.

Captain Byers was a graduate of the United States Military Academy, with a distinguished career of service to our Nation, including prior deployments to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Italy.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to Captain Byers' family, friends, and teammates.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the longtime quarterback of Team Maryland, on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement after nearly four decades in Congress.

Senator MIKULSKI has truly made history, both by her extraordinary longevity and her tenacious leadership. She is the longest serving woman in the Senate, and the first Democratic woman elected to the Chamber in her own right.

BARBARA and I bonded over our shared passion for local government. We both know it is where the rubber meets the road, and we both believe that all politics is local. That is what has made her so popular and so effective.

We have both worked hand in hand as appropriators, Senator MIKULSKI as the ranking member of her respective committee. She has worked tirelessly for critical resources to improve our roads, schools, and police, to create jobs and create opportunities.

There are two things about Senator MIKULSKI that have always impressed me in her public service:

First, she always relates to her father's corner store on South Eden Street in Baltimore City. When he opened his doors each day, he would say, "How may I help you?" Senator MIKULSKI often quotes that mantra and, more importantly, lives by it every day of her life for the people of the State of Maryland.

The other thing that impresses me is a saying she always says, "It is not

about the building." Senator MIKULSKI has never cared about the bricks and mortar. She cares about the people who work inside the building, what they can do, how they help the citizens, and how she can help them.

BARBARA, for all you have done for Baltimore, for Maryland, and for the country, the words "thank you" just don't seem enough. I am very proud to call you my friend and mentor, and I wish you all the best in the days ahead.

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HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to someone whom I have known and called a friend for many, many years—over three decades, perhaps four—BARBARA MIKULSKI—the tallest short person I have ever met. She fills a room. Everybody knows when BARBARA MIKULSKI is in the Chamber or in the room or in the auditorium.

BARBARA MIKULSKI, as you have heard, will retire at the end of this Congress after having served Maryland in the House and Senate since 1977. I had the opportunity to serve with her in this House for some 6 years.

For 40 years, she has been a voice for the people of our State, not just a voice for all people, but, in particular, for those people whose voices needed amplifying: the poor, the sick, the overworked, the underpaid, the Baltimore dockworkers worried for their jobs, the women earning less than their male colleagues for the same work, the children in foster care or in homeless shelters. All of them have come to see BARBARA MIKULSKI as their champion.

In many ways, she began her career as a social worker and brought that work to Congress. She returns as one of the most successful social workers in history. She has worked hard to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, to support America's first responders, and to broaden our exploration of space and science. What a giant she has been for NASA. She has helped seniors afford health care and keep America's promise to its veterans. She passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act to end the wage gap once and for all, and has fought continuously to raise the minimum wage.

Senator MIKULSKI blazed the trail as the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress; was the first woman to be elected without a relative as a predecessor; and was the first woman and first Marylander to chair the Appropriations Committee. She has left an indelible mark on millions across Maryland and across America.

I have been proud to serve alongside her and I will miss her in the Capitol as I know so many others will as well. My

colleagues and I rise. We will lament the loss of Senator MIKULSKI as our colleague in the Congress, but we will be so proud that we have been able to call her colleague and friend.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to reflect, once again, on Senator MIKULSKI's vision for America and upon all that she has achieved in public life.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful that God has given me the opportunity to know and work with a woman who all would agree is a remarkable human being and a person I am honored to call my friend.

BARBARA MIKULSKI's progressive values are solid, and they are clear, and we have always known that she would fight for all of us every single day. Less well-known, however, is BARBARA MIKULSKI's lifetime vision of bringing all of America's working families together in support of progressive change. Here is a dream that ties together her roots in Highlandtown, in Baltimore, with my own heritage from south Baltimore and west Baltimore.

She is, indeed, a very, very special woman. She has never forgotten from whence she has come. One of the things I also love about BARBARA MIKULSKI is that she consistently synchronizes her conduct with her conscience.

We will miss her, but we know that BARBARA will always be fighting for the people of our great city, for the great people of the State of Maryland, and for the people of these great United States.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, long before the last "Star Wars" movie came out, I said: When Senator MIKULSKI is with you, the Force is with you.

Senator MIKULSKI has been a powerful force for good in Maryland and throughout the Nation. She has been a fierce fighter for American workers, for our veterans, for our seniors, and for people from all walks of life. Her leadership on the Appropriations Committee brought vital investments to the thriving Port of Baltimore and to the Social Security Administration. She has supported security missions in places like Fort Meade, investments in lifesaving research at the NIH, and discoveries at NASA. She authored the very first bill that was signed by President Obama, the Lilly Ledbetter law, to give women who faced pay discrimination their day in court.

BARBARA MIKULSKI started in politics by fighting a plan to build a highway

through her beloved neighborhood of Fells Point. She won that fight, and, 40 years later, she is still waging and winning fights for working families.

A few years back, when NASA's scientists discovered a new supernova, they named it Supernova Mikulski, and I know her legacy will always burn bright for Maryland and for our country.

Thank you, Senator BARB.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from Ohio and as the senior woman in the House, I join my remarks to those of former Congresswoman and now U.S. Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, in tribute to her incredible service.

When I first arrived, she was a Member of this House, and I remember how gracious she was to me. Her background from working class, blue collar America—from a steel town like Baltimore, which has transformed since then—brought the concerns and the passion of someone from the working class. She continued on that road every single day whether she was here on the House side or went to the other body as the longest-serving woman in U.S. history. Imagine that.

Baltimore is famous for having little steps that people go into their bungalows from, and she took a giant leap. Even though she was probably still one of the shortest Members of Congress physically, she remains one of the tallest women in American history. I think of her when I look at the dome of the Capitol, and I see the woman facing east—the symbol of liberty. She held aloft high not just the flag, but the vision for an America inclusive of all.

We wish her Godspeed in the years ahead. I maintain my fond memories of her and of her incredible leadership on every subcommittee on which she served and of the honorable service that she provided not just to the citizens of Maryland, but to our entire country.

God bless you, Senator MIKULSKI, your family, your friends, and those who value your service beyond measure.

THE PENTAGON'S WASTEFUL SPENDING

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the Pentagon's \$125 billion of wasteful spending exposed this week by The Washington Post.

Just this week, Congress allocated hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a military that is larger than the next seven countries' militaries combined while we are providing a comparatively

small sum of money to increase medical research, to educate our youth, and to support our first responders. To then discover that the Pentagon has identified \$125 billion in waste underscores our Nation's misguided priorities.

If just 10 percent of that waste were redirected to the National Institutes of Health, cures could be found and lives could be saved. In this year's defense authorization, \$1.5 billion is spent to upgrade an aircraft carrier that the U.S. Navy recommended to retire. Until we press the Pentagon to undergo a rigorous audit, I cannot and will not support their bloated budget request.

I share President Eisenhower's concerns when he said:

We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to participate in the American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes program, where we sent Christmas cards to servicemembers who are serving far from home this Christmas season. Though it is a seemingly simple gesture of honoring these patriots, it really causes you to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

As John 3:16 states: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

God sent his son to be born in Bethlehem that first Christmas, bringing great joy to the world—with the shepherds, the wise men, and angels all sharing in the joy and celebrations.

Christmas is a time to rejoice as children of God and to continue the tradition of giving, not out of necessity, but out of love.

We have so much to be grateful for this year. We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world, and we owe it all to our brave and courageous men and women who sacrifice so much to safeguard our values.

So this Christmas season, in the spirit of giving, I encourage you to take a moment and show your appreciation to those who are serving our Nation both here and abroad, as well as their families here at home, and our law enforcement who have to work these times as well. May their service and sacrifice always be appreciated.

Merry Christmas.

SALUTING REVEREND T.R. WILLIAMS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a wonderful pastor, the Reverend Dr. T.R. Williams, who is celebrating and commemorating 50 years of preaching. His commitment and dedication to the special Word and the word of his faith is to be commended, but he is also a trained businessman. He is also a person who believes in his flock and that they are number one.

I have enjoyed worshipping with Pastor T.R. Williams over the years. He is an orator, a pastor, a nurturer, a counselor, but, most of all, a friend—a friend to the members of his great church and a friend to many young pastors and others alike. He is admired by his fellow clergymen. They respect him for his love of God's Word.

I am so grateful to have known him. Just a few weeks ago, his congregation honored him with a gigantic celebration at the Stafford Centre because he is deserving of such.

Pastor Williams, it is my privilege and pleasure to be able to salute you and to say "thank you" for your service, because, when you serve in the Lord's Name, you serve this Nation.

Might I also thank all of those who have served in the United States military, wherever they may be this season. This is a season of blessings, and I wish for everyone in this great Nation blessings during this wonderful and very special season.

Happy holidays to all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the members of my staff who have served me and the people of Delaware over the past 6 years. Many of them have gathered in the gallery above us, and I welcome them to hear these remarks.

I tell them all the time that we have the best jobs in the world, and they have done incredible work on behalf of the people of our State and our country. During my 6 years as Delaware's lone Member of Congress, I have been enormously privileged to work with such a great team. We have become like family. Whether they are cheering me on at the Congressional Baseball Game or they are working a weekend Coffee with Your Congressman, I know they have always got my back, and I could not have done my job for the people of my State without them.