

HONORING CATHEDRAL HIGH
SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cathedral High School in celebration of its 100th anniversary. The people of Indiana's 5th Congressional District are forever grateful for Cathedral High School's commitment to preparing all students to be successful, competent, concerned, responsible, and ethical members of society. It is a pleasure to congratulate Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

Cathedral has been an integral part of the Indianapolis community since its founding by the Indianapolis Catholic Diocese on September 13, 1918. Founded as an all boys Catholic high school, Cathedral has seen tremendous growth, from 90 students in 1918 to nearly 1,200 today. Originally on the second floor of Cathedral Grade School at 13th and Pennsylvania, the school moved in 1927 to 14th and Meridian, where it stayed for 50 years. Today the school operates under the direction of the Cathedral Trustees, Inc. as an independent private institution located at 56th Street and Emerson Way. In 1988, girls were integrated into the student body for the first time.

Today, Cathedral is a premier Catholic high school in the Holy Cross tradition. The school draws students from Marion County and nine other central Indiana counties. Before attending Cathedral, students attended approximately 130 different schools. According to its mission, Cathedral "transforms a diverse group of students spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically to have the competence to see and the courage to act." This mission is carried out both in and out of the classroom by students, parents, teachers, administrators, and coaches through various academic programs and over 120 co-curricular activities. The Fighting Irish have a long history of excellence earning over 60 state championships across all their sports teams. With a 13:1 student-teacher ratio, Cathedral has a highly personalized, faith-based approach to learning. This approach has resulted in 100 percent of graduating seniors being accepted into colleges and universities across the country. Cathedral's commitment to its students and their success was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in 1988, 2004 and again in 2016, when Cathedral earned the distinction as a "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence."

The school's personalized approach to education has made Cathedral home to a robust alumni network, with previous graduates numbering among some of the most accomplished business, community, government, and religious leaders in the state and country. These graduates strive to distinguish themselves as scholars, servant leaders and role models who are culturally competent, engaged in the global society, sound in mind and body and spiritually active.

It is important to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills, knowledge, and

compassion to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Cathedral give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents across the nation. Congratulations on 100 years of excellence in the academic and religious education of Indiana high school students.

CELEBRATING CONGRESSMAN
JACK EDWARDS ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate my friend and predecessor, Congressman Jack Edwards. Congressman Edwards proudly and ably served Alabama's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1965 to 1985.

Congressman Edwards has served our country and Southwest Alabama in numerous ways over the course of his life, starting in our nation's military. After graduating from high school, Congressman Edwards enlisted in the Marine Corps and served during the Korean War.

After graduating college and law school and a short time teaching at the University of Alabama, he moved his family to the Mobile area in 1954 and opened his own law firm. Congressman Edwards quickly became an active member of the Mobile community. He served as general counsel for the Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio Railroad and was active on the Mobile City Planning Commission.

He was elected to Congress in 1964 as a Republican. In Congress, he established himself as a very effective legislator, forming invaluable relationships with many of his colleagues thanks to his kind and friendly personality. Many of those relationships continue to this day.

One of his most notable accomplishments in Congress was his steadfast support for our nation's military. He used his position on the Appropriations Committee to advocate for the rebuilding and strengthening of the U.S. military. He also made transportation a top priority, and he played a key role in advancing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway project and other projects that benefited Southwest Alabama and our state as a whole.

As a sign of his success and popularity as our Congressman, Jack Edwards was re-elected nine times, and he never faced any serious opposition. He established a proud tradition of having strong constituent services in his Congressional office, and helped countless residents navigate the federal bureaucracy.

After leaving Congress, Congressman Edwards returned to Mobile and held various roles in the local community, including his work as Chairman of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and on the Mayor's Waterfront Advisory Committee. He deserves much of the credit for helping rebuild and revitalize Mobile, and it was his efforts that paved the way for the economic success we are experiencing today.

He also served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Alabama System from 1988 to 1999. He eventually held the position of

President Pro Tempore of the board before his retirement.

Jack Edwards has long-served as a mentor to me, and I value our friendship. He was the one who first sparked my interest in public service and encouraged me to get involved in improving public education in Mobile County. As Congressman, I still am fortunate to benefit from his advice and guidance. My wife, Rebecca, and I consider him and his wife, Jolane, as dear friends.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I want to wish Congressman Edwards a very happy birthday. I look forward to celebrating many more in the years ahead.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018, introduced by two of my fellow Floridians, the Chair and Co-Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, Reps. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-FL) and TED DEUTCH (D-FL).

This legislation takes a number of steps to reaffirm American commitment to Israel, one of our nation's closest allies and partners in security. Two years ago, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 729, affirming Israel's status as a major strategic partner of the United States, reaffirming our policy of ensuring Israel Qualitative Military Edge (QME), and calling for the expeditious finalization of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our governments. A new MOU was signed soon after, providing Israel with \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant assistance every year for the next decade. While I personally hoped that this figure would reach \$4 billion annually, the new MOU nevertheless reflected our commitment to Israel's security and our numerous cooperative programs in missile defense, cyber-defense, and aerospace.

The legislation we are debating today codifies this MOU into law, ensuring that it is the policy of the United States to provide assistance to the Government of Israel in order to support funding for cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure missile and other defense capabilities to help Israel meet its security needs, and to help develop and enhance the defense capabilities of the United States. This legislation expands Israel's access to precision guided munitions for self-defense in the event of a sustained armed confrontation with armed groups such as Hezbollah or the terrorist organization Hamas. S. 2497 extends stockpile authority for war reserves in Israel, extends American loan guarantees, modifies the procedures for rapid acquisition and deployment of defense supplies, and takes important steps to improve upon Israel's QME, including new assessments of Israel's ability to effectively defend itself

against military threats from regional non-state actors, risks posed by the unauthorized transfer or proliferation of equipment for use against Israel, and risks posed by unmanned vehicles and systems through air, land or water, and cyber and other asymmetric entities.

This bill goes even further, enhancing cooperation between our countries by establishing new partnerships for cybersecurity research and development and commercialization of cybersecurity technology and ensuring the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) continues to work with the Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest. Finally, this bill grants the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) authority to enter into a MOU with Israel in order to advance common goals on energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health and water sanitation, with a focus on strengthening mutual ties and cooperation with nations throughout the world.

For more than half a century, the United States and Israel have shared the common bond of democracy. This bond remains as strong today as it was when President Harry Truman first recognized the creation of a Jewish State in 1948, and we must continue to strengthen it whenever possible, including engaging the region and commit to finding a fair solution that enables both Israel and her neighbors to live in security and prosperity. I urge support for this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 12, I remained in North Carolina to assist with hurricane preparedness efforts. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 394; YEA on Roll Call No. 395; and YEA on Roll Call No. 396.

RECOGNIZING THE TRANSIENT REACTOR TEST FACILITY RESTART

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and JAMES RISCH, I rise today to call attention to an important event taking place today at the U.S. Department of Energy's, DOE, 890-square mile site in Idaho. Today, Idaho National Laboratory, INL, personnel ran the first experiments in the Transient Reactor Test, TREAT, facility in nearly a quarter century.

Idaho National Laboratory is our nation's lead nuclear energy research, development and demonstration laboratory, the place where 52 original nuclear reactors were constructed and demonstrated. One of those reactors was

the TREAT facility, which operated from 1959 to 1994, and remained fully fueled while on standby status. Transient testing focuses upon testing nuclear fuel under accident conditions. TREAT is one of the most capable and flexible transient test reactors in the world.

Following the accident at the Fukushima-Daiichi Power Plant in Japan seven years ago, Congress directed the DOE to develop reactor fuels that could better withstand accident conditions. During TREAT's 35 operating years, the reactor performed 6,604 reactor startups and 2,884 transient irradiations. Given this history, it made more sense to restart the facility than build a new reactor. That decision paid off when, on Aug. 31, 2017, the Resumption of Transient Testing Program was completed more than one year ahead of schedule and approximately \$17 million under budget.

This highly successful restart at the TREAT facility was recognized in August, when a joint DOE-INL team won the Secretary of Energy Award. This award recognizes DOE employees or contractors who accomplish significant achievements. It is the highest non-monetary internal recognition that can be achieved at the DOE. U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry highlighted the TREAT restart team's effort and efficiency, and recognized the importance of the facility to nuclear energy scientists and engineers as they work to develop advanced nuclear fuels and reactor technologies.

Congratulations, INL and DOE, on the TREAT restart and for bringing back online an important national asset in the effort to develop the advanced nuclear reactors so vital to our economy, environment and national security.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RETIRED UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS GUNNERY SERGEANT (GYSGT) WILLIAM VERNON "BUSTER" PORTER, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of retired United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) William Vernon "Buster" Porter, Jr., who passed away on September 3, 2018. Mr. Porter was devoted to the service of our nation and equally devoted to his family and friends.

Mr. Porter was born in Corinth, Mississippi, on November 13, 1949, to William and Jessie Porter. He graduated from Easom High School in 1968 and joined the United States Marine Corps with four of his closest friends. Nebraska Porter, Mr. Porter's devoted wife of 36 years, recently said that her husband served in the Vietnam War from December 1968 until January 1970. Injuries he sustained while helping his fellow Marines earned him the Purple Heart. In addition to his combat duty, he served in a number of roles during his military service, including drill instructor, recruiter, and a AV-8B Harrier technician.

In 1982, Mr. Porter was serving as a U.S. Marine Corps recruiter in Toledo, Ohio, when he met his future wife. Mrs. Porter said that she entered the recruiting station to enlist in the U.S. Navy. "I planned to serve in the U.S. Navy," Mrs. Porter said. "I accidentally ran

into William in the hallway and we began talking. Being the consummate recruiter, he wanted me to join the U.S. Marine Corps. We eventually decided to get married instead!" Mrs. Porter said her husband became her soulmate. "He was my best friend and we thought alike. William was a good person and everyone he met was positively impacted by him. He never met a stranger. The neighborhood kids would ask if he could come out to play and he would gladly and enthusiastically share his knowledge and skills. Whatever he decided to do, he did and did well. William was also civically active in every community he lived. He was also an active and lifelong member of the American Legion," said Mrs. Porter.

According to Mr. Porter's obituary published in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, he was described by friends and family as a jack of all trades and master of all. He was an entrepreneur who pursued photography, real estate, and automobile sales. Mr. Porter also served as a Yuma County Deputy Sheriff in Arizona. It was during that time that Mrs. Porter served as a defense attorney while her husband was a jailor. "Eventually, people figured out we were married," Mr. Porter said. "Inmates would say my husband puts them in jail and I get them out."

In 2000, Mr. and Mrs. Porter moved to Mississippi. They lived in Corinth, West Point, and Tupelo. During those years, they enjoyed spending time with their children and grandchildren in a loving and fun atmosphere. Mr. Porter was known to be mischievous and enjoyed playing tricks on friends and family. Dewayne Porter, Mr. Porter's nephew, said everyone loved his sense of humor. Dewayne most admired Mr. Porter for his military service. "I joined the military because of him," Dewayne said. "He offered me advice and encouraged me to enlist. It was the best thing that I ever did."

Frederick Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Porter's youngest child, said his father was always there for him. "He was a great man," Frederick said. "He was always there for me. He was a great father. He was also a wonderful grandfather to all of his grandchildren. He made everyone feel special. Even those who met him for the first time walked away with a great impression of this kind and thoughtful man."

Family and friends gathered for Mr. Porter's memorial service at the Grayson-Porter's Mortuary on Thursday, September 6, 2018. During the service, Frederick read aloud a poem he wrote titled, "Chose To."

He didn't have to raise me, but he chose to. He didn't have to give me life, but he chose to show me how to live.

He could've treated me like a stepson, but chose to treat me like his own son.

He didn't have to teach me anything, but he chose to be my greatest teacher.

He didn't have to love me, but he chose to show me how to love.

He didn't have to be my father, but he chose to be the greatest father in the world.

I'll never forget this decision he decided to make, for he made me into the man I am today.

Because of that, I chose to love you with all my heart and soul.

I chose to live my life in the path he has guided me.

Thank you, God, for choosing this man to be my father.

I love you, Dad.