

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON AND THE SOUTHERN FRANCE CAMPAIGN—THE SECOND D-DAY IN FRANCE AND THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming 75th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon and the Southern France Campaign—the Second D-Day in France and the Liberation of Southern France.

Operation Dragoon began on 15 August 1944 and the subsequent Southern France Campaign lasted until 14 September 1944. The 7th US Army under Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, commanded the VIth US Corps under Major General Lucian K. Truscott, II, comprised of three of the Army's most combat-experienced divisions—the 3rd Infantry Division commanded by Major General John Wilson “Iron Mike” O'Daniel, the 36th Infantry Division commanded by Major General John E. Dahlquist, and the 45th Infantry Division commanded by Major General William W. Eagles, and Corps troops; the 1st Airborne Task Force commanded by Brigadier General Robert T. Frederick, the Canadian-American 1st Special Service Force commanded by Colonel Edwin A. Walker; and French Army B, later to be renamed the 1st French Army, commanded by General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) teams were inserted in the months to link up with French Forces of the Interior (FFI, or the Resistance) prior to prepare for the invasion. The landing forces were ably supported by the Mediterranean Allied Air Force under Lieutenant General Ira C. Eaker and the Western Naval Task Force under Vice Admiral Henry K. Hewitt, conducted the second largest amphibious landing in Europe on 15 August 1944.

The primary objective of Operation Dragoon was to threaten the southern flank of Nazi forces fighting in northern France. Further objectives were the seizing of the ports of Toulon and Marseille to provide critical logistical support for Allied forces fighting in the whole of France, the introduction of French forces into France, and the stationing of Allied Air Forces in Southern France to better support combat operations.

Allied military personnel from France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, Greece, and Poland participated in Operation Dragoon and provided critical air and naval support to open the second front in Southern France. 885 ships and landing craft, carrying nearly 1,375 smaller landing craft, with their crews, carried 151,000 troops; 21,400 trucks, tanks, tank destroyers, prime-movers, bulldozers, tractors and other vehicles to the beaches. Included were 40,850 French per-

sonnel and 2,610 vehicles of the 1st French Army. 444 aircraft sorties and 408 glider sorties delivered 6,488 paratroopers, 2,611 glider troops, 213 pieces of artillery, and 221 vehicles to the target area.

The 1st Airborne Task Force successfully landed near LeMay, La Motte, and Les Arcs causing serious disarray in German command channels which prevented a rapid coordinated response to the main force landings. Draguignan fell on 16 August. The 1st Special Service Force and cleared the offshore islands of Port Cros and Levant to secure the southern flank of the assault. Landing on the morning of 15 August all units successfully overwhelmed German defense and expanded the beachhead. The 3rd Infantry Division cleared the St Tropez Peninsula, liberating the villages of St Tropez and Cogolin after landing at Ramatuelle, La Croix-Valmer, and Cavalaire-sur-Mer. The 45th Infantry Division liberated Ste Maxime and the 36th Infantry Division liberated St Raphael. Fighting through the Maures and Esterel massifs all units reached the Blue Line, the point where the beachhead could no longer be threatened by enemy counterattack. On 17 August the Truscott's VIth Corps launched its aggressive pursuit of German forces and through the speed of its advance prevented the establishment of defensive positions east of the Rhone River valley. The Corps' Task Force Butler, following the historic Route Napoleon through the Maritime Alps, the 36th Infantry Division, and 45th Infantry Division rapidly moved north in an effort to flank and trap the German 19th Army withdrawing up the Rhone Valley with the 45th Infantry Division liberating Barjols and clearing the Valensole Plateau, TF Butler and the 36th Infantry Division liberating Sisteron, Gap, and Grenoble. The 3rd Infantry Division, attacked west along the Argens Valley along the Route National 7, guarding the northern flank of French forces reducing Toulon and Marseille and blocking a possible German counter-attack, in the process liberating Le Luc (in cooperation with the 45th Infantry Division and French Armored Command Sudre)—a vital road junction on National 7, Brignoles, and numerous communities along the approach to Aix-en-Provence including Vauvenargues and Saint-Marc-Jaumegarde abutting Mont St. Victoire. While Task Force Butler, then the 36th Infantry Division with attached units from the 45th Infantry Division, fought in the Montélimar Battle Square north of the city of Montélimar from 21 to 29 August, the 3rd Infantry Division continued to press against 19th Army rearguard forces, liberating numerous communities including Aix-en-Provence, Avignon, Lancon Provence, Salon-de-Provence, Orange, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Bollene, St-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, Valreas, Pierrelatte, La Garde Adhemar and culminated at the important city of Montélimar on 28 August. French Army B liberated Toulon and Marseille on 28 August, taking 1,825 casualties but taking 11,000 Nazi prisoners.

On 29 August the 3rd Infantry Division established contact with the 36th Infantry Divi-

sion near the villages of Sauzet and La Laupie northeast of the city. The 1st Airborne Task Force and 1st Special Service Force continued to guard the 7th Army's right flank from any German attack from Italy and reduced German forces in the Maritime Alps along the Italian Border—liberating the French Riviera cities of Cannes, Nice and Grasse.

The 19th Army continued its withdrawal towards Lyon, seeking to establish a coherent defensive line to oppose 7th Army's rapid advance, which drove first towards Lyon and then shifted its axis to Dijon. The 7th Army liberated Lyon on 3 September and continued to press northeast to reach the Belfort Gap, the traditional approach to the Rhine River Valley. The 3rd Infantry Division liberated Besançon on 7 September after a tough 3-day fight. The speed of the 7th Army advance prevented the 19th Army's anchoring its defense on Dijon, it therefore withdrew towards the base of the Vosges Mountains. Approaching the Vosges, the VIth Corps' three divisions faced stiffening German resistance. The 3rd Infantry Division liberated Vesoul on 12 September and by 14 September the Corps' three divisions were positioned near the towns of Fougerolles, Luxeuil, Lure, and Villersexel. French forces made contact with elements of the 3rd Army near Dijon on 11 September. With this juncture of 3rd and 7th Army forces the Southern France Campaign came to an end. The 6th Army Group was activated on 15 September and transferred from the Mediterranean Theater to GEN Eisenhower's European Theater of Operations. French forces under 7th Army control were re-designated the 1st French Army and became a separate command under 6th Army Group control.

Under the aggressive leadership of LTG Patch, MG Truscott, and General Delattre de Tassigny US and Allied forces of the 6th Army Group and its supporting air and naval support severely damaged the German 19th Army and during the 30 day Southern France Campaign moved over 400 miles from the landing beaches in Provence to link up with General Eisenhower's forces fighting their way from Nonnandy on 11 September 1944. Over 2/3 of France were liberated in the space of one month. French Forces of the Interior (the Resistance) contributed tremendously to Dragoon's success providing critical intelligence in the preparation for the landings and with countless small unit actions which harassed Nazi forces throughout the campaign. In the 30-day campaign to liberate Southern France the US forces suffered 4,500 battle casualties and 5,300 non-battle casualties. Nazi forces are assessed as having 7,000 killed in action; 21,000 wounded in action; and 131,250 prisoners of war.

Medals of Honor were awarded to the following 3rd Infantry Division soldiers during the Southern France Campaign: SSG James P. Connor, 15 August in Cavalaire-sur-Mer; SSG Stanley Bender, 17 August in La Londe les Maures; T/5 Robert D. Maxwell 7 September in Besançon; 2LT Raymond Zussman on 12 September in Noroy le Bourg; and 1LT John

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

J. Tominac on 12 September in Vesoul. Among the Distinguished Service Cross recipients was a young SSG in the 15th Infantry Regiment, Audie Murphy, whose action came near Ramatuelle on 15 August and who would go on to become the most-decorated soldier and best-known soldier of WWII. Other Medal of Honor recipients were 2LT Stephen R. Gregg from the 36th Infantry Division on 27 August near Montélimar and 2LT Almond E. Fisher of the 45th Infantry Division on 12–13 September near Grammont.

Unit awards included Presidential Unit Citations to the following 3rd Infantry Division units: 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment for its performance in Montélimar on 27 August embroidered Montélimar and the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment for Besançon 6–7 September embroidered Besançon; and to the 36th Infantry Division the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry 15–16 August embroidered Southern France and the 3rd Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment 26–29 August for fighting embroidered Montélimar; and Cannon Company, 442nd Infantry Regiment for the full campaign embroidered Southern France.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in congratulating and thanking the surviving veterans of Operation Dragoon and the Southern France Campaign on the occasion of the upcoming 75th anniversary of this highly successful operation which liberated Southern France and played a critical role in the Allied victory in Europe in WWII.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALPHAPOINTE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kansas City's Alphapointe for their 108 years of service to the blind and visually impaired community. For the last century, Alphapointe has worked to empower those without sight to live independent and fulfilling lives. The organization stands out as our country's third largest single employer of individuals experiencing vision loss, providing meaningful jobs to over four-hundred people across their nine locations.

Alphapointe traces its roots to Labor Day of 1911, when thirty advocates for the blind gathered in Kansas City's Budd Park to "promote the social intercourse and general welfare of those without sight," leading to the establishment of the Workers for the Blind of Greater Kansas City. Present at this gathering were Eugene E. Condon and his sister, Catherine Hale. Determined to overcome his own vision loss, Condon had enrolled at the Nebraska Institute for the Blind in 1900, a residential school that taught blind individuals the skills needed to lead independent lives. Inspired by the transformative impact that the institution had on her brother, Hale set out to prove that people without sight were fully capable of supporting themselves when presented with opportunity.

Indeed, it was this campaign that led Hale to accompany her brother to the rally in Budd Park, and when she helped the Workers for the Blind of Greater Kansas City incorporate as the Kansas City Association for the Blind in

1916, Hale did so to create an organization centered around the concept of helping the blind help themselves. Now at the helm of what would later be renamed Alphapointe, Hale immediately took action to address the rampant unemployment and lack of opportunity available for those throughout the city experiencing vision loss. At the time, a mere sixteen industrial programs existed in the United States that trained and employed blind individuals, but Hale knew that those without sight need not rely only on charity. Hale's brother, for example, went on to attend the Palmer School of Chiropractic while Alphapointe's Vice President, Hayes Brooks, was the first blind student to graduate from the Kansas City School of Law.

Taking inspiration from these two trailblazers, Hale opened a workshop in 1918 where eight blind workers assembled brooms, mats, and cane chairs. Attached to the brooms were labels that proudly asserted "The Blind Man's Broom is the Best Broom," and the project that began in Hale's own living room soon began to turn a profit. Notably, this venture established Alphapointe's reputation not only as an employer of the blind, but as a manufacturer of high-quality products, thereby marking the beginning of a long tradition in the organization's history. A year later, following the conclusion of the First World War, young men from across the country who had lost their vision on battlefields overseas headed to Kansas City in search of jobs and the opportunity to lead dignified lives.

In addition to confronting the widespread unemployment that plagued the blind community, Hale was also determined to address the housing problems that blind individuals faced. In the early 1900s, life was quite dangerous for people without sight, and blind individuals were all too often institutionalized simply because they had nowhere else to live. In response to this somber reality, Alphapointe opened the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women in 1917, a place of refuge where women who lost their vision were able to peacefully spend the twilight of their lives. A far cry from the facilities that less fortunate blind senior citizens were forced into, the Hale Home was known for its warm atmosphere in which the forty residents cared for themselves, maintained their favorite hobbies, socialized amongst each other, and organized holiday fundraisers. In operation until the late 1980s, the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women symbolized Alphapointe's commitment to serving senior citizens experiencing vision loss.

Moreover, Alphapointe and their workers have repeatedly answered our nation's call during times of international conflict. In fact, Alphapointe's factory has supplied the United States military in every war since World War I. During the Second World War, for example, Alphapointe was churning out an impressive 4,480 feet of tent rope every day, a feat which earned the organization the prestigious Army-Navy Production Award for Excellence in War Production. Notably, Alphapointe was one of only three factories with a blind workforce to receive this honor. Later, as the United States entered the Cold War, Alphapointe began manufacturing sanitation kits for bomb shelters, and in 2012, the organization created a new Tactical Mechanical Tourniquet that will soon be included in the first aid kits worn by our men and women serving our country overseas. Additionally, Alphapointe now operates

base supply stores on Little Rock Air Force Base and at Fort Leonard Wood, and the partnership between Alphapointe and America's military bears testament to the profound value of blind workers and the quality of the products they can produce.

Today, Alphapointe offers a wide range of services and opportunities to the blind and visually impaired community of the Greater Kansas City area. Since its creation in 1952, the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired has served thousands of blind youth. Through the center, children learn life skills needed to overcome the obstacles that come with vision loss, including how to socialize with sighted children and navigate unfamiliar locations. Furthermore, the Student Transitional Employment Program has worked to address the high unemployment rate that continues to hinder the blind community. Additionally, Alphapointe's College Preparatory Program has ensured that many blind students were able to successfully adapt to their college campuses.

Alphapointe's services, however, extend far beyond one's college years. At Alphapointe's Center for Blindness and Low Vision, a one-of-a-kind facility in the state of Missouri, the organization offers Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services that address the challenges faced by blind individuals throughout daily life. Reflecting the Hale Home's mission to keep elderly blind individuals within their own homes, the Senior Adult Services offered at Alphapointe ensure that blind seniors can live comfortably and independently for as long as possible.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the work that Alphapointe has done for the blind and visually impaired community since 1911. For over a century, Alphapointe has offered hope to individuals who often felt hopeless, and their services have brought great meaning, fulfillment, and dignity to the lives of countless people facing vision loss. Let us recognize this occasion by rejecting any prejudices towards visually impaired Americans which may still linger within our country and by reflecting on the inherent value of all people in the same spirit as founder Catherine Hale.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on July 25, 2019, I missed roll call vote 510.

Had I been present for roll call 510, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 693, the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2019, I would have voted "Yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF DIXON'S
FAMOUS CHILI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dixon's Famous Chili