

My hometown was founded on October 27, 1869, on just 70 acres of land in Orange County; and today, Santa Ana is the second largest city in Orange County.

It is home to veterans of World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and the last few conflicts.

It is also home to the largest Hispanic population, percentagewise, in the country. It is essentially the new Ellis Island of the United States.

Congratulations to the city of Santa Ana on their 150 years. Congratulations to their constituents and to the council and to the mayor.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to think it is appropriate to conduct an impeachment inquiry behind closed doors, shutting out the American people.

They have denied Republican Members of Congress the right to fully participate in the inquiry process but expect them to cast a vote to impeach a duly elected President of the United States without seeing all the facts.

In addition to all that, Democrats denied us the right to vote on a resolution to censure Chairman SCHIFF for his deception of Americans day in and day out.

This morning, I joined dozens of my colleagues as we stormed into the SCIF demanding transparency, shedding light on this corrupt process. Instead of having a conversation, Chairman SCHIFF abruptly ended the deposition, taking the witness with him out of the room.

The Speaker of this House is putting her hatred of the President above what is best for her constituents. She is harming the entire Nation by conducting this inquiry in such a manner.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We are better than this; our country is better than this; and the American people certainly deserve better than this. They deserve better than an impeachment inquiry in a secret room based on assertions of a phantom whistleblower.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TOM C. "IKE" MORRIS

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of the 21st Congressional District of Texas. This man was a hero, veteran, and the oldest known graduate of Texas A&M University, the alma mater of my bride. His name was Colonel Tom C. "Ike" Morris.

Colonel Morris passed away Sunday in San Antonio at the age of 109 years old, leaving behind a life and legacy all of us can only aspire to someday.

Colonel Morris is the epitome of what the Greatest Generation embodied. He worked five jobs to stay in school during the Depression and graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

Working his way through school didn't stop him from being an engaged member of the Aggie community. He was senior class president, chaired the committee that set the first requirements for seniors to earn the famous Aggie Ring, and was a member of the track and field team.

He also knew what it meant to fight for a man's right to live free. He fought in the 38th Infantry of the 2nd Infantry Division in World War II. He went on to land on Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy and, with his unit, he liberated the first city in France.

Colonel Morris married his high school sweetheart, and they were married for 77 years.

Colonel Morris celebrated his 109th birthday this August. When asked about the secret to living a long life, Colonel Morris said, "Do your best."

We could improve from adhering to such sage, simple advice.

Colonel Morris, we thank you for your service and for leading a life worthy of example. May you rest in peace now. God bless you, sir.

HONORING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 241 MARINES LOST IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the 241 American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice on this very day 36 years ago in Beirut, Lebanon.

For my family and so many families, today is deeply emotional.

When I enlisted in 1979 as a young man, I wanted to serve and be part of something bigger. That led me to the United States Marine Corps and, like every marine, I took an oath to God, country, and to the Corps.

Semper fidelis is not just a slogan or a creed; it is a way of life that only those who have earned the eagle, globe, and anchor can fully understand. Semper fidelis is part of the very fabric of every marine, past and present.

I served as a first lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. In 1983, my battalion was ordered to Beirut, Leb-

anon, in support of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment and the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit.

I vividly remember the evenings we sat on the roof of the Marine barracks with the American flag flying over our head. The barrage of small arms gunfire and mortar rounds made it very clear that we were in harm's way every day.

On this very day 36 years ago, a terrorist affiliated with Hezbollah and financed by Iran drove a truck bomb into the barracks we called home.

241 American servicemen were killed, 220 of which were my fellow marines. 241 sons, brothers, fathers, and friends never returned home. 241 came in peace, and 241 lives were stolen from us by an act of absolute pure evil.

It was the deadliest day for the Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima.

It is by the grace of God that I was able to come home to my wife, Denise, who was expecting our first child. My battalion had shipped out 10 days before the bombing.

Mr. Speaker, today is not about me. People may not recognize the 241 names listed here, but they are the names of the 241 who answered the call of duty 36 years ago.

Today is about those 241 soldiers, sailors, and marines who laid down their lives to protect our freedoms, and today is about every veteran who has nobly worn the uniform of our Armed Forces.

On this somber day, I look out at the flag flying above the U.S. Capitol and feel the same reverence I felt standing below the Stars and Stripes on the roof of the Beirut barracks in 1983. Though I will never know exactly why I was spared when so many were not, I understand that our first duty is to remember and be faithful.

Mr. Speaker, three of my fellow marines, Representatives GALLAGHER, CARBAJAL, and MOULTON, joined me to offer legislation to remember the faith and loyalty of the 241.

Fellow marine, Representative GALLEGRO, joined me to offer legislation to provide a sliver of justice for the Gold Star families who lost their loved ones. Our bill, the OORAH Act, passed both the House and Senate, and for that I am very grateful.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is still work to be done here. Terrorists and those who support them financially must be held accountable for their terrible actions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for participating in this Special Order to remember the sacrifice of those who answered the call of duty to defend our freedom in conflicts across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my fellow Hoosier and decorated Vietnam veteran.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague in remembering the 36th anniversary of the appalling terrorist attack on American troops stationed in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983.

This horrific attack took the lives of 241 U.S. troops and injured countless others. This incident marked the highest single-day death toll for the United States Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima.

My friend and fellow Hoosier, GREG PENCE, was stationed in Beirut just 10 days before the terrorist attack and lost many fellow marines in the bombing.

Here with us today, seated in the gallery, are a few of the Gold Star families who lost their loved ones and family members on that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, freedom truly is not free, and I thank them for their sacrifice and pay tribute to the brave servicemembers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend and protect the United States of America.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER), my friend and colleague.

□ 1945

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of those who lost their lives in the Beirut terrorist attacks.

The men and women of our Armed Forces are true American heroes. They demonstrate bravery, courage, and an unmatched sense of duty to us all. They fight each day to preserve our great Nation and defend us from enemies we can and cannot see.

Our veterans have fought for our independence and liberty countless times throughout our history. They have fought off tyranny to defend freedom around the world. They have defended the innocent who cannot defend themselves. They have worked to preserve peace for all. Because of them, we are here in this Chamber today. And because of them, our Star-Spangled Banner waves proudly above.

This is what the valiant men and women were doing in Beirut in 1983. They were part of an important peace-keeping mission when Lebanon was facing a violent civil war.

In a single moment, 220 marines, 18 sailors, and 3 soldiers lost their lives, and 128 Americans were wounded.

Two hundred and forty-one Americans gave their lives that day. This was the largest number of casualties lost in one day since the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam war. This event is one of the darkest in our history.

As a wife, a mother, and a grandmother, I cannot imagine the pain 241 families have endured since that fateful day 36 years ago.

Today, I would like to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Beirut, for their fearless service and for working toward the more peaceful world that we all want. They will never be forgotten.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), my friend, colleague, and fellow marine.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, colleague, and fellow marine, GREG PENCE, for the honor to speak before this body tonight on such a—you don't call an occasion like this important, but I think we call it relevant.

It is relevant because Marines, for a long time, since 1775, have fought to defend freedom, and we go to the fight to win, but we also go to the fight to help others.

On Sunday, 23 October 1983, you have heard the story told already, how 220 marines, 18 sailors, and 3 soldiers lost their lives when a terrorist's truck bomb exploded at a barracks compound in Beirut, Lebanon.

The same day, 58 of our French brothers in arms lost their lives in an additional attack by Hezbollah.

In what would be the deadliest day for the Marine Corps since the battle of Iwo Jima, seven of the marines and sailors were Michiganders, including Lance Corporal David Bousum of Fife Lake, Michigan.

I remember that day very vividly. At the time, I was a KC-130 pilot stationed at Naval Air Station Glenview, Illinois, flying the KC-130 refuelers. We used to fly all around the world, in and out of the Middle East doing our mission.

Five days after the bombing was the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball for our unit and our greater Chicago marines. And that year, we had as our guest of honor then-Major General Al Gray, commander of the 2nd Marine Division, who a couple years after that became the commandant of the Marine Corps.

The Marines are full of tradition and pageantry. And I will tell you what, the only thing we do more than celebrate, is grieve. And of the roughly 50 years of birthday balls that I have attended, that one was heavy with grief. We had lost our brothers through a heinous act, and a cowardly act. It took us a while to get over it at that time, but, in the end, you really never get over it. All you do is set your course for the future fight to make sure that that does not happen again.

The loss of life will always have an impact on our entire armed services community and our Nation. Our mission, as the Marine Corps, is to be the most ready when the Nation is least ready, and we will always be that, whether it be in the 1770s or in the 2070s and beyond.

Today, we honor the fallen, we honor their lives, their legacies, and their families.

We will never forget the sacrifices made by Michigan's own that day. We lost the following warriors, marines, and sailors:

Lance Corporal David Bousum from Fife Lake

Lance Corporal Johansen Banks from Detroit

Sergeant Anthony K. Brown from Detroit

Hospital Corpsman 2 Michael H. Johnson from Detroit

Sergeant Michael R. Massman from Port Huron

Sergeant William H. Pollard from Flint

First Lieutenant William A. Zimmerman from Grand Haven

We will never forget.

In the Marines' Hymn, the third stanza ends with: "If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines."

I would suggest to you that some of those marines are on duty today. We honor their service, we honor their sacrifice, and we honor our country by remembering. God bless you all and Semper Fidelis.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends, colleagues, and distinguished guests in the gallery for their participation in my Special Order.

As a Beirut veteran, I am deeply moved by their remarks, and I know their words will comfort the Gold Star Families across this Nation.

Today, on the 36th anniversary of this horrific attack, and every day, we must strive to ensure that all are remembered, and all are honored. We remember their loyalty, their selflessness, and their courage. We are humbled by their tremendous sacrifice.

We must hold them closely in our hearts and hometowns. We must live in gratitude for the precious gift they have given to us here today.

Most of all, we must uphold our promise to honor our fallen. We must remain always faithful.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remain faithful. God bless America, and Semper Fi.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in the morning of October 22, 1983, a suicide bomber drove a truck full of explosives into a Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 U.S. service members. This was the deadliest attack against our U.S. Marines since Iwo Jima.

These Marines were stationed in Beirut to assist with the Palestinian withdrawal during the Lebanese civil war—they were protecting those who were being persecuted and fought to keep peace in the area.

There is a memorial at Camp Lejeune for those who lost their lives that day and it reads, "They came in Peace." I do not think I could say it any better. Our service men and women go overseas to ensure war does not reach our shores. They selflessly put aside their fears, and without hesitation say bravely, "I will serve, send me."

Some may know that my dear friend, Congressman GREG PENCE, was serving that day in Beirut. I am thankful that my friend's life was spared on that day.

For those who perished that day we will never forget your ultimate sacrifice to your country. Of those who passed away, eight were from Texas:

Leland E. Gann, Matilde Hernandez Jr. and Timothy R. McMahon from Austin; Rodolfo

Hernandez from El Paso; Michael S. Fulton from Ft. Worth; Marcus E. Coleman from Dallas; Johnnie D. Caesar from El Campo; and David W. Brown from Conroe.

We must never forget this day and those who were murdered because of what the freedoms they believed in so fiercely they were willing to put their life on line.

TRIBUTE TO LEON G. FELT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 30 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to tell a remarkable story of the unacknowledged patriotism and heroism of a 23-year-old Army scout, who, on December 3, 1944, was immersed in the horror and peril of some of the worst of the fighting in the bloody nightmare of the Philippines campaign. At Mount Cabunganan, Technician 5th Class Leon G. Felt heroically engaged the enemy.

His family keeps the steel helmet he wore that day. The back half of that helmet is riddled with shrapnel holes from the inside out. A grenade exploded beneath him, and the deadly shrapnel blew up his left side, blowing off his helmet from below with enough force to pierce it.

Now, Leon never talked much about what happened that day. The war ended, and he came home after months in Army hospitals dealing with his grave injuries. The only thing his family really knew, years later, was a brief entry in his journal. It said, "Lieutenant Hanna told me he put me in for a Silver Star for what I did in the attack," but nothing came of it.

His wife told me that the Army's final orders to Leon and his comrades were: go home, get a job, look after your families. Well, that is exactly what Leon Felt did. He joined the Southern Pacific Railroad, ultimately retiring as a shop foreman. He became deeply involved in his church. He married Lois Wade, his wife of 32 years, until she died in 1976. He then married Nola Pulsipher, who survives him after 42 years of marriage. He raised eight children and today has 41 grandchildren, 110 great-grandchildren with three more on the way, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

The war never left him. Nola says she would often rescue him from his frequent nightmares, and all he could say through his tears was, "It's either kill or be killed." His children only knew that he was in the thick of the war, that he had come home wounded, and that those days in the Philippines still haunted him.

In recent years, Leon's family began looking into his service record. Having read his journal, his daughter, Lydean, began searching for what he did that day that would have rated a recommendation for the Silver Star. They had ordered copies of his medals, but there was no mention of a Silver Star

in them. He had received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, among other decorations.

But Lydean remained curious about that entry in his diary, and what seemed to be a confusing note on one Army form that suggested there might be something more, though there was no official record of it. Now, Lydean, who has all of the timidity of a heat-seeking missile, wouldn't give up. She wrote the National Personnel and Record Center of the National Archives. The Archives could find no record of other medals, including the Silver Star. A fire in 1973, they feared, would have destroyed any record if he had. But Lydean persisted.

The archives kept digging, and then they stumbled upon a curious thing: a collection of citations of the most heroic deeds of World War II. In it, they found the citation for Leon G. Felt and what he did that December day in 1944. They were right about one thing: he was never awarded the Silver Star.

On February 12, 1945, as he lay recovering from his wounds in an Army hospital, Leon Felt had been awarded the Nation's second highest honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, revered more than any other medal, but the Medal of Honor itself. But somewhere along the way, probably because of a clerical error, his service record was never updated, and word never reached him.

Now, here are the words that were supposed to have been spoken as he received our Nation's second highest military honor:

"Technician Fifth Grade Leon G. Felt, Serial Number 39902244, Cavalry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism against the enemy at Mount Cabunganan, Leyte, Philippine Islands, on 3 December 1944.

"Advancing through very rugged terrain, his troop encountered the enemy entrenched in a strong position astride a narrow ridge. The enemy were well dug in, their rifle pits being concealed with top coverings of brush and grass. During an attack by our troops, the advance of the right platoon was temporarily diverted by heavy enemy fire, but upon receiving reinforcing fire from the left platoon, the intensity of the enemy fire slackened. Seizing this opportunity, Technician Felt, a scout for his platoon, voluntarily rushed the nearest enemy rifle pit, and grasping the top cover, stripped it off, exposing three occupants whom he killed. Continuing his advance, he reached and uncovered a second pit and killed three more enemy. He then advanced toward a third pit but was struck and wounded by the fragments from an exploding hand grenade.

□ 2000

"Despite his wound and the warning shouts of his comrades, he continued to push his attack, and reaching the foxhole, killed its two occupants. Unable to advance farther because of his wounds, he from his advanced position directed the attack of his platoon upon

remaining enemy within the position. This attack was successful, and the enemy were driven from the position with heavy losses.

"Technician Felt's prompt, heroic actions in voluntarily attacking the enemy single-handedly were an inspiration to his comrades and reflect the highest traditions of the United States Army. By command of General MacArthur."

Long ago, soldiers coined the term "snafu" to describe the military bureaucracy. It is an acronym that, roughly translated, means, "Situation Normal—All Fouled Up."

Well, in a terrible snafu, the medal was never given to Technician Felt. He was never told of how grateful his country was for the sacrifices he made, for the bravery that saved the soldiers in his unit, and for the exemplary heroism and leadership that turned the tide of battle.

His family arranged to surprise him with this long-overdue presentation about 3 weeks ago on October 5. This was the Saturday before his 98th birthday. They gathered from across the country. They decorated the house and made a cake.

I have never been more honored or more moved than to have been asked to fulfill that long-overdue presentation that General MacArthur had ordered so long ago.

On my way to meet this gentle giant, as his family called him, I received word that Leon Felt had passed away in the early hours of that morning, surrounded by his loving family. But they were still gathered at the house, in grief now as well as pride, and so I made the presentation posthumously to his widow, an extraordinary woman in her own right.

There is some consolation in this story. As his health began slipping in the days before he died, his family told him that he had been awarded the Nation's second-highest military honor and that he was about to receive it at his birthday celebration.

Mrs. Felt told me that his face brightened up, and he said, "So, I really am your hero." And his wife replied, "That is what I have been telling you all these years."

The tragedy is that this honor should have followed Leon Felt throughout his life, as Shakespeare said, to "remember, with advantage, what feats he did that day." He should have been feasted and feted, and thanked every day of his life, as this honor spoke of his courageous deeds.

Instead of feeling guilt, he should have felt pride. For every nightmare he suffered alone, he should have enjoyed the gratitude of his fellow citizens. Instead, Technician Leon Felt, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross that he never received, did what he was told, quietly went home, got a job, and looked after his family.

His memorial service will be held in Dixon, California, tomorrow, and he will be buried with full military honors