EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHIRLEE AND TAYLOR GANDY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, for the last three years Shirlee and Taylor Gandy of Fort Worth, Texas, have dedicated themselves to preserving an important piece of both Fort Worth and American history.

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy awoke in Fort Worth to find thousands of people standing in the cold rain outside his hotel.

The President was in Texas to unify his party leading up to the 1964 election. That rainy day in Fort Worth, he delivered two speeches. The first was delivered to the crowd waiting for him outside the Hotel Texas, and the second to the Chamber of Commerce.

The President greeted the crowd outside, shook hands, and gave a short but rousing speech received with excitement by those in attendance. He spoke of the progress our nation was making, as well as the challenges we faced. He in turn famously challenged the American people to bear the burdens of leadership.

Inside the hotel's ballroom, the President addressed the Chamber gathering, speaking of national defense and Fort Worth's historic role in the effort.

He left Fort Worth to a tickertape parade and the words of his final two speeches faded quickly in the wake of the tragic events that followed. The citizens of Fort Worth, the nation, and the world had just heard the final public thoughts of President John F. Kennedy. His visit was a triumph and his remarks, as much then as now, bear remembering.

Nearly 50 years after the President's death, Shirlee and Taylor Gandy have championed the effort to pay tribute to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, his Presidency, and his historic Fort Worth visit.

The Gandys led the cause, making a generous personal commitment to start the project, which includes a completed 8' bronze sculpture of the President by Texas artist Lawrence Ludtke.

They assembled a committee of friends and members of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. to guide the process. But perhaps their most impressive contribution to the cause was their time.

They personally labored over all the painstaking details necessary to the project. Their labors were rewarded with a beautiful sculpture, handsome tribute design and a successful fundraising campaign. On February 27th of this year, the Gandy's were joined by Fort Worth and Tarrant County dignitaries, including former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Jim Wright, to turn the first shovels of ground on this project. The JFK Tribute in Fort Worth will be complete in the fall of 2012.

When the Tribute opens in General Worth Square on Main Street, the themes of the Kennedy Presidency will find a new public outlet for expression. His last public address and his Fort Worth visit will be remembered in bronze and granite.

And perhaps just as importantly, the warm, genuine, enthusiastic reception President Kennedy received in Texas that has been so long overshadowed by an act of atrocity, will also be remembered.

On behalf of the people of Fort Worth, Texas and the United States of America, I wish to formally thank Shirlee J. and Taylor Gandy for their leadership in the creation of the JFK Tribute in Fort Worth.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT LOUIS LOTTI, II

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Robert Louis Lotti, II for his 30 years of service at the Belmont and Colma Police Departments.

Robert Lotti started his law enforcement career in 1984 as an officer with the Belmont Police Department. Three years later he was assigned to the traffic division as a motorcycle officer. In 1990, he was promoted to sergeant and served as a SWAT team member, team leader, and tactical commander. In 1997 and 2000 he completed two assignments as acting commander. In 2000, he was assigned as detective sergeant to the investigations bureau.

After protecting the residents of Belmont for 18 years, Sergeant Lotti moved to the Colma Police Department where he was hired as first commander. Within less than a year, he was promoted to chief in May of 2003.

Chief Lotti's dedication, commitment and professionalism are reflected in his many accomplishments, and awards. He is a founding member and architect of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office regional SWAT Team, a weaponless defense instructor, Academy instructor, and inner perspectives facilitator. From 2003–2012 he served on the San Mateo County Police Chief's and Sheriff Association—in 2009 as president. Since 2005 he has been on the Board of Directors of the North Peninsula Food Pantry. He also served the San Mateo County Gang Task Force, the Academy Advisory Board, and the Realignment Committee. In 1987, the Peninsula Council of Lions honored him with the Police Heroism Award and in 1996, he received a commendation from the Belmont Police Department.

During his tenure, Chief Lotti has worked on many homicide investigations, fatal accidents, even a pipe bombing case, but he says the most rewarding part of the job is helping people in need and giving back to the community—both out in the field and at the station. He has been a mentor to his fellow officers who appreciate his optimism and great sense of humor.

He has volunteered as a little league umpire and sits on the board of directors for the North County Food Pantry and Dining Center of Daly City.

Chief Lotti, a lifetime resident of San Mateo County, was born in San Mateo, grew up in San Bruno, attended Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, and received his AA from Skyline College in 1982. He earned his BS in Human Services Administration and MPA in Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame in 1992 and 1997 respectively.

In his well deserved retirement, Chief Lotti is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 26 years, Karen, and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Chief Robert Louis Lotti, II on the occasion of his retirement after making our Peninsula communities and residents safer for three decades.

IN RECOGNITION OF SGT. STEVEN B. DAVIDSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SGT Steven B. Davidson. He is the human resource specialist with the U.S. Army Reserve's 490th Civil Affairs Battalion and currently attends the University of North Texas. Sergeant Davidson was honored earlier this year for his exemplary service to his country and his community as the 2012 Army Times Soldier of the Year.

Sergeant Davidson, along with several others from his unit, was given the opportunity to participate in a French Desert Warfare Course in Djibouti, Africa. Having endured days of food, water, and sleep deprivation, the soldiers embarked on the final march of the rigorous ten-day course. After marching for nine hours in 120 degree debilitating temperatures, one man collapsed and began seizing due to heat stroke. Sergeant Davidson went to his aid, cutting off the man's boots and uniform; he utilized the cut-up uniform pieces as bandages and applied the remaining scarce water to the fallen soldier. He was able to revive and stabilize his condition and saved the master sergeant's life.

Sergeant Davidson graduated with honors from the course in Djibouti and received an Army Achievement Medal for his life saving action and a Military Volunteer Medal for his service while deployed abroad. The Soldier of the Year honor highlights his ongoing military service as well as his sustained commitment to others. Sergeant Davidson volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentors at-risk youth, and gives motivational speeches to elementary, middle and high school students.