

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION: CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, on February 2, 1995, members of the National Black Nurses Association will gather in Washington, DC, for the fifth annual Black Nurses Health Day on Capitol Hill. Thousands of nurses from around the country will travel to our Nation's Capitol Hill for this day-long event focusing on health care and other issues impacting the nursing community.

The National Black Nurses Association is the Nation's largest African-American health organization, representing more than 130,000 nurses in the United States and throughout the world. The organization is under the direction of Dr. Linda Burns Bolton, who serves as president. I rise today to offer a special salute to the National Black Nurses Association.

Mr. Speaker, the history of African-Americans in nursing can be traced to Sojourner Truth, a former slave, who ministered to wounded black veterans of the Civil War in 1864. History also records that a few years later, in 1870, Susan Smith McKinney Steward became the first black woman to receive a medical degree. Steward received her degree from the New York Medical College for Women, and was valedictorian of her class.

I take pride in the fact that the National Black Nurses Association has its founding in my congressional district in 1971. Over the past 24 years, the organization has been a strong advocate for the health care needs of the poor, the disenfranchised, the elderly, and our Nation's youth. The National Black Nurses Association has also played a key role in fighting to secure increased funding for research and development, public health service, health profession education, and health care technology developments.

Mr. Speaker, the National Black Nurses Association Health Day on Capitol Hill was established in 1989 to give recognition to the outstanding services that African-American nurses contribute to the health care system in America. The event is celebrated annually during Black History Month. I am proud that during Health Day, my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and other Members of Congress will join us for this important event.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Linda Burns Bolton for her leadership of the National Black Nurses Association. I am proud to host the organization's Annual Health Day, and look forward to greeting Dr. Bolton and the members of the National Black Nurses Association. As we celebrate Black Nurses Day, let us remember that we owe each of these individuals a

debt of gratitude for their commitment and dedication to service.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF B-2 STEALTH BOMBER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on December 22, 1994 an article appeared in the Windsor Review, a newspaper in the Fourth Congressional District of the State of Missouri. The article, entitled "B-2 Has Phenomenal First Year At Whiteman Air Force Base," examines the first year accomplishments of the B-2 stealth bomber. I enter the article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The 509th Bomb Wing has flown 114 of 120 planned sorties, with an astounding reliability rate of 95 percent, since the Air Force's first B-2 stealth bomber winged its way from its birthplace in Palmdale, California, to its new home near Dec. 17 last year. That equals more than 380 flying hours for all four aircraft.

The 509th got off to a phenomenal start by flying the "Spirit of Missouri" on its first training mission just five days short of its arrival at Whiteman.

Since that time, the "Spirit of Missouri" has been joined by the "Spirit of California", "Spirit of Texas", and "Spirit of Washington" as the 509th progresses toward becoming the first fully operational B-2 wing in the Air Force.

The wing initially trained two instructor pilots at Whiteman, and four more instructor pilots in the first class have recently completed their checkrides. The second and third class have begun training. By the end of 1994, the 509th will be able to point with pride to eight instructor pilots who have completed basic qualification.

"I'm extremely pleased with the Whiteman team and excited about the future of the B-2," said Brigadier General Ronald C. Marcotte, 509th Bomb Wing Commander. "Our goal is to make the B-2 and Whiteman AFB the crown jewel of national defense. I think we're well on our way."

In September, the 509th completed its first operation delivery of munitions at the Air Force's Utah Teat and Training Range. The "Spirit of California" delivered two inert Mark-84 2,000-pound bombs against targets located at Barker Strong Point on the Utah range.

"We were on target and on time" said Colonel William M. Fraser III, 509th Operations Group commander. "It was the culmination of many months of training for the entire 509th team. We exercised our mission planning program as well as our weapons load and aircraft preparation."

Six weapons load crews have been trained and certified in the past year.

While the "Spirit of California" demonstrated the B-2's munitions delivery capability, the "Spirit of Missouri" began its first phase inspection. A phase inspection is

a scheduled inspection that looks at the entire airplane for any signs of damage, usually in the form of corrosion, cracks, or unexpected wear and tear. The B-2 has more than 1,200 items that must be inspected. The whole process takes about 44 working days.

"Our plan is to use this phase as a benchmark for future phases," said Colonel Henry L. Taylor, 509th Logistics Group commander. "We want to improve the process so we can reduce the time needed for phase inspections and return the planes to the 393d Bomb Squadron as quickly as we can safely do it."

As Whiteman team members work to make the B-2 the cornerstone of national defense, they are also deactivating 113 Minuteman II missiles in accordance with the START treaty, and welcomed the 442nd Reserve Wing and its fleet of 22 A-10's from Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo. The conversions required \$120 million in construction projects.

"Without the support of our community partners and taxpayers, especially those who live and work around Whiteman we could not have achieved the accomplishments of the past year," Marcotte said. "We've worked, not only at building solid relationships with our civilian friends and neighbors. Everyone has been tremendously supportive and we're off to a great start."

The future of the B-2 and Whiteman looks bright. "The B-2 is the cornerstone of America's global power of tomorrow. It's a critical component that will enable us to meet the enormous challenges to world peace in the 21st century," Marcotte said. "And as our 509th motto says: Follow Us."

WILLIAM KOWALKOWSKI NAMED PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE MILWAUKEE COUNCIL OF SOUTHSIDE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Mr. William Kowalkowski, on being named Person of the Year by Milwaukee's Council of Southside Advancement Associations.

Milwaukee's south side has long been a place where people can count on the help and friendship of their neighbors. It is people like William Kowalkowski who have helped to keep this special quality alive in our community.

Mr. Kowalkowski, through his many years of community service, has rightfully earned the respect and admiration of those around him. His outstanding work with charitable organizations such as the St. Joseph's Foundation and Polish Relief for Poland has benefitted the less fortunate, and those who were displaced by the upheaval of war. His involvement in numerous civic and cultural organizations such as the Pulaski Council, the Southside Businessmens

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