

The reporters were summoned at 1:00 a.m. The press got hand-out sheets from the press secretary: "With deep regret, I have concluded that General of the Army Douglas MacArthur is unable to give his wholehearted support to the policies and directives issued to them in the manner provided by our laws and the Constitution."

Why the 1:00 a.m. summons? The White House's lame explanation was timing for the general, since it was then midafternoon in Tokyo. But that wasn't the real reason at all; the news had been timed to make the morning newspapers and catch the Republicans in bed.

The man he fired was a military hero, idolized by many. MacArthur had done a superb job as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in the reconstruction of Japan. Truman himself admired MacArthur's soldiering.

But MacArthur was strong minded and had set himself firmly against the policy of Truman. Douglas MacArthur would not compromise his views of what was right and necessary. The clash between the two was slow in building, but the end was inevitable.

The Senate and Congress were divided over Truman's decision. The American public supported MacArthur. When MacArthur returned to the states he was a General of the Army, stripped of his commands and without assignment, yet the U.S. was waiting to sweep him up in a tremendous greeting all the way to Manhattan's tickertaped Broadway. His words had brought public dismissal and reprimand from his Commander in Chief, yet the Congress of the U.S. honored him by asking him to address them. When he did give his speech before Congress he was given a standing ovation.

In my opinion Truman firing MacArthur was the most unpopular decision ever made by an American president.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In 1861 Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States. When he took office, and during the early stages of the Civil War, President Lincoln wanted to preserve the American Union of which slavery was a part. There was great pressure upon him to free the slaves but he refused. He had no wish to interfere with slavery where it already existed. Lincoln declared that he was fighting to save the Union, not to free the slaves. As the Civil War progressed, the Northerners demanded the end to slavery.

In 1863 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring that slaves be free. Lincoln repeatedly urged all states to free their slaves. In 1865 The Emancipation Proclamation cleared the way for Amendment 13 to the constitution ending slavery throughout the United States and declaring all men to be created equal.

President Lincoln's decision not to end slavery at the beginning of the Civil War appealed to some people but not to others. Lincoln made this choice not for popularity but because he thought it was the right decision for the Union's people. Despite the pressure to end slavery Lincoln made the decision to end slavery when he thought it was best for the Union.

The choices President Lincoln made helped to cause his assassination. A President makes decisions every day regarding our country. They make the best choices they can although they cannot please everyone. President Lincoln made what he thought was the best decision for the Union. John Wilkes Booth, his assassin, did not agree.

TRIBUTE TO RAY GILMARTIN

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 1996*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to my friend Ray Gilmartin on being honored by West Bergen Mental Healthcare. On Sunday, March 24, Ray will be presented with the West Bergen's Distinguished Service Award.

I cannot think of a person who is more deserving of this honor. I have known Ray and Gladie Gilmartin for many years and have seen the seriousness of their commitment to their community.

Those across America who know Ray know him as a distinguished captain of industry. Since he earned his MBA from Harvard Business School just a few short years ago, he has had a meteoric rise in the business world. He now serves as chairman, president and chief executive officer of Merck & Co., the world's largest pharmaceutical concern. He previously served in the same capacity at another premier firm, Becton Dickinson & Co. of Franklin Lakes, NJ.

He is a national leader in health care. An active participant in health industry affairs, Ray is a member of the board of the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America and Project HOPE, a nonprofit organization conducting educational programs in the health sciences. He is also chairman-elect of the Healthcare Leadership Council, a national coalition that promotes cutting-edge health care reform.

Closer to home, those who know Ray know him as a passionate supporter of a wide range of community activities. In addition to his chairmanship of the board of Valley hospital in Ridgewood, his public service activities also include serving as a board member at Union College in Schenectady, NY., the United Negro College Fund, the Associates of Harvard Business School, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, and the Ethics Resource Center. He is also a member of the Business Roundtable and the Business Council and a trustee of the Conference Board and the Committee for Economic Development. He is also a member of the board of the Providian Corp. and PSE&G.

My husband, Dr. Richard Roukema, and I are proud of our longtime association with West Bergen Mental Healthcare. For years, West Bergen Mental Healthcare has served effectively northern New Jersey's population of the mentally ill, in effect, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves. Further, West Bergen responds to crises in our community in a way that no other organization can. And now, this effective and caring organization is reaching out to children and youth in a way it has not ever before. Its Center for Children and Youth in Ramsey provides counseling and psychotherapy for youngsters aged 2 to 18 regardless of their ability to pay.

Mr. Speaker, America's communities could all use more dedicated community-minded organizations like this. But fundamentally, organizations like this could all use more dedicated supporters like Ray Gilmartin. He is a shining example of the volunteer community service that makes America strong.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MICHAEL W. KIGHT, MONTEBELLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 1996*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Montebello P.D. Capt. Michael W. Kight on the occasion of his retirement. Captain Kight spent more than 30 years protecting the interests and enhancing the safety of our community.

Captain Kight was born in Los Angeles, CA, and attended local schools, including east Los Angeles and Cerritos Colleges, where he earned his associate of arts degree in police science. He began his law enforcement career in 1964, serving as a patrol officer with the City of Bell Police Department. On July 30, 1972, Captain Kight was hired as a police officer with the Montebello Police Department, where he served for the past 24 years.

Captain Kight quickly proved himself to be a natural leader, providing direction, leadership, and expertise in law enforcement. He rapidly rose through the ranks, becoming senior officer in 1974; patrol sergeant in 1975; detective sergeant in 1980; lieutenant in 1987; and captain of field services in 1988. He was awarded exceptional performance pay in 1979, when he significantly exceeded performance standards for management of his employees. In 1983, he was awarded exceptional performance pay for reducing overtime hours and increasing the arrests and clearance in the detective bureau. Again in 1985, he was awarded exceptional performance pay for his outstanding handling of an internal affairs investigation. In 1994, he was awarded the prestigious Career Contribution Management Award in recognition of his high standards of excellence and dedication to superior service to the residents of Montebello.

Michael W. Kight has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to his chosen field of law enforcement, earning him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and community. On Saturday, March 23, 1996, his friends, family, and staff members will congratulate him on his retirement from the Montebello Police Department, and thank him for his years of exceptional service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Michael W. Kight, one of our community's finest law enforcement officers and public servants.

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IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 1996*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Women's History Month. Women make contributions to our society every day—all year long. But this month offers a special opportunity to acknowledge and to raise awareness about women's contributions in all aspects of our culture—including health, education, public service, and the arts. Minnesota has produced strong female civic leaders who have worked to enhance the lives of