

I am proud to have this opportunity to congratulate Sage Services and to recognize all those who work there or volunteer their time to helping others. They are truly making an incredible difference in the lives of so many people. Sage Services is a remarkable organization and I commend everyone involved for making it such a success and for ensuring that our older citizens remain active, independent, and that they are valued by the community.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF  
GUATEMALA ON SUCCESS OF  
RECENT NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH  
PEACE PROCESS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow colleagues from both sides of the aisle in support of House Concurrent Resolution 17, congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala.

On December 29, peace accord ended 36 years of civil war the Government negotiated directly with the rebels.

The United States over the last 6 years participated in the peace negotiations for Guatemala as a member of the Group of Friends in conjunction with Norway, Mexico, and Spain. The group supported the work done by the United Nations to broker a peace in that war torn country. In this regard, the Guatemala peace accord is both a United Nations success story and an example of the benefits of sustained United States diplomatic engagement.

The peace accord includes the creation of a commission to implement a wide range of reforms to the political, economic, social, and judicial systems of Guatemala, including an enhanced respect for human rights and the rule of law, improved health and education services, attention to the needs of refugees and displaced persons and the role of the military in a democratic society.

Lasting peace, political stability and economic development in Guatemala is in the best interest of all nations of the Western Hemisphere, therefore, we should all be hopeful at these accomplishments made in the name of peace for the Guatemalan people.

LET ME LIE WITH SOLDIERS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I wanted to submit the following poem as it was read by its author at the annual POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony March 2, 1997, held at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, GA. The poem is entitled "Let Me Lie With Soldiers," by Lt. Col. Clyde M. Reedy, U.S. Army (retired), Vietnam 1963 and 1972.

LET ME LIE WITH SOLDIERS

Let me lie with soldiers when God my spirit calls.  
Let me walk with warriors down heaven's hallowed halls.

Please bury me with soldiers, and let my spirit soar with kindred souls with whom I shared the brotherhood of war.  
Yes, lay me down with soldiers in consecrated ground, made holy by their sacrifice, and bravery without bound.

It matters not the color of the uniform they wore, nor who sounded loud the trumpet that summoned them to war.

It matters not their era, nor weapons which they bore, nor banner which they followed into that hell called "war."

Abdolor Ivan, Hoang or Heinz, their names??? . . . I do not care. The tie that binds us all as one: the horrors that we shared.

The color their skin counts not, be it yellow, black or brown. For all of us are brothers up in God's holy ground.

The cause for which they struggled, that also matters naught. For when we're all in heaven none will ask for whom we fought.

And though our bodies crumble once are souls have gone on high, let memory of our sacrifices never never die.

Yes, let me stand with soldiers, hand-in-hand on heaven's shore, and gaze together on our homes Forever free of war.

This poem captures both the sadness and pride of America's fighting men, as well as the hope of every soldier: that the war they fight will be the last. It is an eloquent testimony to America's MIA's and POW's, who we must never forget.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MAJOR

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I are honored today to pay tribute to Judge John Major who last week was recognized by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association with the Distinguished Service Award. When Mr. Major recently stepped down from the bench, our area sustained the loss of an individual that went out of his way to make the courtroom a place where both litigants and defendants were at ease and justice was served in a way that was best for all involved.

Mr. Major's early career involved a period in the Army and work in the aerospace industry. As John's professional career developed, his interest in government and law increased, leading him to enroll in law school. John's time at UCLA School of Law was difficult, as he was forced to balance school and work while holding down three jobs. Even with these adversities, John's determination to become a lawyer only increased. He completed his final 2 years of study on his own at night while working full time. He saw the fulfillment of his dreams in 1957 when, on his first attempt, he passed the California bar exam. The obstacle he overcame in his time studying law affected his later career as a judge. Whenever he saw people struggling, he told them, "you can accomplish whatever you choose to in life."

As a young lawyer, John worked for the Legal Aid Society in Santa Monica for 2 years. Shortly after that he opened his own practice that he maintained for 12 years. His career changed when he took a case defending a

minor he enjoyed the tremendous positive impact he had on the young man's life. In defending the youth of our area, John found a challenging and rewarding career. Through his endeavors he became a juvenile court referee and eventually was appointed a Superior Court Commissioner. As a commissioner he worked in almost every juvenile court in Los Angeles County.

In 1984, Mr. Major was appointed to the superior court bench by Governor Deukmejian. His years on the court were his way of leaving a positive impact. According to many attorneys, he put people at ease with his humor and easy going demeanor. In handing down decisions, Judge Major did not hesitate to take into account the particular circumstances, at times straying from the usual sentence, especially in dealing with young people. The judge's calming influence and experience in dispute resolution will be sorely missed as he is an excellent communicator with a gift of engendering himself to all sides in a dispute.

When Judge Major stepped down from the bench last week, our community sustained a substantial loss. The effects of his service have reached well beyond the courtroom, as he has had a tremendous positive impact on the surrounding community. The legacy of his work will continue on for years to come in the lives of the many individuals be touched.

SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States will continue its leadership in the United Nations by honoring the financial obligations to that institution.

Everyone agrees that United Nations is in need of reform. In fact, Joseph Connor, the Undersecretary for Administration and Management, announced yesterday that the U.N. budget will come in under its estimated 1998 budget, and the 1997 budget was a cut from the previous year.

But, if the United States continues to be a global deadbeat, the United Nations will lose its ability to carry out missions important to American foreign policy, such as promoting human rights, controlling the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, spreading democracy, and preventing global conflicts.

The United States was a founding member of the United Nations. Throughout its half century of existence, through times of war and peace, the United Nations has stood as a pillar of stability. That is why Republicans and Democrats alike have supported not only its existence but American financial obligations. Now 61 percent of arrears to the United Nations are owed by the most powerful Nation on Earth. This is wrong. We can't allow short-term thinking in Congress to jeopardize our long-term security.

Please join me in sending a strong message to the world that the United States will lead and the United States will keep its word.