

nation, San Antonio is proud of its humble warriors. San Antonio can not only boast about its strong economy, thriving culture, and beautiful weather, it can now lay claim to pro basketball's finest team.

From the rich tradition of the San Antonio Missions and the Alamo, to the Tower of the Americas, San Antonio's skyline can now add the true Twin Towers, David Robinson and Tim Duncan. The whole team acted as one cohesive unit, displaying the chemistry that all great champions have, and to that, they all proved worthy. For a team that has one of the highest college graduation rates in all professional sports, they are truly heroes and role models for us all.

This fine athletic achievement is not only for the city of San Antonio, Peter and Julianna Holt, the team owners, or the players, but it is for all the fans of the old American Basketball Association. This is the first time a team from the old ABA has won the NVA Championship. This victory was for all of us who remember the "Iceman" George Gervin, along with countless other great stars who toiled long hours for recognition. It is for those who remember the Hemisphere Arena and the "Baseline Burns". Team basketball shined this day, and for all the fans of the San Antonio Spurs, it shines just a little brighter.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOAN STEFANSKI

##### **HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joan Stefanski who today retires from her position of Director of the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce after twenty-two years of distinguished service to the Ferndale community.

She has been instrumental in coalition-building in the City of Ferndale. A unique contribution has been her efforts in building relationships between business and the homeowners of Ferndale. A familiar scene were the block parties where business men and women would volunteer along with the residents. Joan has that special skill of bringing together people of diverse interests and abilities, and encouraging a partnership between them.

Years ago, the assumption by many was that Ferndale was a city in decline. Many citizens felt otherwise and Joan Stefanski was among the key activists. She played an important role in business development in the city, bringing about a re-blossoming of Ferndale. An example was the decision of Credit Union One to remain in Ferndale, thus helping to keep Ferndale commercially viable, and set the tone for other companies to bring their business to the city. Today, we see downtown Ferndale moving ahead rapidly. Today, we see the neighborhoods increasingly sought after as a place of residence.

As a Congressman, I have thoroughly enjoyed the many years of our working relationship. Whether it was trying to find a reasonable and real solution to the Ferndale Post Office difficulties, bringing together people to form the Southwest Oakland Coalition for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, or attending Chamber meetings, among many endeavors, my staff and I have always found working with Joan to be most productive and satisfying.

Joan Stefanski has also been an unassuming and highly effective pioneer in breaking down barriers to women in the business world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in wishing Joan Stefanski and her husband good health and happiness as they move to their retirement home on the west side of Michigan and in honoring her for over 20 years of exceptional and committed service to the community of Ferndale.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL CHARLES C. KRULAK, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

##### **HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great patriot, a man amongst men and a Marine's Marine. After almost forty years of devoted service to this Nation, General Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, will soon receive his final orders directing him to stand-down and retire from active duty. His departure will signal an evolutionary change—the first time in 70 years that a Krulak will be absent from the roles of the United States Marine Corps.

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1964, General Krulak had an illustrious career that spanned four decades of faithful service to this Nation. During his service to our country General Krulak commanded a platoon and two rifle companies during two tours of duty in Vietnam; he commanded a Marine infantry rifle battalion; was the Commanding General for 10th Marine Expeditionary Brigade; Assistant Division Commander for 2d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Forces Atlantic; Commanding General, 2d Force Service Support Group; Commanding General, 6th Marine Expeditionary Brigade; commanded the 2d Force Service Support Group during the Gulf War; commanded Marine Forces Pacific/Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, and on June 29, he was promoted to General and assumed duties as the 31st Commandant on June 30, 1995.

General Krulak's decorations and medals include: the Silver Star Medal; Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and two gold stars; Purple Heart with gold star; Combat Action Ribbon; Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

It is during his tenure as the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps to which this body has come to know and appreciate the many virtues of this modern day warrior. His accomplishments as Commandant will resonate long and far into the next millennium, ensuring the Marine Corps remains the world's premier crisis response force. A professional force that is committed, capable, and reliable to meet any challenge, under any circumstance, anytime and anyplace in the world.

The challenges which will confront this Nation in the 21st century will be varied and often unpredictable—a time of asymmetry, uncertainty, and chaos. Fortunately, General Krulak had the wisdom and foresight to understand the emergence of this fluid and unstable environment. He understood the necessity to

field an agile and adaptable force—a Corps of Marines who could prevail against the multifaceted threats which would challenge our Nation's security and its interests.

General Krulak understood the situation at hand. He understood, not merely the importance to modernize the force, but to develop new concepts and techniques which will ensure decisive victory in the "savage wars of peace." He forged his Corps of Marines through unrelenting sacrifice, initiative, and courage . . .

He labored extensively within the naval services to develop common operational concepts to support the strategic vision expressed in "Forward . . . From the Sea."

He diligently exercised oversight of the Marine Corps in its roles as lead or executive agency within the Department of Defense for Military Operations Other Than War, Military Operations on Urban Terrain, and Non-Lethal Weapons.

He promoted the institutionalization of the Combat Development System and the Concepts Based Requirements System in the Marine Corps. These systems ensured that Marine Corps doctrine, organization, training and education, equipment and supporting activities were all driven by, and working toward achieving, a common operational warfighting concept.

He created the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory as a standing forum to serve as the cradle and test bed for the development of enhanced operational concepts, tactics, techniques, procedures, and doctrine which would be progressively introduced into the fleet Marine Forces in concert with new technologies.

He directed the creation of the Marine Corps' Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force to assist in filling a void in the Nation's ability to manage the consequences of a chemical or biological incident. This force has been employed on several instances at the national level, and has prompted the development of additional consequence management capabilities throughout DoD.

He created and implemented the "Transformation Process" of making Marines—a holistic approach to recruiting and developing young men and women to ensure they have the skills and basic character needed to effectively meet the asymmetric 21st century threat. Transformation, which begins with a prospective recruit's first contact with a Marine recruiter and continues throughout a Marine's service, constituted a major enhancement to the way the Marine Corps recruits and trains Marines.

He labored extensively to institutionalize the Marine Corps' "core values" of honor, courage, and commitment while maintaining—and in many cases elevating—performance standards in every aspect of Marine Corps' recruiting and developmental processes—be they mental, physical or moral.

There are many more accomplishments that could be enumerated upon here—accomplishments that speak to programs and doctrine, to systems and platforms. But, to focus on these, as daunting as they are, would be an injustice to the most important aspect of General Krulak's storied career—the care and nurturing of the Marine Corps family.

He created the Personnel and Family Readiness Division within Headquarters Marine Corps to account for the fact that personal and family readiness are inseparable from combat