

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LADY LIBERTY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, everyone's thoughts and prayers are with those whose lives have been forever altered by this tragedy. Several days after the attack, I received a copy of a poem entitled "Lady Liberty Still Stands Tall." It was written by a good friend, Dr. Ken Webster. I wanted to share this touching poem with my colleagues.

LADY LIBERTY STILL STANDS TALL
(By Kenneth E. Webster)

The New York Harbor was attacked,
As the twin towers came tumbling down.
With Lady Liberty standing by,
She sheds a tear and a frown.

I've watched this harbor over 100 years,
And welcomed thousands to our shores.
The tired, poor and huddled masses,
As I lift my lite beside the golden door.
People come from all over the world,
Yearning for a life that is free.
They could count on safe harbor here,
For our democracy is the key.

But on September 11 the year 2001,
Some terrorists attack—what a pity.
I saw them fly right past my torch,
As others who visit New York City.

I could see the terror in the eyes,
Of everyone on board the plane.
It headed straight for the twin towers,
Soon to inflict them all with pain.

I saw the terrible crash occur,
I couldn't believe my eyes.
The buildings exploded into the sky,
And I knew many would lose their lives.

I've never cried here in the harbor,
I've always remained straight and strong.
But today my tears cover the world,
As terrorists perform a terrible wrong.

But I'm still standing for all to see,
That America is the land of the free.
We'll survive as we have before,
And I'll stay here for all to see.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOHN F. FITZGERALD

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant John F. Fitzgerald upon his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant John Fitzgerald has served our nation with honor and distinction for over 26 years, and his performance his entire career has been characterized by the highest of standards and professionalism. He was born in Evansville, Indiana, on 23 Feb-

ruary 1957. He graduated from William Henry Harrison High School in 1975 and entered active duty in January 1976. Upon graduation from basic military training in March 1976, he was assigned under the direct duty assignment program to Charleston Air Force Base and entered into training as an Administrative Specialist. After serving on the base honor guard and coaching little league, he was selected for promotion to Senior Airman Below The Zone and was reassigned to Camp New Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in August 1978.

Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald's outstanding job performance and professionalism led to his selection for a special duty assignment to join the elite USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds," in December 1981. While assigned to the team he was selected as the 1984 Fitzgerald Award Winner, given to the enlisted member of the squadron who contributed most to the team mission. At the culmination of this tour in December 1984, the chief was selected for another special duty assignment to the Headquarters, Tactical Air Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, at Langley AFB, Virginia. In August 1988, the chief was selected for a special duty assignment to the Commandant of Cadets, USAF Academy, Colorado.

At the end of this tour in December 1991, the chief was selected as a member of the base closure team to end the Air Force's 51-year service at Sondrestrom AB, Greenland. Upon closure of Sondrestrom Air Base on 30 September 1992, the chief was reassigned to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

After assignment as the 45th Space Wing Command Section Superintendent, he was reassigned to the 45th Mission Support Squadron as the Military Personnel Flight Superintendent. In March 1999, he was selected to become the Command Chief Master Sergeant for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia and OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH head-quartered at Eskan Village, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In June 2000, Chief Master Fitzgerald returned to his previous position as the Superintendent, Military Personnel Flight for the 45th Mission Support Squadron at Patrick AFB, Florida, and in January 2001, moved to the 45th Space Wing Staff to a newly created position as Superintendent of the Wing Plans Division. In this capacity he supported various high level, special interest projects of vital importance to NASA, the Florida Spaceport Authority, and the 45th Space Wing, in the Development of the Florida Spaceport program.

Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, USAF Outstanding Airman of the Year Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with star.

Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald is married to the former Phyllis Ann Vaught, and they have one daughter, Amanda.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the contributions Chief Master Sergeant John Fitzgerald

has made to the people of my State, the United States Air Force, and the country. I am certain my colleagues will join me in wishing Chief Master Sergeant Fitzgerald and his wife, Phyllis, all the best. We thank them for over 26 years of service to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO FERRIS LIBRARY INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education at Ferris State University (FLITE), which is being dedicated today as a Federal Depository Library in the 4th District of Michigan.

I am honored to have assisted Richard Cochran, Dean of Library Services and Education, in making this day possible. Designating the FLITE as a Federal Depository Library will be a tremendous asset to the community, as well as the university's students.

This is a proud moment for everyone at the dedication today as the FLITE becomes one of more than 1,300 libraries across the country that offers the American public access to information from the three branches of government. As a federal depository library, the FLITE now has the responsibility for assuring that the public has free access to that material, and I am confident that Mr. Cochran and his staff will ensure that the public they serve will receive the kind of service expected from a Federal Depository Library.

On behalf of the 4th District of Michigan, I congratulate the Ferris State University community for joining a select number of libraries who serve our citizens with this important resource.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER OF TOM REED

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a great friend of mine, Murfreesboro City Attorney Tom Reed. Tom, who has worked for our city as an attorney for more than 29 years, is retiring at the end of this month.

Tom began his distinguished career with the city of Murfreesboro soon after his graduation from the University of Tennessee School of Law, helping guide the Middle Tennessee

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