

time discovering their own full potential. This organization infuses young women with core values and sound decisionmaking.

The Girl Scouts is also an educational experience for young women. They engage in activities that teach them about technology, science, money management, as well as health and fitness. All of this is accomplished while these young women build friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

The results are there as well. Over two-thirds of Girl Scout alumni are doctors, lawyers, educators and community leaders. They are out in our communities making a difference and using the values they learned from their days as Girl Scouts to positively influence our world.

I doubt that Juliette Gordon Low had any idea how successful the Girl Scouts would be when she held that first meeting in her living room back in 1912. Mrs. Low formed the organization in an attempt to provide young women with the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually. All one has to do is to look back over the Girls Scouts' long and illustrious history to see how successful Mrs. Low has been.

COMMENDING RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY ON RECEIVING FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEDAL

**TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, although freedom and democracy are integral elements in the political systems of many countries, basic freedoms are still denied in many others and are not fully institutionalized in still others. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty targets these areas, including Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Russia, and other former communist states, in order to promote free speech and political dialogue.

For more than fifty years, the organization has tirelessly supported free-thinking, freedom of expression, and democracy. Recently, the broadcasts have even been expanded to include and specifically target areas with large Muslim populations. In recognition of this history of work, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute awarded the "Freedom of Speech Medal" to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on June 8.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on receiving this award and recognize its outstanding work in promoting freedom. I earnestly commend the following acceptance speech given by my dear friend Thomas A. Dine, the President of RFE/RL, Inc., and request that the speech be placed in the RECORD.

ACCEPTING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEDAL, ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER MIDDELBURG, THE NETHERLANDS

Thank you for this wonderful, deeply meaningful award. It is a great, great honor to receive the Roosevelt Foundation's 2002 Freedom of Speech medal. No name better animates and exemplifies the work of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and its daily commitment to freedom and democracy than Roosevelt.

As President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, I accept this award not only on be-

half of the organization as it exists today, but also on behalf of its achievements during the Cold War and its importance as a fighting force in promoting freedom and democracy in the future, applying the highest journalistic standards of accuracy, balance, and objectivity.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has been battling for the cause of free speech and expression for over 50 years.

My colleagues and I will continue to fight as long as this most fundamental of freedoms is being controlled or suppressed in the countries to which we actively communicate via radio, Internet, and television.

Heading an entity called "Radio Free Europe," I am often asked, "But isn't Europe free?" It is true that the collapse of communism and of the Soviet Union has brought freedom to many parts of Europe that had been deprived of it for too long. However, suppression of speech, press, and assembly, sadly remains very much the rule on the European continent.

In Russia, for example, the Kremlin seems increasingly determined to control as much of the media as possible. Most recently, the government has coercively placed under its control several prominent independent media outlets, from television to radio to print, cloaking these power grabs as business transactions. More ominously, over the course of the last two years in Russia, 36 journalists have been killed or have disappeared. And last week Russia's Minister of the Press Lesin, in response to our daily news broadcasts in the Chechen language, warned us to stop interfering in Russia's domestic affairs.

The President of Ukraine is no friend of the first freedom. He is a likely suspect in the death of at least two reporters who dared criticize his administration for corruption and criminality. He is certainly responsible for a culture of fear that pervades the Ukrainian media environment.

The nation of Belarus is now under the thumb of the dictator Alexander Lukashenka, a man who openly expresses admiration for Stalin. Lukashenka ceaselessly harasses the press; deaths and disappearances of journalists have taken place in Belarus as well.

And a final contemporary example of the dismal condition of freedom of expression inside today's Europe exists in the Balkans, where Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bosnia are still not out from under the intimidation and controlling state grip of the Milosevic era.

In response to the specific challenges we face in this young century, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has expanded the scope of its broadcasting across Europe and Asia. These broadcasts address the most difficult, but perhaps the most thrilling, battle yet for free speech: in areas populated by Muslims in Southeast Europe, Russia, the northern and southern Caucasus, Central Asia and Southwest Asia.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th highlighted for all of us the importance of the Muslim world in today's geopolitical landscape. Accordingly, a majority of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's current 33 languages are targeted to peoples that practice the Islamic religion.

Our broadcasts now include Albanian and Bosnian to the former Yugoslavia; Tatar and Bashkir to Russia's Volga River region; Crimean Tatar to Ukraine; Avar, Chechen, and Circassian to Russia's North Caucasus; Azeri to Azerbaijan and Northern Iran; the languages of Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Tajik, and Uzbek to Central Asia; Farsi throughout Iran; Arabic to Iraq; and now Dari and Pashtu to Afghanistan.

I am particularly proud of the latter two, Dari and Pashtu, in which we are now broad-

casting 10 1/2 hours a day to Afghanistan in response to that crisis. Next week, we will broadcast the Loya Jirga's deliberations live! Just as importantly, we have also established a program to train Afghan journalists in Kabul and Prague to help ensure that the new Afghanistan will be graced with a robust free press practicing the highest of professional standards.

In closing, it is a particular honor, both for me personally and for the organization I represent, to receive this award from an organization bearing the Roosevelt name. As President, Franklin Roosevelt instilled human rights in our collective consciousness and injected human rights into the center of our foreign policies.

So did Eleanor Roosevelt through her tireless work helping to create the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is no coincidence that a 1950's photograph of the former First Lady of the United States sitting in front of a Radio Liberty microphone adorns my office wall in Prague.

And it is Article 19 of the Universal Declaration that is the motto of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, indeed all of United States international broadcasting.

It is a simple, but compelling and timeless pronouncement—"Everyone has the right . . . to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

This motto appears on our stationery, in all of our literature, on prominently placed hall plaques. It symbolizes everything we strive to achieve.

The more than 2,000 worldwide staffers of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty are eternally grateful for receiving one of this year's Four Freedom awards. I promise this Foundation and this distinguished audience that we shall energetically continue our mission of promoting freedom and democracy today—in order to expand freedom and democracy tomorrow.

Thank you very much.

THOMAS A. DINE,  
President, RFE/RL, Inc.

RECOGNITION OF CHIEF DEPUTY DANNY CHANDLER

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2002*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the attention of my colleagues a True Texas Hero, Chief Deputy Danny Chandler.

On behalf of the people of the Third District of Texas, I want to congratulate him on his promotion to be the first-ever Director of the Office of Security and Emergency Management in Dallas.

America is a whole different country since September 11. This is a different kind of war with a different kind of enemy. That is why Dallas has taken the lead to win the war for freedom, both at home and abroad. I know he will do a fine job heading that effort.

The Commissioners Court of Dallas County could not have picked a better leader. Starting as a Deputy Sheriff in 1973, Chief Chandler dedicated 29 years of his life to the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

A highly decorated officer, he has put the lives and safety of others before his own. It's no wonder that Dallas Morning News named him a "Special Angel."

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the courage and service of Chief Chandler. His selfless sacrifice, hard work and dedication to his community are an example to us all. The people of Dallas and the surrounding communities are blessed to have his leadership and commitment to our neighborhoods.

Chief, you have my admiration and support as you protect our Great State in the fight for freedom.

God bless you and God bless America.

THE MILITARY RETIREE  
DISLOCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a common sense piece of legislation to help our military retirees. As my colleagues know, service members and their families will move many times in a typical military career. These permanent changes of station or PCS often involve considerable additional expense, including the loss of rental deposits, connecting and disconnecting utilities, and wear and tear on household goods.

To help defray these additional costs, Congress in 1955 adopted the payment of a special allowance—a dislocation allowance. This was done to recognize that duty station changes and resultant household relocations are due to the personnel management decisions of the armed forces and not the individual service members. This amount was increased in 1986 and again in recent years. This is an important benefit for our military members.

However, as important as this benefit is, there is a category of service members who are not eligible to receive the dislocation allowance—the military retiree. This is despite the fact a vast number are subject to the same expenses as their active duty counterpart. In August 2000, the Marine Corps Sergeant Major Symposium recommended the payment of dislocation allowances to retiring members, who in the opinion of the Sergeants Major, bear the same financial consequences on relocating as those still on active service.

Military retirees must often seek employment not knowing what opportunities exist in the civilian world, where those opportunities are located, what the pay will be, or what possibilities are available for spousal employment. Retirees are sometimes faced with the prospective employers who offer less wages knowing they are in receipt of retirement pay, and falsely believing that retirees don't need the same salary as civilians for the same position. Additionally, the military retiree will have to meet the same financial demands for mortgages, insurance, taxes, and food on a smaller income.

For those reasons, I am introducing the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act. This legislation would help ease the transition into retirement by amending 37 USC § 407 to authorize the payment of a dislocation allowance to all members of the armed forces retiring or transferring to an inactive duty status such as the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Reserve. The vast majority of these retirees have given our Nation over 20 years of dedicated service.

They have helped protect the very freedoms we all hold dear. Rather than simply pushing them out the door upon retirement, we should reward their service by providing modest assistance for their final change of station move. That is exactly what Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act does.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORUS WILLIAMS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Florus Williams who passed away in April. Mr. Williams, a highly decorated community member for many years, is survived by his wife of 63 years, Frances, four children, 20 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Williams was born in Fresno, CA, on January 2, 1916, but he lived in Pacific Grove, in my district, for 79 years. He served on the Pacific Grove City Council from 1971 to 1986 and served as mayor of Pacific Grove from 1976 to 1986. Mr. Williams also served as foreman of the Monterey County Grand Jury from 1987 to 1988 and was a member of Masonic Lodge 331 in Pacific Grove. He was also a recipient of the Masons's Hiram Award for his excellent service to the community.

Mr. Williams was known for his firm convictions. He truly believed in his work, and worked to improve the quality of life on the Central Coast. His admirable career of public service was dedicated to the citizens of Pacific Grove, and his contributions have made a significant impact. I, along with the Central Coast community, would like to honor the life of Mr. Florus Williams, whose dedication and contributions will be greatly missed.

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR II  
HERO GINO MERLI, MEDAL OF  
HONOR WINNER

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great American, Gino J. Merli of Peckville, PA. Mr. Merli passed away Tuesday at the age of 78, and with his passing, we have lost a true American hero.

I would like to insert here the two articles which appeared in the Scranton Times and Tribune on Wednesday about Mr. Merli, who exemplified the best of America's "Greatest Generation."

WWII HERO GINO MERLI DIES

(By David Falchek)

Gino Merli didn't embrace fame or his role of war hero.

Yet he accepted them as he lived his life, with a sense of duty.

So the man who rarely talked about the event that earned him the Medal of Honor responded to every letter praising him for his heroic deeds.

Mr. Merli died Tuesday at his Peckville home. He was 78.

On the night of Sept. 4, 1944, Army Pvt. Merli was manning a machine gun when German forces attacked near Sars la Bruyere, Belgium. The outnumbered U.S. forces began their retreat, but Pvt. Merli held his position, providing cover fire. Under attack with his fellow soldiers dying around him, he played possum.

When the Germans turned their attention to the retreating men, Pvt. Merli rose from the ground and fired, repeating the ploy again and again.

When he returned from World War II, his duty became serving other veterans. For 34 years, he was an adjudication officer at the VA Medical Center in Plains Township.

When veterans, unaware of Mr. Merli's record, talked about their war experiences, he never mentioned his own.

"He never put himself or his experiences against anyone else's," explained friend and Marine veteran Ike Refice. "You never saw him point to himself or say 'Look at me. I have this medal.'"

Not much changed in the time since he received a hero's welcome in Scranton in 1945 or walked the beaches of Normandy with Tom Brokaw in 1984.

In 1945, he told a cheering crowd of 500 people at the Hotel Casey that he'd "rather be on the battlefield any day than make a speech."

Yet, in a letter he sent to admirers, he wrote that he may have been motivated by "my dead buddies or my hatred of war."

NBC News anchor and author Tom Brokaw remembers Mr. Merli always talking of other soldiers, rather than himself.

"He was a reluctant warrior, full of modesty and humility," Mr. Brokaw said. "The fact that he went to a church and prayed for men he had killed through the night was typical of him."

Mr. Merli was an inspiration for Mr. Brokaw's book "The Greatest Generation." The two met often. When Mr. Brokaw began writing his book about ordinary people doing extraordinary things, he said he was thinking about Gino Merli.

"I came to love him," Mr. Brokaw said.

Mr. Merli helped change how local people defined "American."

During World War II, Italy's alignment with Axis countries stoked anti-Italian and antiimmigrant sentiments. Italian Americans often found their patriotism questioned.

Gino Merli's heroics helped many in Lackawanna County see beyond ethnicity, said his son, Gino Merli Jr.

"When people saw my father come home and heard what he did, it changed their perception about what it means to be American," he said. "People saw the first- and second-generation immigrants sacrificing life and limb for the United States and for freedom."

In 1994, Mr. Refice and Mr. Merli visited Europe to retrace their steps through Europe. Oddly, the rural area where Mr. Merli held back Nazi troops was unchanged.

They met a Belgian man who, at the age of 16, watched Mr. Merli confound the Nazis again and again. During their visit, the town put a monument in the village common thanking Mr. Merli.

In his final days, he still shied away from speeches. But he did like to stand before a crowd for one purpose, Mr. Refice said. He enjoyed leading a crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lately, Parkinson's disease and a heart ailment held him back.

As a final encore last Saturday, the History Channel showed Roger Mudd's special on the Big Red One, the first infantry division, which featured Mr. Merli.

In letters he sent to admirers, Mr. Merli wrote: