

When we think in terms of national defense these are not names that spring immediately to mind. But the work they have done and the things they have accomplished over the past four decades were essential to the United States winning the Cold War.

These are the men and women who helped design and construct the submarines that kept our Nation safe and free. Today they are designing and constructing a new generation of submarines that will help America win the war on terrorism.

These individuals have truly earned the title Distinguished Shipbuilder. Over the decades, Electric Boat has rightly won a reputation for constructing the best submarines in the world. For the men and women who design and build these incredibly complex ships, unsolvable problems have proven to be nothing more than tremendous opportunities to use their knowledge and skill.

Today Electric Boat continues to provide the United States Navy with the best ships ever to go to sea. They are an integral part of America's national security strategy. As the crews of our submarines protect America's freedom and security around the globe the men and women of Electric Boat can take great satisfaction in knowing that they are essential members of our national security team.

Those who expect to enjoy the blessings of freedom must engage in the hard work of defending it. In synchronization with the men and women in the Navy, the men and women at Electric Boat engage in that demanding work—and we in this chamber and everyone all across America benefit from their labor. When it comes to Electric Boat and the business of designing and constructing submarines, price is what you pay; value is what you get.

I am proud that Electric Boat is in my district—the Second District of Connecticut—and I am proud to share the names of these tireless and dedicated workers with you. They have provided the United States Navy with the most advanced, the most stealthy, the safest and the most lethal vessels ever to go to sea. I ask you to join me in recognizing their contributions to America.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL PAUL
D. MONROE, JR.

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to honor Major General Paul D. Monroe, Jr., the Adjutant General of the California National Guard for his 46 years of military service. He is a credit to his country and the National Guard. General Monroe's leadership and vision have brought the Guard into the 21st century and made the 22,000 soldiers and airmen under his command better prepared than ever before.

Since September 11, General Monroe has mobilized nearly 10,000 soldiers and airmen to fight in the war on terrorism, both at home and abroad. He has deployed soldiers and airmen to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom as well as in missions to secure our borders, bridges and airports.

General Monroe has also helped the Guard reconnect with the communities in California. During his tenure, the Guard has partnered with numerous agencies and organizations to provide successful anti-drug programs and youth education initiatives. The General truly understands the need to give back to the community, and he, along with the extraordinary men and women who serve under him, have made invaluable contributions to cities and towns throughout California.

Recognizing the hard work and dedication of his soldiers and airmen, General Monroe had made "member care" a top priority, working tirelessly to provide high quality services for his troops. He has also established the California National Guard as an exemplary model for diversity and equal opportunity for guard members.

General Monroe began his military career as an enlisted soldier in the U.S. Army in 1957 and joined the California Army National Guard in 1961. He has served in Infantry, Signal, and Military Police Commands, and every level of command from platoon through brigade. He has been honored with over one dozen awards for his service with our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true American hero, Major General Paul D. Monroe, Jr. I extend my best wishes to the General, his wife Laura, their two children and their three grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, regrettably, I was not present for rollcall vote Nos. 569–573 because of a previously scheduled commitment to serve as co-chair and co-host of the National Civil Rights Museum's annual Freedom Awards Banquet in my district in Memphis. The Freedom Awards Banquet was specifically scheduled to occur weeks after the target adjournment date.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 569, 571, 572, 573 and "nay" on rollcall vote 570.

FIFTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
DETONATION OF THE WORLD'S
FIRST THERMONUCLEAR DEVICE
AT ENEWETAK ATOLL IN THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, this week we recognize the 51st anniversary of the detonation by our country of the world's first thermonuclear device at Enewetak Atoll in today's Republic of the Marshall Islands. And as we pause to remember that event, it is also an opportune time for us to recall both the contributions of the people of Enewetak and other atolls of the Marshalls to the security of our country and world, and the difficult legacy which that and subsequent tests have left to their residents and so many others.

This story was told so well last year in an article in the Honolulu Weekly by Honolulu journalist Bev Keever entitled "Fallout: Enewetak Atoll, 50 Years Ago This Week." Subsequently recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists (Hawaii Chapter) for this work, Ms. Keever reminds us about the human impact of "Mike," as the device was known, and counsels us to remember this legacy as we address crucial foreign policy challenges today and the future.

The text of Ms. Keever's article follows:

FALLOUT: ENEWETAK ATOLL, 50 YEARS AGO
THIS WEEK

(By Bev Keever)

[From the Honolulu Weekly, Oct. 30, 2002]

National and media anniversaries of signal events like Sept. 11 help to form the collective memory that, over time and across generations, shapes what a society remembers—or what it forgets.

An anniversary that serves as a news peg for journalists re-ignites powerful emotional connections for those who lived through the event, communication scholar Jill Edy writes, and may be even more influential for those who did not live through the event because it "creates a world they never experienced." Even more important, Edy notes, anniversary journalism "impacts whether we remember our past at all."

An un-remembered part of the U.S. past occurred 50 years ago on Enewetak atoll in the Marshall Islands, some 3,000 miles west of Honolulu. On Nov. 1, 1952, at 7:15 a.m., the U.S. government detonated the world's first thermonuclear device, code-named "Mike," the most powerful man-made explosion in history up to that time. In layperson's terms, it was the prototype for the "hydrogen bomb."

Mike unleashed a yield of 10.4 megatons, an explosive force 693 times more powerful than the atomic bomb that had annihilated Hiroshima in 1945 and the fourth most powerful "shot" of the 1,054 acknowledged nuclear tests in U.S. history. Ushering in the thermonuclear era, the Mike shot raised to a new level the capacity for mass destruction that had been inaugurated by humans with atomic weapons only seven years earlier. Because of this new dimension in the power of nuclear weapons, President Eisenhower observed in 1956, "Humanity has now achieved, for the first time in its history, the power to end its history."

The Mike shot was controversial. Debate raged within the scientific community over detonating the so-called super bomb. One camp warned that the atmospheric chain-reaction from the thermonuclear explosion would immolate the entire planet, University of Hawaii's environmental coordinator John Harrison reports. Calling such fears farfetched, those in the second camp, led by influential physicist Edward Teller, prevailed. The public was not told in advance about the shot for fear that it would influence the presidential election held just three days before. Sixteen days after the Mike shot, U.S. officials announced a thermonuclear experiment, but provided no details.

Mike was a proto-bomb; in fact, it was more like a building, Harrison explains as he studies a sepia-toned photograph of the cylindrical Mike device, about 20 feet in height and 8 to 10 feet in diameter. Weighing 82 tons and standing vertically like the shiny innards of a giant thermos bottle, the cylinder dwarfs a scrawny, shirtless man sitting in a chair, elbows cocked on his knees and staring at the ground on Elugelab island, Enewetak atoll. The cylinder is attached to large tubes to keep its contents of hydrogen fuel, liquid deuteride, refrigerated below its