

Employees, its President Stewart F. Taylor, and all of its members on the 50th Anniversary of the its founding. Half a century of hard work and dedication has led to great success in protecting the benefits of retired federal employees in Chester County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK  
OF RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL  
PAUL ROBBERSON

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of retired Brigadier General Paul Roberson. Today, Paul was brought to his final resting place at our Nation's most hallowed ground, Arlington National Cemetery. Our friend and colleague now rests with America's national heroes.

Although born a Californian, Paul's first assignment as an Air Force officer brought him to Texas, and he spent much of his career in the San Antonio area. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Paul's military honors included the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After a long, distinguished career with the United States Air Force, Paul led efforts in San Antonio to avoid the closure of Kelly AFB during the 1995 BRAC process. With the BRAC decision to close and realign Kelly AFB, Paul wasted no time in working to transform the largest base to be closed in the BRAC process into a productive and vibrant center for aerospace maintenance and international trade. Under his leadership, Kelly AFB became KellyUSA, which now boasts thousands of new jobs and a bright future as a leading industrial and trade center in South Texas. He has left a legacy of success.

Creating KellyUSA was no easy task, and Paul approached it with both determination and optimism. I worked closely with Paul during these years after I came to Congress. Paul always had his list of priority action items and gently, but firmly, made his case. He met obstacles resolutely and with confidence. More often, he welcomed success with humility and appreciation. This is how I will remember Paul.

Paul leaves behind a loving family and a community in San Antonio which he helped shape for the future. We all owe Paul our thanks and appreciation for his life of service to our Nation, to the United States Air Force, to KellyUSA, and to the people of San Antonio. Paul made public service an art, and we all thank him for the tapestry of his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GLOCKNER

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Glockner, a distinguished Cali-

fornian, as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, over a significant period of time. Sacred Heart Schools founded in 1897, includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Robert Glockner, Trustee Emeritus, became involved with Sacred Heart School in 1975 when the first of his four daughters to graduate from Sacred Heart Preparatory enrolled in the school. In 1976 he was asked to serve on the Advisory Board that later became the governing Board of Trustees. Mr. Glockner served as the Chair of the School's first major capital campaign and helped to raise \$3.5 million and funded the completion of the McGanney Gymnasium. From 1984 to 1986 he served as Chair of the Board. For his determination and leadership during his twelve years on the Board he was named Trustee Emeritus, a distinction bestowed on only two other Board members.

I'm exceedingly proud to honor his work, his values, and his commitment to Sacred Heart Schools. He is a model for others to emulate and his leadership will touch generations of students to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Glockner as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for his extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when this House voted on H.R. 1588 in May, I voted against it. I didn't think the bill as it stood then was one I could endorse. The conference report that we are considering today is marginally better. Although I still have strong reservations, I will support the conference report.

We are 2 years into our war on terrorism and still engaged in military action in Iraq. There is no doubt that we must continue to focus on defending our homeland against terrorism, we must support our military personnel, and we must give our military the training, equipment, and weapons it needs to beat terrorism around the world.

That's why I'm in favor of provisions in the bill that support those men and women who have put their lives on the line in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bill provides an average 4.15 percent pay raise for service members, boosts military special pay and extends bonuses, and funds programs to improve living and working facilities on military installations.

I am pleased that the report includes provisions recognizing the importance of non-citizen soldiers and the many sacrifices and contributions they have made. The report eases the naturalization process for these soldiers and their families, reducing to one year the length of service requirement for naturalization

during peacetime; allowing soldiers to apply and take oaths for citizenship overseas; and granting permanent resident status to the surviving family of U.S. citizen soldiers who are granted posthumous citizenship as a result of death incurred in combat.

I'm also pleased that this bill will allow approximately one-third of eligible disabled military retirees to receive both their retirement and disability benefits. I would have preferred that the bill extend this "concurrent receipt" to all disabled retirees, but this is a great improvement on the bill the House considered earlier this year—which included no such provisions. I am also pleased that the bill extends the military's TRICARE health coverage to National Guard and reservists and their families if servicemembers have been called to active duty. These are all necessary and important provisions that I support.

I do have a number of serious reservations about the bill.

I don't believe it addresses 21st century threats as well as it could. With the exception of the Crusader artillery system, the Administration and Congress have continued every major weapons system inherited from previous administrations. So although the bill brings overall defense spending to levels 13 percent higher than the average Cold War levels, it doesn't present a coherent vision of how to realign our defense priorities.

The bill still includes provisions that would exempt the Department of Defense from compliance with some requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). There is broad-based support for existing environmental laws—as there should be—and these laws already allow case-by-case flexibility to protect national security. The Pentagon has never sought to take advantage of this flexibility, so it strains belief that these laws are undermining our national security. Indeed, the General Accounting Office has found that training readiness remains high at military installations notwithstanding our environmental laws. I am not persuaded that the changes to these acts proposed by the military are justified.

The bill still includes worrisome provisions to overhaul DOD's personnel system. Although they are improved from the bill the House considered earlier this year, these provisions would still strip DOD's civilian employees of worker rights relating to due process, appeals, and collective bargaining.

Most disturbingly, the bill still includes provisions on nuclear weapons development. This bill provides funding to study the feasibility of developing nuclear earth-penetrating weapons and authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons. Low-yield nuclear weapons have an explosive yield of five kilotons or less—"only" a third of the explosive yield of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Our obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) require the United States to work towards nuclear disarmament, rather than further increase the size and diversity of our arsenal. By continuing the development of new U.S. nuclear weapons at the same time that we are trying to convince other nations to forego obtaining such weapons, we undermine our credibility in the fight to stop nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that this conference report rolls back civil service