

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF  
2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support of H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006. This measure is vital in giving the President the resources he needs to bring terrorists and enemy combatants to justice. During these uncertain times of conflict and war, the United States requires established procedures to try captured terrorists and protect our troops. The justice system and rules of evidence that apply to enemies of war should be narrowly tailored within the legal framework to effectively prosecute terrorists. I fully support the compromise negotiated between the House, Senate, and Bush Administration on this important legislation. Though I was not able to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 6166 on September 27, 2006, I would like to go on record as being in full support of the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on September 7, 2006, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall 431 and "yea" on Rollcall 433 as pertaining to my support for the Horse Slaughter Prohibition Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

HONORING LT. COL. CURT EDWARD  
STOVER ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE U.S. ARMY**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lt. Col. Curt Edward Stover, a soldier who has served his country with honor and distinction. Lt. Col. Stover is retiring this week following 22 years in the United States military.

First commissioned in the U.S. Army July 6, 1984, Lt. Colonel Curt Edward Stover received his B.S. degree from Texas A&M University. Upon his entry into the Army, he was commissioned Air Defense Artillery.

Traveling around the world during his 22 years of dedicated service, Lt. Col. Stover has served in the Korean demilitarized zone, as well as two tours in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. One of the first soldiers to transfer into the Space Operations Command after it was created, Lt. Col. Stover is Airborne and Air Assault qualified. He has also attended Command General Staff College and held two joint assignments with the Air Force.

During his career, Lt. Col. Stover was a Platoon leader, a Motor officer, a Battalion S-4,

a Task Force S-4, a Patriot Battery Commander, a Squad Tactical Officer USMA, a Patriot Battalion Executive Officer, and on the Architecture Branch Chief Space Command.

Retiring with numerous decorations for his years of service, Lt. Col. Stover has earned the Defense Meritorious Service medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Korean Defense Service Medal. It is clear that during his decades in the armed forces that he has served with both honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Lt. Col. Stover that help make our military the finest fighting force in the world. This Congress congratulates Lt. Col. Stover on his retirement and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT  
KEVIN L. ZEIGLER**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in tribute to Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Zeigler of Braymer, Missouri. Sgt. Zeigler made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on August 12, 2006. As a tribute to his courage, valor, and patriotism, I would like to read a very moving poem that Sgt. Zeigler's uncle, G. Lamar Wilkie, Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy (Retired), wrote for his fallen nephew.

## FINAL TRIP HOME

Staff Sergeant Kevin Zeigler  
Friend of Liberty  
Hero of an oppressed people Defender of faith  
in humanity  
Who helped liberate a nation  
He comes back a hero  
Having given his life for  
The noblest cause of all  
Not of sickness or meek old age  
But in defense of freedom  
No more torture chambers  
Or professional rape rooms  
No poisoned villagers  
Filling mass graves  
At the hands of their own dictator  
Brutally taken from us  
By vicious cowards  
Who attack from shadows and  
Dare not show their faces  
They live to die for death's sake  
But the barbarians  
Though they claim victory  
With fear and destruction  
Suffer terrible loss within  
A defeat of the heart  
Let the bells of liberty  
Toll the passing of a champion  
His race is won, his battle over  
Let eternal love and gratitude guide  
His final trip home.

Dedicated to my nephew, Army Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Zeigler, of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood. He was killed August 12, 2006 when an improvised explosive device detonated near their dismounted patrol during combat operations near Baghdad.

G. LAMAR WILKIE,  
Chief Petty Officer, USN (Ret).

Mr. Speaker, a grateful nation will never forget the heroism, patriotism, and devotion of

Sgt. Zeigler. He sacrificed his life in the line of duty to protect the United States of America, and we as a nation will be eternally indebted to him for his service. I am truly humbled to have had the privilege to represent Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Zeigler—a genuine American hero—in the United States Congress.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILD-  
LIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act. This important bill reauthorizes the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration grant program first enacted in 1990 and renewed in 1998. It builds upon the successes of the program and ensures that both fish and wildlife resources will receive attention. It also expands the scope of the initiative to include grants for regional restoration work undertaken by federal, state, and tribal partnerships. The funds authorized in this legislation are critical to the widespread efforts to restore the vitality and water quality of the Great Lakes basin.

This bill is one small piece of the broader package of restoration priorities contained in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Strategy, released in December 2005. It is also largely the same as Title II of my bill, H.R. 5100, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Implementation Act. I am pleased that we are moving forward to enact some of the changes recommended by the GLRC in its comprehensive strategic action plan. I strongly encourage my colleagues to not only provide the necessary authorizations for conducting restoration activities in the Great Lakes, but also to provide the funding required as well. It is unfortunate that this program has received paltry levels of funding in recent years; much more is needed to accomplish the goals laid out in the GLRC Strategy.

I thank Senator DEWINE, Congressman KILDEE, Congressman KIRK, and all the other Members who sponsored and supported this legislation. Today is a victory for the Great Lakes and for the thousands of good people working to protect and restore fish and wildlife resources there.

## NATO SUMMIT IN RIGA

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cochair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus to draw attention to the upcoming NATO summit in Riga. One of the focuses of this summit will be the next round of possible NATO enlargement, scheduled to occur in 2008. Croatia should be at the top of the candidate list for membership into NATO and deserves an invitation for membership in 2008.

Since achieving independence over a decade ago, Croatia has taken huge strides with

democratic, economic and human rights reforms. They have been a key partner in the international community's efforts to build long-term support and stability in the Southeastern European region, and have been an active supporter of the global war against terrorism. Croatia fully recognizes the fundamental importance of sharing its visions of Euro-Atlantic integration with other countries in the region, and is prepared to be an example for developing democracies.

Croatia has benefited greatly from the substantial investment already made by the United States in the region. This investment illustrates our belief that Croatia is a viable partner in promoting democratic ideals and peace-keeping efforts internationally. I was proud to help further solidify this support last year, with the passage of House Resolution 529, which recommended Croatia's integration into NATO.

At the upcoming summit, NATO officials should be encouraged to definitively express their intentions to issue invitations for membership to qualified aspirant countries at the next summit in 2008, of which Croatia is at the top of the list. I wish to convey my strong support for the reform efforts being made in Croatia, and for an invitation to join NATO in the 2008 enlargement round. My congressional Croatian Caucus cochair, Congressman PETER VIS-CLOSKY, and I have also sent letters to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense encouraging the administration to express support for this goal.

Finally, many individuals have worked very hard to see that this important invitation comes to fruition. I would like to especially thank Congressman VIS-CLOSKY, the Embassy of Croatia, and the multitude of Croatian nationals and Croatian Americans who have been so committed to this cause. I would also like to enter into the RECORD a letter in support of Croatia's membership into NATO.

NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF CROATIAN AMERICANS,  
*September 20, 2006.*

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,  
*Secretary, Department of State,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: The problems in our world today are many and the issues you are currently addressing as the leader of our diplomatic efforts, while on the right course, are extremely challenging. However, I am pleased to point out that one emerging bright spot in the problematic region of Southeast Europe is The Republic of Croatia. Since winning her independence ten years ago, Croatia has made great strides along the path to full North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership by implementing democratic processes, upholding the rule of law, partnering with her neighbors on human rights, remaining a consistent supporter of the global war on terrorism, and demonstrating stable leadership among the countries in that region. In addition, Croatia has diligently pursued her responsibilities under NATO's Membership Action Plan in adapting her military to the interoperable and readily available needs of future NATO strategies.

The upcoming NATO meeting in Riga, Latvia, in November 2006 causes us to remember the great successes of this Alliance. For almost sixty years no member of NATO has ever been attacked, and all member nation-states have been blessed with economic prosperity. This is a group to which The Republic of Croatia aspires and to which she has earned the right to belong. While the NATO

meeting in Riga is scheduled to discuss 2007 as a year of transformation, we must also continue to focus on 2008, which is planned as the next year for possible NATO enlargement. Croatia deserves to be at the top of the list of countries qualifying as ready candidates in the 2008 enlargement round. I write to you today to request that Croatia's membership progress be discussed and properly reviewed with regard to early full NATO membership during the November Summit in Riga.

Croatia's democratic, economic, and defensive progress was recognized by the United States Congress late last year with passage of H. Res. 529 and S. Res. 342, both of which commended her and recommended that she be invited to join NATO as a full member at the earliest possible date. In addition, a delegation from the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA) recently met with key representatives from both the U.S. State Department and the National Security Council and received very positive reports on Croatia's progress toward NATO membership and further integration into other western-oriented multilateral organizations. The NFCA will ensure that the Croatian American community in the U.S. continues to support all of these Congressional and Administration efforts, and we will rally our ethnic community as required.

The NFCA is very pleased with President Bush's recent appointment of Mr. Robert A. Bradtke as the new U. S. Ambassador to The Republic of Croatia. Mr. Bradtke's years of service, particularly with his experiences in the last NATO Enlargement, will serve him and the Croatian people well in these history making years for the country. The NFCA will also carry on its communication with Ambassador Bradtke to assist in any way we can towards greater enhancement of the relationship between the United States and The Republic of Croatia. He understands the importance of NATO for Croatia and is committed to reaching out to the Croatian people to continue building enthusiasm for full NATO membership. Your own support, in promoting the international progress of Croatia, is critically important. The NFCA sincerely appreciates your contributions and achievements in these difficult times for our country, and we ask that you support inviting the friendly country of Croatia to join the NATO Alliance in 2008.

If I may be of personal assistance to you on this important request regarding The Republic of Croatia's goal of full NATO membership, please do not hesitate to contact me at your first convenience. If our Government Relations Office may be of direct assistance to you or your staff, Mr. Joe Foley may also be contacted at the number below.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. ANDRUS,  
*President.*

HONORING THE ALEXANDRIA CONVENTION AND VISITORS ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association for its 10 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Alexandria community. The Association was established as, and remains, the City of

Alexandria's official marketing agency for tourism on what is known as "The Fun Side of the Potomac."

Since ACVA's founding in 1996, annual tourism spending in Alexandria has more than doubled to over \$600 million, and the city's annual revenue from tourism has increased similarly. The direct marketing program created by ACVA has yielded a 58-to-1 return for the city, a number that continues to grow today.

Alexandria's tourism industry employs over 9,000 people who work in the city's hotels, restaurants, attractions, retail shops and related tourism businesses. The tourism industry has helped improve the overall quality of life of all citizens of Alexandria, who enjoy the same amenities enjoyed by visitors to the city.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association and the contributions it has made over the last 10 years making the City of Alexandria one of the most desirable places in America to visit. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the ACVA on its anniversary and to wish the organization all the best in its future endeavors

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AIRCRAFT LANDING AT THE SOUTH POLE BY LCDR "GUS" SHINN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first aircraft landing at the South Pole by Lieutenant Commander Conrad "Gus" Shinn.

Over 60 years ago, Gus became a pilot with the United States Navy and several years later began testing landing "skis" for aircraft to facilitate polar exploration. It was development of these skis through his testing and evaluation that not only allowed the establishment and support of large field stations in the interiors of Greenland and Antarctica but also the aerial mapping of over 200,000 square miles of unexplored polar territory. Gus's leadership was instrumental in developing a system to maintain these field stations and their research efforts.

No one had set foot at the South Pole since 1912, so it was even more remarkable that the next person to set foot in that unforgiving climate would do so by airplane. When Gus completed the first successful landing at the South Pole, he established his position not only as one of the foremost polar explorers but also one of the foremost pilots. His knowledge of polar exploration was considered to be on par with other famous figures such as Admiral Byrd and Lincoln Ellsworth. So highly regarded was his expertise in both aviation and polar exploration that he led the next four "Deep Freeze" missions that also landed at the South Pole. It was these missions, along with two other flights, that Gus participated in that allowed the materials and manpower to be flown in to build the United States base that remains at the South Pole today.

LCDR Shinn retired from the Navy in 1963, a legend in his field. National Geographic highlighted his party's efforts in 1957, but it is