

For nearly 50 years, Mrs. Ruff-O'Herne kept her tortures to herself, too ashamed to admit her horrid experiences even to the people closest to her. In 1992, however, after seeing reports of other comfort women who were speaking out about the atrocities they endured, she decided to make her memories public.

Her 1994 autobiography, *50 Years of Silence*, which was later adapted into a widely-praised and award-winning documentary film, explains in excruciating detail her life in the so-called "comfort station." That she survived this ordeal speaks volumes about her strength, courage, and spiritual convictions.

In the years since she brought her story to public attention, Jan Ruff-O'Herne has been granted honors by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Queen Elizabeth, and Pope John Paul II, in recognition of her efforts to support the human rights of women around the globe.

On February 15, the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment of the Committee on Foreign Affairs will convene a hearing entitled "Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women." Jan Ruff-O'Herne has been invited to share her story with members of the subcommittee.

Thousands of the comfort women of World War II survive today. They are seeking a formal apology from the government of Japan, which has been unwilling to accept responsibility for violating the human rights of these women.

Madam Speaker, last month I introduced a resolution, H. Res. 121, which calls on Japan to formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy that the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II. Not only should Japan's Prime Minister issue a public apology, Japan must take responsibility unequivocally.

The Japanese government owes such an apology to brave women like Jan Ruff-O'Herne.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Jan Ruff-O'Herne and the hundreds of thousands of comfort women who endured unspeakable tortures during World War II and who continue to fight for the human rights of all people more than 60 years later.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN CLOSS  
WALFORD

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolyn Closs Walford on the occasion of her promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years of service in the U.S. Army.

LTC Walford is known to many of my colleagues, because she has served in the Army's House Liaison Division for more than 3 years. Many of us have had the good fortune of working with her on a wide variety of legislative initiatives and programs. She has also coordinated 14 Congressional Delegations to Iraq, more than any other Legislative Liaison currently assigned to the Chief of the Legislative Liaison Office. LTC Walford coordinated official visits I made to Morocco, Israel, and Egypt, and I can therefore attest from first-

hand experience to her professionalism and commitment to duty.

LTC Walford was born and reared in Louisburg, NC. She is the daughter of the late William L. Closs and Fannie S. Closs, the youngest in a large and loving family of ten. Her oldest brother is 30 years her senior and her oldest sister is 18 years older.

LTC Walford is not the first in her family to honorably serve in this Nation's armed forces, although she is the first generation of her family to serve in an integrated military. Her father, SSG William L. Closs, served in WWII during the Normandy Campaign with the 443rd QM Trucking Company. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his bravery and commitment to duty.

LTC Walford was a daddy's girl who joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, while attending Winston-Salem State University. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps upon graduation and accepted a reserve commission in the Army Reserve. She completed the Signal Officers Basic Course at Ft. Gordon, GA, relocated to Washington, DC, to pursue a fulltime career in the private sector while fulfilling her military commitment in the Army Reserve and completing her graduate studies. LTC Walford later made the decision to branch transfer to the Quartermaster Corps, a branch more fitting to support the Army Reserve mission of combat service support. LTC Walford held various positions while serving as the "Citizen Soldiers," to include Company Command, Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of the 352d Civil Affairs Command, Host Nations Support and a variety of logistics assignments. LTC Walford deployed and served seven months in Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Storm.

The Chief, Army Reserve requested her assistance in the start up of a new unit in 1999, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, LOGCAP. LTC Walford's civilian expertise in contracting and her logistical background made her a prime candidate to help facilitate this new unit. Once again, she answered the call to serve and became a fulltime active soldier. She has served in the Army's Guard/Reserve, AGR, Program since 1999.

LTC Walford has received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Accommodation Medal, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Badge, and the Army Staff Badge. She is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff Officers Course, The Quartermaster and Civil Affairs Advanced course, and the U.S. Army Paratrooper School.

This soldier's unique skill set and extraordinarily diverse level of experience both in the public and private sector has been a tremendous asset to our great country. She is a pillar of strength for our Army, her fellow comrades-in-arms, and for her family and friends. My best wishes go out to LTC Walford on her well-deserved promotion, and to her husband, Raymond L. Walford, and her entire extended family on this important occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, had I been present on rollcall vote No. 74, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 75, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 76, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 77, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 78, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 79, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 80, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 81, I would have voted "no"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 82, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 83, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 84, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 85, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 86, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 87, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 88, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 89, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 90, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 91, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 92, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE WYOMING BOARD  
OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL  
LAND SURVEYORS

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Wyoming Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. This board has been serving Wyoming for 100 years by certifying engineers in order to ensure their competence and the highest level of training.

In 1907, when Clarence T. Johnston became the Wyoming State Engineer, there was no national or State certification process for workers. Realizing that many engineers were not trained for their positions, and thus were providing sub-par workmanship, he proposed to the Wyoming State legislature a bill to mandate registration of engineers and to create a board of examiners.

Wyoming became the first State with an engineer licensure law in 1907. Soon after, the Nation followed step; and in 1920, the organization now known as the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying was born. This organization has created licensure standards and professional ethics for engineers countrywide.

Through its licensure regulations and training, the National Council ensures the safety of our Nation's infrastructure. Engineers design our buildings and bridges, they develop our