

demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space.

The 13 women who participated in this program demonstrated the willingness and capability that women all around the world, past and present, possess, and in many cases must possess to overcome an indictment of sexism and discrimination that our society often presents. Although their participation in these tests and trials yielded no concrete results, the 13 women trailblazers ought to be recognized for having endured and overcome such grueling physical, medical and psychological astronautical fitness examinations.

These 13 women—Jerrri Cobb, Wally Funk, Irene Leverton, Myrtle “K” Cagle, Jane B. Hart, Gene Nora Stumbough (Jessen), Jerrri Sloan (Truhill), Rhea Hurrle (Woltman), Sarah Gorelick (Ratley), Bernice “B” Trimble Steadman, Jan Dietrich, and the late Marlon Dietrich and Jean Hixson—all surpassed society’s expectations of rejections, by proving that although women are typically smaller and lighter than men, women are still fit to be good occupants in cramped space vehicles. These women attempted the dream that many others only dreamed of—flying the newest and the fastest craft.

Mr. Speaker, though few Americans know the names of the 13 women trailblazers, their valiant attempts to earn the opportunity to fly a spacecraft call for worldwide recognition. Because of the secrecy of the test programs, these women never received the recognition for their accomplishments, which laid that critical groundwork for women who have reached and those who are seeking to reach the skies. We can show our gratitude and appreciation for these women trailblazers by honoring them with the passing of this bill.

As a representative of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, home to an integral number of space exploration projects, centers, businesses, and constituents employed in the space industry, I strongly support legislation that seeks to inspire, motivate and recognize those individuals who assist with the improvement and advancement of space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 421 to honor the trailblazing accomplishments of the 13 female pilots of Mercury 13.

RECOGNIZING THE TRAVIS REGIONAL ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee (TRAFAC) as they celebrate their 10-year anniversary.

The TRAFAC is comprised of over 150 business and civic leaders who work together to support the men and women of Travis Air Force Base. The mission of the TRAFAC is to “maintain liaison with personnel at Travis Air Force Base, promote the mission of the base

to the community, and enhance the importance of the facility as an instrument of national security.”

The TRAFAC meets monthly on base to receive updates from the Commanders of the 60th AMW, 349 AMW Reserve, and 615 CRW and to recognize airmen from the various wings for going “above and beyond” in their service.

In addition, the TRAFAC hosts various events throughout the year to bring the communities surrounding the base and base personnel closer together. Events include the Military Recognition Night, NCO Night, and Commander’s Night. The TRAFAC also hosts a Contractor’s Breakfast to educate businesses about bidding for contracts on base.

Moreover, the TRAFAC was instrumental in working with the local community to ensure the Base Realignment and Closure Panel understood the vital role of Travis AFB in securing the Nation.

A great deal of the TRAFAC’s success is due in part to the leadership of the Fairfield-Suisun and Vacaville Chambers of Commerce and the Committee’s own leadership. Past Presidents include Don Erickson, 1997–1998, Bev Dorsett, 1998–1999, Al Lavezzo, 1999–2000, Len Augustine, 2000–2001, Gary Falati, 2001–2002, Dale Baumler, 2002–2003, Ben Huber, 2003–2004, Bud Ross, 2004–2005, Ray Schoch, 2005–2006, and Foy McNaughton, 2006–2007.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with the TRAFAC to support Travis AFB, both locally and in Washington, and have had the opportunity to support their nomination as the best base support organization in the Air Mobility Command.

As the TRAFAC celebrates their 10-year anniversary, I would like to thank current and past members of TRAFAC for their dedication to the men and women of Travis AFB and recognize them for their support of the base and its vital mission.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RONALD A. RUTLAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and career of Colonel Ronald A. Rutland. Colonel Rutland is the commander of the 512th Airlift Wing at the Dover Air Force Base. Colonel Rutland is a distinguished member of the Reserves Officers Association with more than 6,500 flying hours in training, airlift and tanker experience. I commend Colonel Rutland for his years of public service defending our Nation.

Colonel Rutland received a Bachelor Degree of Political Science at Mississippi State University in 1973, and in 1977 attended the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Colonel Rutland’s passion for learning never subsided, and in 1988, he went back to school to receive his Masters of Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle University.

Colonel Rutland received his undergraduate pilot training at the Columbus Air Force Base in 1973. From 1977 until the present, Colonel Rutland has served in various areas of command, including Air Training, Strategic Air Command, and Air Mobility Command, at six different Air Force Bases within the United States. Most recently, Colonel Rutland served in Iraq as the commander of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base.

Ronald has served as a distinguished member of the United States Air Force for 34 years and has been honored on several occasions for his service. He has received countless awards such as the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Colonel Rutland for his continued dedication to the Air Force. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our Nation. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware and the United States of America.

HONORING REV. RICHARD P. OLDHAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Richard P. Oldham, an exemplary citizen and friend from my Congressional District. Rev. Oldham will celebrate his 50th anniversary this month as Pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

A native of Louisville, KY, Rev. Oldham began his ministry at the First Baptist Church in Savannah, TN while attending nearby Union University. He later earned an advanced degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and served various churches in Kentucky, Michigan, and Arkansas.

In 1957, he came back to Kentucky to become pastor of Glendale Baptist Church. During his five decades of spiritual leadership, over 250 young men and women have gone on to serve in the pastorate and in other mission assignments all over the world. He has also presided over an estimated 4,000 baptisms.

Rev. Oldham has remained very active in the Glendale community throughout his tenure including over 30 years as director of the Annual Youth Bible Conference at Camp Joy; numerous speaking roles at the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention; and past service as President of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor’s Conference. Rev. Oldham is also the founder of Anchored Christian School in Bowling Green.

It is my great privilege to honor Rev. Richard P. Oldham today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the Warren County community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.