

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LIEF ERICKSON RECOGNIZED FOR  
VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

—  
**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Mr. Lief Erickson, of Houston, TX, was recently recognized by the NAACP when he was given the ALEX award or Award for Legal Excellence. The award was named after Congressman Alexander Green who was president of the Houston branch of the NAACP for 10 years.

The award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the NAACP's Houston legal programs, people who have demonstrated a commitment to pro bono legal services within the community or to people whose legal contributions significantly impacted persons in the community served by the NAACP.

The path to being recognized with this prestigious award began a long time ago when Erickson was living in Houston in 1977 and working as a carpet layer. He met a young up-and-coming lawyer who recognized his potential and encouraged him to become a lawyer to make a difference in the community.

With only a 10th grade education and rugged determination, Erickson decided to become an attorney. After obtaining his high school equivalency diploma, he enrolled in the University of St. Thomas and earned a Bachelor's Degree in psychology. He later entered and graduated from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall Law School. I had the pleasure of swearing him in as an attorney marking this great accomplishment. It was a long journey in Erickson's life to go from high school dropout to attorney.

After completing law school, he worked for a private law firm for 2 years and then became a prosecutor for the Drug Task Force in Waller County, Texas. Two years later, Erickson realized that his heart and conscience were better suited for criminal defense to assist the downtrodden and disenfranchised. Since 2000, Erickson has defended more than 3,000 clients. He has also devoted his weekends over 13 months to give back to the community as a volunteer to help the NAACP with criminal defense cases in their pro bono legal redress clinic. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays he volunteers to assist walk-in clients with consultation and legal advice. By donating his weekends to serve others, he is a shining example of service above self.

It is for his generous volunteer efforts that the NAACP recognized Mr. Erickson with the ALEX Award. I salute Lief Erickson for his spirit of service and volunteerism.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL  
RONALD H. MARKARIAN

—  
**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor MG (California Retired) Ronald Markarian for his dedicated service to the veterans of Fresno, California.

Major General Markarian was born and raised in the Fresno area and graduated from California State University, Fresno. While in college he joined the Army National Guard, where he served for 3 years with the Heavy Mortar Company of the 185th Infantry Regiment. He entered the Air Force upon graduating from college. While in the Air Force, Major General Markarian served in many positions, including a position at the Pentagon, as Chief of Air Reconnaissance Systems and as Director of the USAF Intelligence Reserve Forces. After 30 years of military service, he retired in August 1980 as a colonel.

Immediately after retirement, Major General Markarian became a member of the California State Military Reserve and was assigned to the headquarters, State Military Reserve at the California Military Department in Sacramento, where he was eventually appointed Commanding General of the State Military Reserve. In July 1990, he was promoted to Major General. After nearly 46 years of uniformed military service, Major General Markarian retired in October 1995. His service to his community and the veterans did not stop upon his retirement.

Major General Markarian has received many awards, including two Legion of Merit awards and the Bronze Star. He has received awards from many military organizations, including the Association of the U.S. Army's National Golden Eagle Award and National Distinguished Service Award, and he was the 2002 recipient of the organization's Anthony Drexel Biddle Award, President's Award. Major General Markarian has also graduated from several military schools and holds a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University.

Major General Markarian is active in community affairs and has served in a variety of leadership roles in military, veteran and public service organizations. He served on several State and Federal boards and has been the Director of the United States Selective Service System in California since his appointment in 1987. He was instrumental in founding the Association of the United States Army, AUSA, Chapter 6105 in 1982, and served as the first president of the chapter. He later served two additional terms. In total, he served 15 years as president. During his last presidency, the chapter was designated Best Chapter in AUSA for 7 consecutive years, from 2000 to 2006. He also served as the AUSA sixth region president and an AUSA national trustee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of MG Ronald Markarian for his tireless service

to the military and veteran community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Major General Markarian many years of continued success.

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**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF  
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2008**

—  
SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations bills. This bill begins to correct key deficits in biomedical research, elementary and secondary education, job training, and health care for veterans and civilians alike, and sets out a clear, sustainable vision for the future. I want to thank and congratulate Chairman OBEY, Ranking Member WALSH, the Conferees and their staff for putting together such an excellent bill, one which will bring needed relief to so many of our constituents.

The President, of course, has vowed to veto this bill, because he believes it costs too much, that we can't afford to make these investments in cancer research, in Head Start, in economic development. Meanwhile, the President is asking us to spend an additional \$200 billion this year alone in his misguided war in Iraq. \$9.8 billion, the amount by which this bill exceeds the President's request, would pay for approximately 1 month of that war. Instead, this bill would use that money to help States provide health coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, help college-ready low-income students afford higher education, and help low-income individuals and their families keep their homes warm in the winter-time—a winter-time that could well feature oil at costs in excess of \$100 a barrel.

The President says we can't afford to make these investments; I believe we can't afford not to. These are investments which pay dividends over time, investments which will keep America strong, competitive and healthy.

While I strongly support this Conference Report, I would be remiss if I didn't express my concern that this bill includes a \$27.8 million increase for abstinence education programs, which research has shown to be ineffective, and worse, often medically inaccurate. Since 2001, we have spent more than \$1 billion on these programs, some of which tell our children that using condoms is "like Russian Roulette," and that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through skin-to-skin contact.

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