

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF PFC ADAM LEE MARION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of sacrifice and service of PFC Adam Lee Marion of Dobson, North Carolina. Private First Class Marion, who served in the Army National Guard's 171st Engineer Company, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country last week when he fell in combat near Baghdad, Iraq.

Private First Class Marion's life exemplified the citizen-soldier ethic of the Army National Guard. He was known for his kindness and his heart for children. He loved to serve at home and in Iraq to protect the lives of these most vulnerable members of society. Taken at the age of 26, Private First Class Marion leaves a legacy of compassion, bravery and sacrifice.

His patriotism and selfless service to country is captured in his decision to deploy to Iraq with the 171st when he learned his original unit would not deploy. This is a remarkable sacrifice and a true sign of Private First Class Marion's readiness to serve his country even at the risk of his own safety.

His fellow soldiers testified to Private First Class Marion's professional skill as a soldier, his bravery in the face of danger and his sacrifice for his country. As the operator of a "Husky," a vehicle that detects improvised explosive devices for convoys, he was on the front lines in Iraq. In fact, his team helped clear IEDs from more than 100 convoy routes during his service in Iraq.

Private First Class Marion is survived by his parents Pam and Don Marion and his sister, Adrian. His sacrifice for our freedom will never be forgotten. He was a man who was acquainted with the dangers of combat and yet gave his life to a cause much greater than himself. In this and much more he is a hero and he hands down to future generations a legacy of valor, honor and the love of freedom.

Madam Speaker, my prayer is that he will long be remembered as a man who faithfully answered the call of duty to country. My thoughts and my prayers are with Private First Class Marion's family. May they know comfort of God's presence at this very difficult time. The people of North Carolina and our nation are blessed to remember him as an honored son and we mourn his passing and celebrate his life.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTHDAY OF
JAMES MONROE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the 250th anniversary of the birthday of James Monroe, a First District of Virginia native. James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County on April 28, 1758, and was raised and educated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

James Monroe attended the College of William and Mary, fought as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army, and practiced law in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As a politician, Monroe served in the Virginia Assembly, The Continental Congress, as Governor to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as a US Senator, Secretary of State and Secretary of War to President James Madison. Ultimately, James Monroe became our fifth President of the United States.

As Minister to France, Monroe helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase. During his early years in the White House his administration was known as the "Era of Good Feelings", a time period in American political history in which partisan bitterness abated. Yet, Monroe may be best remembered for his belief that the Americas should be free from future European colonization and interference in sovereign countries' affairs. His strong opinions and principles on foreign policy came to be known as the Monroe Doctrine.

The citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and especially America's First District express their gratitude to James Monroe, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of his birthday. James Monroe was a loyal public servant and an exceptional statesman. His ideals and leadership qualities are such that all citizens, not only of Virginia, but the United States can admire and learn from.

As President Monroe once stated, "In this great nation there is but one order, that of the people, whose power, by a peculiarly happy improvement of the representative principle, is transferred from them, without impairing in the slightest degree their sovereignty, to bodies of their own creation, and to persons elected by themselves, in the full extent necessary for the purposes of free, enlightened, and efficient government".

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOINT
GUAM PROJECTS OVERSIGHT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced H.R. 5931, the Joint Guam Projects Oversight Act, to ensure appropriate implementation and oversight of the realignment of military installations and the relocation of military personnel on Guam. I am joined by my colleague from Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, in introducing this legislation.

The rebasing of military forces from Okinawa, Japan to Guam is a component of the United States-Japan Alliance Transformation and Realignment Agreement signed in May 2006. Additionally, planned for Guam is the reassignment of a significant number of airmen from Korea, the standing-up of a U.S. Army air defense battalion and improvements to Naval Base Guam. These major realignments present significant challenges and opportunities for the community on Guam.

Over the next 6 years the Department of Defense and the Government of Japan plan to spend over \$10 billion to support the realignment of units of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa to Guam and an additional \$3 billion on upgrades and improvements at Andersen Air Force Base. The Gov-

ernment of Japan has pledged to contribute over \$6 billion to support the rebasing of units from Okinawa to Guam through direct contributions to the United States Treasury and through Special Purpose Entities (SPEs). Funding of some projects by a foreign government poses significant challenges to Congress's right and responsibility to oversee this realignment. H.R. 5931 creates a new account for the realignment to Guam. The account entitled the "Guam Defense Policy Review Initiative Account" would help the Department of Defense manage its expenditures on projects associated with the realignment of military forces on Guam.

This legislation also addresses the unique nature of the SPEs. Department of Defense officials indicate that SPEs are intended to operate in a manner similar to other public-private ventures that currently exist with respect to other projects in the United States. Our legislation expresses a Sense of Congress that the SPEs should operate as public-private ventures. It also encourages the Department of Defense to ensure that all construction projects on Guam, operated and maintained by SPEs, should meet U.S. standards. It also encourages the Department of Defense along with the Government of Japan to consider utilizing the SPEs for projects other than military housing and utility infrastructure improvements. Moreover, if the SPEs are utilized to improve utilities on Guam the improvements must be made to the overall grid operated by the Government of Guam and not solely for the benefit of military installations. Improvements to the overall utility infrastructure on Guam will be more cost-effective.

The \$13 billion investment by the Department of Defense and the Government of Japan is intended primarily for military infrastructure. However, the Government of Guam estimates that additional funds will be needed to improve civilian infrastructure, including schools, public safety, water, wastewater, utility, and road improvements to accommodate the additional population on the island. As we near the end of the Bush Administration's term it is important that the Federal Government work closely with the Government of Guam to develop Memoranda of Understanding, MOU, to ensure Federal commitments that Guam can rely on. The MOUs can be facilitated by utilizing the Interagency Group on the Insular Areas, IGIA, established by executive order of the President. The legislation includes a Sense of Congress that these MOUs must be developed to ensure that the build-up is a success. In reference to planning, the legislation also authorizes the Office of Economic Adjustment, OEA, within the Department of Defense to provide planning funds to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI. This will support appropriate planning by the Government of the CNMI for increases in population and military activity resultant from the establishment and utilization of training ranges in the CNMI. Currently, the OEA lacks the authority in law to provide planning funds to the CNMI and this provision would correct this omission in law.

It is important that military construction projects on Guam be energy friendly and meet strong environmental design standards. The legislation requires the Department of Defense to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, silver rating standards. LEED standards have been developed and