

A TRIBUTE TO THE SONS OF THE
REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California for 115 years of outstanding service to the people of the State of California and this great Nation.

For more than a century, the American Heritage Library and Museum has been operated for the purpose of acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition, and educational interpretation of historical artifacts of the colonial and early periods of America's history. The American Heritage Library and Museum has preserved precious documents by focusing on historic figures who contributed to the history of the State of California, including but not limited to archival records, histories, books, rolls, documents, artifacts and works of art that increase and diffuse knowledge into these periods of history for the enrichment of the citizens of California.

The preservation of our Nation's military heritage has always been of a primary concern of the Sons of the Revolution. When the Sons of the Revolution was formed, a National Archive did not exist. Originally, each branch and agency of the U.S. Government was responsible for maintaining its own documents, which often resulted in the loss and destruction of records. For almost 150 years, the Federal Government had virtually no method or place to safeguard historically important records. As a result, on November 8, 1810, fire destroyed most of the records of the American Army and Navy of the American Revolution in the custody of the War Department.

As part of a national organization, composed solely of the posterity of those venerable men who, by their acts or counsel between April 19, 1775, when the Revolutionary War commenced, and April 19, 1783, when that conflict ceased, in the military, naval or marine service of the United States, or in the service of the Continental Congress or the congress of any of the original 13 Colonies, helped achieve America's independence, these members of the Sons of the Revolution lobbied Congress for the passage of a law that directed the War Department to establish a national collection of both American Revolution and War of 1812 records.

Today, the main National Archives Building holds the original copies of the three main formative documents of the United States and its Government: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as well as Magna Carta. These are displayed to the public in the main chamber, called the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. The National Archives Building also exhibits other important American historical documents such as the Louisiana Purchase and the Emancipation Proclamation, as well as other historically and culturally significant American artifacts.

The Sons of the Revolution's national efforts to preserve America's priceless heritage was not limited to the establishment of the National Archives. In the intervening years since the establishment of the National Archives, the

Sons of the Revolution in the State of California and its members continued their efforts to preserve the records of both National and State significance and have assembled a collection of some 35,000 volumes of books and manuscripts which have been described as one of the best in its field. And, in keeping with the purpose of the Society, "to collect and secure for preservation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period," for over a century, the members of the Sons of the Revolution, through their patriotic spirit, love of country, and devotion to the principles on which our Nation was founded, have operated and maintained the American Heritage Library and Museum for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of California.

It is because of these numerous accomplishments I rise today to recognize the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California for its 115 years of service to the people of the State and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Sons of the Revolution for its outstanding service to the city of Glendale and surrounding communities.

HONORING SERGEANT MERLIN
GERMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine SGT Merlin German, who passed away on April 11, more than 3 years after surviving a roadside blast in Iraq.

Merlin, a graduate of Woodlands High School, was a dedicated friend, son, brother, and citizen. Those who met him could not deny his big heart, entrepreneurial spirit, and great sense of humor. The youngest of eight children born to Dominican immigrants, he and his siblings were not allowed to play with toy guns in the house. Yet this did not prevent him from realizing his childhood goal of serving in the military, and he enlisted in the Marines in September 2003.

Merlin German became part of a weapons platoon for convoy security in Iraq in the fall of 2004 and was charged with spotting improvised explosive devices. On February 20, 2005, a bomb exploded next to his vehicle. Merlin survived the blast, but began his own battle for survival.

Over 97 percent of his body was burned in the explosion, and he was given just a 3 percent chance of survival. Merlin proved to be a true fighter who, despite undergoing more than 100 operations over the next three years, maintained his positive outlook. He cracked jokes and mentored new patients at the Brooke Army Medical Center, where he was an inpatient. While recovering, he started a charitable foundation, Merlin's Miracles, to help burned children.

Sergeant German passed away last month, more than 3 years after returning from Iraq. Only 22 years old, Merlin was a true patriot and inspiration to all. A recipient of the Purple Heart, he fought valiantly on behalf of our country. He continued his fight to improve the lives of others, in his efforts to assist burn victims, upon his return to the U.S. Our Nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Merlin German serving in our armed services.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of SGT Merlin German, along with all of our Nations' other fallen heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on its 100th anniversary. On this important centennial, I would like to commemorate the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the shipyard. In their honor, I have introduced H. Res. 1193.

Congress established the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on May 13, 1908, and it has grown from a "coaling and repair station" to being known as the "No Ka Oi Shipyard" and a national treasure that is strategically important to our Nation and equally vital to Hawaii. During World War II, shipyard workers earned the motto, "We keep them fit to fight", by resurrecting the United States Pacific Fleet from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, helping turn the tide of the war at Midway, and maintaining the ships that would ultimately win victory at sea and sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay.

Throughout the decades, the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting America's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, and national missile defense. It continues to support the United States Pacific Fleet as the largest ship repair facility between the western coast of the United States and the Far East, providing full-service maintenance for Pacific Fleet ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater.

The shipyard has become the largest single industrial employer in Hawaii and is the largest fully integrated military-civilian workforce involved in full-service shipyard work in the United States. The shipyard has a direct annual economic impact of more than \$600,000,000 in Hawaii, and through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student-hire programs, provides extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities for residents. Moreover, the shipyard has earned multiple national awards for its dedicated environmental stewardship and excellent safety programs, such as the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Star award in May 2007.

On this historic day, I would like to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and congratulate the men and women who provide exceptional service to our military and keep our Pacific Fleet "fit to fight."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL O'NEILL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to