

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
WALTER WOJDAKOWSKI

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American soldier who has dedicated his life to our country. Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski will retire from the U.S. Army Jan. 1 after more than three decades of service, capping his career as the commanding general at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga.

A native of Colorado, Wojdakowski found a welcoming home in Georgia. In this way he is no different than thousands of soldiers who've come before him. The people of west Georgia are deeply proud of Fort Benning; they hold the soldiers in high esteem and treat them like part of the family.

Wojdakowski felt that family feeling strongly in 1976 when he was first stationed at Fort Benning. On one fateful July night that year, a young Columbus woman named Candy Cooper caught his eye at the officers' club. It wasn't long before they were off on their first date at a local Shoney's Big Boy and a year later Candy Cooper would become Candy Wojdakowski. The soldier's lifelong love would become his lifelong partner in service to their nation and to fellow military families.

As a military family, the Wojdakowskis have moved their family to points across the nation and across the globe—from Georgia to Alaska to Germany and Kuwait. The Wojdakowskis' road, however, often pointed back toward Georgia. In 1993, then a colonel, Wojdakowski assumed command of the 11th Regiment at Fort Benning. He returned in 1996 as a brigadier general.

Wojdakowski's final tour of duty at Benning began in 2005 when the major general took charge of the entire base. Wojdakowski's crowning achievement in the military would come at the same base where his own family began, Fort Benning, GA. There, at the world's largest infantry training center, Wojdakowski kept the focus on training our nation's warriors and supporting the War on Terror. At the same time, his leadership prepared Benning for a massive expansion that will greatly transform the base.

While it was the general alone who wore the uniform that got a little heavier every year with military hardware, Wojdakowski's career was anything but a solo mission. It was a family affair. Candy volunteered at every port of call. For example, she ran a family support group at Fort Hood during the first Gulf War. At Fort Benning, she worked as a master trainer for Army Family Team Building and she began a leadership seminar. Their son Steven followed in his father's footsteps. After graduating from Columbus High School in 1998, Steven entered West Point—where his 6 foot 4 inch father played on the basketball team under coach Bobby Knight 30 years before. Steven, now a captain, is currently serving in Iraq as a Troop Commander to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Their daughter Ami may have started a family tradition when she got married earlier this year in the same Fort Benning chapel where her parents tied the knot.

The American people owe the Wojdakowskis a debt of gratitude for a lifetime

of service and sacrifice, a lifetime of duty before self. Maj. Gen. Wojdakowski has worn his nation's uniform with honor, dignity and pride since the day he graduated from West Point. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to thank the general and his wife Candy for everything they have given us. I congratulate them on their many accomplishments and wish them years of happiness as they retire to beautiful Harris County in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO JOHN  
S. PERAGALLO

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, John S. Peragallo, who passed away on September 12, 2008 at the age of 76. He will be remembered for his life long dedication to his family, friends, and his family business.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for he brought joy and peace, through his craft, to many others throughout his lifetime.

John was born in New York, but was a lifelong resident of Paterson, NJ. He graduated from Eastside High School in 1949 and went on to take several classes at Newark College of Engineering. He served our country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was a chaplain's assistant and a member of the honor guard.

Since John's childhood, he helped his father in the family business of building and servicing pipe organs. The Peragallo Pipe Organ Company was founded by his father, John Peragallo, Sr., in 1918, after learning the craft as an apprentice with the famous E.M. Skinner Organ Company. John Jr. joined the company in 1949 and made the business stronger with a close father-son relationship. John Peragallo, Jr. was President of the company. He was responsible for the construction and care of many of the pipe organs throughout New Jersey, and for the complete renovation of the organs at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. John Jr.'s sons, John III and Frank, have been actively involved in the business since the 1980's and now a fourth generation of Peragallos, Janine, Anthony, and John IV, work alongside them. The company has installed almost 700 new organs and currently maintains about 400 along the east coast, including those at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

John was a member of the American Guild of Organists, Northern NJ Chapter, St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity and was active with the Boy Scouts of America when his sons were younger.

John and his wife Christine met at the St. Anthony's Church Carnival in Paterson in 1955, and he took her to the Plaza Theatre in Paterson on their first date. Christine was indoctrinated into the family business on their second date, which was to a church so John could check the organ. They married eleven months after meeting and had a dynamic, spontaneous, loving marriage of fifty-two years.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, Christine, his children John III and his wife Kathleen, Frank and his wife Josephine, Stephen and his wife Debra, and Christine Egan and her husband Christopher, his 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson, and his sister Catherine Miller and her husband Charles.

Although John passed away, his spirit will always be with us. John will forever be remembered for the love he shared with his family and friends, and for the music that is made with the grand instruments that John spent his life constructing and maintaining.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing individuals like John S. Peragallo.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, John's family and friends, all those who have been touched by the sacred music that he helped to create, and me in recognizing the contributions of John S. Peragallo.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER MORROW

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Morrow of Blue Springs, Missouri. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Morrow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 37TH RYDER  
CUP AT VALHALLA

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, today my hometown of Louisville continues to recover from windstorms that battered our region, leaving hundreds of thousands without power. Still, the resilient residents of our community will rise to host the 37th Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Course, and in turn, the Ryder Cup will generate tens of millions of dollars for our local economy over the next five days.

This is the culmination of Dwight Gahn's vision when he commissioned Jack Nicklaus to design a Louisville golf course. The course has twice held the PGA championship and today ascends to new heights with the 80-year-old, biennial summit of sports. Here, Europe's best golfers will compete against America's greatest, not for personal wealth but for the spirit of competition. More than three million dollars will be donated to charity on behalf of the Ryder Cup.