

deploy on short notice to support more than 10,000 guardsmen, reservists, and civilians at the world's largest joint air reserve base.

With our military engaged in two wars, this chamber must take the opportunity to express thanks to all of our military aviators and other troops abroad who have defended our homeland and the values and ideals we espouse as a nation. I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing 100 years of military aviation is just one reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE OFFICE OF PARKS  
AND RECREATION, CITY OF OAKLAND

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Year Anniversary of the City of Oakland's Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR). On July 25th, at an Old Fashion Community Celebration at deFremery Park, local families, sports enthusiasts and nature lovers celebrated what has been accomplished in one century: 100 parks, 2,500 acres of open space, 26 recreation and community centers, and the innumerable rewarding activities Oakland residents enjoy because of them.

In 1909 both the Playground and Park Commissions were formed. During the Playground Commission's first meeting, they allocated \$600 for a vacation program at two school grounds and established a Playground Division under the Department of Public Works. One year later, the first municipal playgrounds opened at the deFremery, Bushrod and Bayview sites. The City also issued a million-dollar bond to purchase lands around Lake Merritt.

Today, we recognize the true worth of those initial investments. In addition to offering recreation services in athletics, science, art, aquatics, boating, gardening, music, and culture, Oakland's parks help foster a sense of community ownership. One OPR motto, "Play with a Purpose," illustrates an important point. It reminds us that healthy, outdoor play is an essential part of our wellbeing and personal growth.

Over the last 100 years, Oakland Parks have transformed, mirroring the rich culture and history of the surrounding community: In 1932, Oakland's first Municipal Rose Garden opened its doors; the deFremery recreation center housed servicemen in December of 1941, nine days after the Pearl Harbor attacks; a camp for children with disabilities and

a Senior Citizen program were created in 1948, and ten years later, the award-winning Arroyo Viejo Children's Theater opened, but succumbed to fire in 1970.

There have been Japanese Gardens, golf courses, children's folk dance festivals and choruses. Children's Fairyland, visited by Walt Disney while he developed his Disneyland concept, was the first theme park in the nation designed for small children. But, during inevitable change, one constant has remained: Oakland Parks' steadfast accessibility to people of all ages, abilities and interests.

The variety and scope of Oakland Parks' community participation is vast. For example, OPR recreation centers host Radical Roving Recreation programs that provide social, health and life skills development for underserved young people. The Golden State Warriors basketball team Makin' Hoops Program helps to renovate basketball courts and provides athletic services. On a national scale, the U.S. Olympic Trials for canoe and kayak flatwater sprint were held at Lake Merritt in 2004.

This year, Lakeside Gardens also celebrates its 50th anniversary and OPC intends to return the gardens to their original splendor. Oakland has much to look forward to as the Office of Parks and Recreation continues its commitment to beautify the city and engage park visitors in a shared civic pride.

I am confident that exciting partnerships and programs such as these will continue to thrive under the guidance of OPR's excellent leadership. In the next 100 years, the City of Oakland, partnering with the Office of Parks and Recreation, will continue to encourage community values, physical activity and personal development through the beauty of its open spaces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, and 779, I was not present due to a family commitment in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 775, "yea" on 776, "yea" on 777, "yea" on 778, and "yea" on 779.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GARLAND  
HOWARD

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor FORMER Daviess Circuit Judge Garland Howard, a true Kentuckian. Mr. Howard is well-known in the Owensboro community as a valued leader, visionary and hard-worker.

Mr. Howard, who had been Daviess County Master Commissioner since 1985, was appointed to the circuit judgeship by Governor Paul Patton in 1995.

His passion and love for the Ohio River was expressed through his development projects, which inspired and led the way for growth and expansion in Owensboro.

Even though Mr. Howard gave so much of himself to his community, the love he gave to his wife Mary Ann and to his children was unparalleled. Mr. Howard passed away on October 7, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Howard family.

Garland Howard will forever be remembered by the amazing legacy he leaves behind through the lives he touched, the projects he created and the children who he taught by example to be community leaders in their own right.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM  
WAR VETERANS EVENT

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

[Sept. 12, 2009]

TRUMAN LIBRARY SPEECH

(By MG (Ret.) Robert H. Scales)

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the