HONORING DOLPHAS TROTTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Dolphas Trotter upon being awarded the “Community Health Champions Award” at the 2009 West Fresno Health Care Coalition’s 5th annual “This Is Your Life of Service” lunch and awards ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Mr. Dolphas Trotter was born in 1940 in Idabel, Oklahoma. In 1945 the Trotter family moved cross-country and settled in Southwest Fresno, California. Mr. Trotter attended Washington Union High School where he played football. During his senior year, he participated in the annual Fresno City-County All-Star game, which earned him a football scholarship to College of the Pacific, known today as University of the Pacific. Mr. Trotter graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor’s degree and returned to Fresno and began working for Fresno County Department of Social Services.

Shortly after his return to Fresno, Mr. Trotter was drafted into the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1969. This experience affirmed his belief in the value of education and community. When he returned to Fresno from his military service, he began a career in education. The first of many positions Mr. Trotter held in education was at Franklin Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. He moved on to teach at Edison High School, where he later became the Vice Principal and the first African American principal of the school. Mr. Trotter had a successful career in the Fresno school system, including serving as Principal at Tioga Middle School and Cooper Middle School. For a brief time he served as the first African American interim superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District and then served as the Superintendent at New Millennium Charter Schools.

Mr. Trotter was also a firm believer in community service. He sat on many boards and worked with many organizations, including the African American Historical and Cultural Museum, the Association of California School Administrators, Cedar Vista Hospital Advisory Board, Channel 24 Portrait of Success Board member, National Alliance of Black School Educators, State Center Community College Foundation and Washington Union School Board. For his service to these organizations Mr. Trotter has received many accolades.

Mr. Trotter and his wife met while working at the Fresno County Department of Social Services. They were married in 1972 and raised their family of four children, including two adopted daughters. They were married in 1972 and raised their family of four children, including two adopted daughters. Mr. Trotter passed away on March 18, 2009. His sons Steve, Bruce, and daughters Sherry and Kim were all involved in the final arrangements for the service.

Mr. Trotter was an inspirational role model for the people of Fresno and the residents of South-Central Fresno. He was drafted into the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1969. This experience affirmed his belief in the value of education and community. When he returned to Fresno from his military service, he began a career in education. The first of many positions Mr. Trotter held in education was at Franklin Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. He moved on to teach at Edison High School, where he later became the Vice Principal and the first African American principal of the school. Mr. Trotter had a successful career in the Fresno school system, including serving as Principal at Tioga Middle School and Cooper Middle School. For a brief time he served as the first African American interim superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District and then served as the Superintendent at New Millennium Charter Schools.

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Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 1, I was unable to cast my vote on three suspension bills due to my attendance of the President’s address to the Nation from the United States Military Academy. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yes” on rollcall vote 911, “yes” on rollcall vote 912, and “yes” rollcall vote 913.

Colonel H. Hoxie Retires After 27 Years Service with the United States Air Force

HON. CATHY McMorris Rodgers
Of Washington
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize COL Hal Hoxie on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force. Colonel Hoxie was born November 6, 1958 in Cheyenne, Washington, and went to college at Eastern Oregon State University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in business in 1983. He received his commission through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1983 and was selected to attend pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. During pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Colonel Hoxie’s professionalism and attention to detail marked him as a natural leader and upon graduation he was selected to remain a T–38 instructor and chief flight examiner. Subsequently, Colonel Hoxie was recognized as the distinguished graduate from his pilot instructor training course. In May 1988, Colonel Hoxie converted to the F–15c at the 60th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and was immediately called upon to fly in support of Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama. During his time at Eglin Air Force Base, Colonel Hoxie attended Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, where he was recognized as a top graduate for his academic and military achievement. Also during this tour, Colonel Hoxie deployed in direct support of Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM and flew 66 missions helping to consolidate a swift and complete victory for the allied forces.

Colonel Hoxie went on to work in various staff positions including executive officer to the Athletic Department Director at the United States Air Force Academy, executive officer to the Vice Commander Headquarters, Air Combat Command, and Senior Operations Duty Officer at Osan Air Base, Korea. He also commanded the 94th Flying Training Squadron at the Air Force Academy, led as the Deputy Operations Group Commander at the 34th Operations Group, United States Air Force Academy, utilizing his skill as a trainer and mentor, and was the Chief of Homeland Defense and Security at Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Following this assignment, Colonel Hoxie went on to command the 35th Mission Support Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. For the past 2 years, Colonel Hoxie has performed with distinction in the Legislative Liaison Directorate. From May 2008 to March 2009, he led the Programs and Legislative Division, ensuring prompt and thorough response to the Congress on policy and personnel issues concerning the United States Air Force. From March 2009 to the present, Colonel Hoxie led the Congressional Inquiry division, providing efficient and thorough response to over 5,000 requests.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank COL Hal Hoxie, his wife Kathy, to whom he's been married for 31 years, and their four sons: Aaron, Austin, Andrew, and Albert. The Hoxies have been a proud Air Force family for the duration of Colonel Hoxie’s career and I salute the end of his distinguished service. He has been a Terrific soldier for the United States of America and I salute him for his dedication.

The United States of America prides itself on having the finest military in the world because of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of its brave men and women in uniform. And yet, under the discriminatory law known as Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, the talents and contributions of our GLBT service members continue to be ignored simply because of who they are. As you know, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell was signed into law in 1993 by former President Bill Clinton as a compromise to allow gay and lesbian service members to serve in the military. To the contrary, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell compromises the integrity of our troops and kicks them out to boot. For more than fifteen years, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell has negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of these military professionals and deprived our Armed Forces of their honorable service. This is not only a disservice to them, but to our country as a whole.

In June 2007, devastating storms, tornadoes and flooding hit my district over a few days’ time and left large amounts of property damaged and displaced thousands of families. Tragically, the flooding also took the lives of 11 individuals and injured others.

At Skyline Mobile Home Estates in Haltom City, I met with Haltom City Mayor Bill Lanford after the floods to see the damage and to also meet with local residents. About 100 mobile homes were impacted by the storms because there was not enough time for residents to know what was happening and to prepare for the coming disaster.

One of the most devastating impacts to this community was the death of 4-year-old Alexandria Collins. She was torn from her mother’s grasp by the water’s current as they fled to a neighbor’s boat.

The Honest and Open Testimony Act requires that NOAA weather radios be installed in new mobile homes as they are being manufactured in order for residents to receive emergency broadcasting information and alerts. This bill will help save lives during emergency situations by providing people with the time and the information they need to take care of themselves and their families.

Thank you, and I urge the House to pass this legislation.

INTRODUCING THE HONEST AND OPEN TESTIMONY ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Of Florida
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Honest and Open Testimony Act, a bill that helps provide for an honest and open discussion regarding Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell by allowing active-duty members of the Armed Forces, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) members, to openly testify in Congressional hearings and provide privacy for retribution. The Honest and Open Testimony Act expands existing whistleblower protections between members of the Armed Forces and Members of Congress to include communications from active-duty service members who testify concerning Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell in a Congressional hearing, as well as those who do so and disclose their sexual orientation.

The United States of America prides itself on having the finest military in the world because of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of its brave men and women in uniform. And yet, under the discriminatory law known as Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, the talents and contributions of our GLBT service members continue to be ignored simply because of who they are. As you know, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell was signed into law in 1993 by former President Bill Clinton as a compromise to allow gay and lesbian service members to serve in the military. To the contrary, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell compromises the integrity of our troops and kicks them out to boot. For more than fifteen years, Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell has negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of these military professionals and deprived our Armed Forces of their honorable service. This is not only a disservice to them, but to our country as a whole.