

of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GEORGE W. CASEY, JR.

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my Army Caucus co-chair, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. JIM INHOFE, I rise today to recognize one of our country's finest soldiers. GEN George W. Casey, Jr., the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, is retiring after over 40 years of distinguished service to our Nation. General Casey has led soldiers at every level from platoon to division and all the way to chief, continuing the tradition of service begun by his father, MG George W. Casey, Sr., Commander, 1st Cavalry Division, killed in a helicopter crash on July 7, 1970, while visiting his troops during his assignment in Vietnam.

Later in 1970, General Casey earned his commission as a second lieutenant through Georgetown University's Reserve Officer Training Corps and began his service to our Nation as an infantry officer. While serving in Germany, he excelled as a platoon leader and was selected to attend Ranger School and Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Fort Benning, GA, in 1974. Over the next 12 years, General Casey was assigned to units within the 4th Infantry Division, Mechanized, Fort Carson, CO. These postings culminated in his promotion to lieutenant colonel, serving as Commander, 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry in 1985.

In 1991, then-Colonel Casey continued his career with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. His success led to an Army fellowship and congressional liaison assignments in the Washington, DC area. Colonel Casey then returned to Europe as the Chief of Staff, V Corps, United States Army Europe. When forces were ordered into Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, Colonel Casey deployed to Tazsar, Hungary, as part of USAREUR Forward. Later, leading the 1st Armored Division as Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, he oversaw the peaceful resettlement of Bosnian villages throughout the Multi-National Division-North MND(N) area of operations. He also oversaw the security of the first free elections on September 14, 1996, as mandated by the Dayton Peace Accord.

Over the next 10 years General Casey would make historic and lasting impacts as a leader at the highest levels of the Army. From 2001 until 2003, as the Director, Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Casey was a key figure in the crisis action planning

to prosecute the global war on terror. In this position, General Casey was responsible for advising National, Defense, Joint and Army senior leadership about strategic issues and joint capabilities, requirements and resources. Later, his participation in Department of Defense and interagency affairs helped shape concepts that defined the future conduct of joint training and operations. The results of his efforts are visible today in the ongoing transformation of the American military into a more lethal, flexible, and responsive Joint force.

In 2003, as Director of the Joint Staff, General Casey's uncompromising support of our nation's deployed forces contributed to successful operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere around the world. During this period of changing global conditions and evolving challenges to the security of the United States, General Casey led the Joint Staff with unparalleled professional leadership and expertise. His participation in the national security decisionmaking process directly enhanced the security and welfare of the Nation.

As the 30th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 2003 until 2004, General Casey employed his outstanding leadership and management skills to assist the Chief of Staff in supporting the Nation's war on terror and put the Army on course for one of the most profound transformations in their history. Recognizing the soldier as the centerpiece of the Army as well as the need to sustain the all-volunteer force that was stressed and strained by conflict, General Casey aggressively worked to care for soldiers and their families, ensuring the forces' success throughout the world. His legacy as the Vice Chief of Staff is an Army postured to meet the challenges of the 21st century as a result of his superior ability to lead in a period of war and profound transition.

As the Commanding General of Multi-National Force-Iraq from 2004 until 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, General Casey's leadership of a 32-nation coalition, in coordination with its Iraqi partners, developed and implemented the actions that eliminated numerous terrorist safe havens. This began the rollback of insurgent gains throughout the country, setting the conditions for Iraq's first free national elections after 30 years of tyranny. Later, through the implementation of a vigorous counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaign, he established a level of stability and security which allowed infrastructure reconstruction activities in Iraq to quadruple.

Following his service in Iraq, General Casey was selected to serve as the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army in 2007. He synchronized the continuous generation and deployment of combat power to meet requirements of two ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and multiple operations around the world. A

strategic leader for our Army, and our Nation, he has personally led the transformation of the Army to meet the security challenges of the 21st century and restore balance to the force to set the conditions for continued success in the second decade of this era of persistent conflict. These innovative changes enabled Army forces to execute wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as successfully implement multiple humanitarian missions around the globe.

When history looks back at the decades of service by the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army, it will be clear that he embodied the highest ideals of the American military professional. Our Nation owes General Casey, his wife Sheila, and their family its sincere appreciation for his truly extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States throughout his distinguished career in the U.S. Army. I wish him, his wife Sheila, their two sons Sean and Ryan and their families continued success and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY KENNETH O. PRESTON

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my cochair of the Army Caucus, the junior Senator from Hawaii, Mr. DANIEL AKAKA, I congratulate Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston is retiring after 36 distinguished years of service.

Sergeant Major Preston is a native of Mount Savage, MD. He entered the Army as a cavalry scout in June 1975, and has served in every enlisted leadership position, including cavalry scout, platoon sergeant, and tank commander. He served as Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division, V Corps in Germany and the Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was an instrumental leader during the invasion of Iraq.

In 1975, Sergeant Major Preston was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, as they were transforming from an Air Cavalry Division to a Heavy Division. He spent his first years in the military as a scout, excelling on every vehicle from motorcycles to dune buggies, surpassing his peers and distinguishing himself as a superior leader. Two years later, Sergeant Major Preston was promoted to sergeant and moved to the 33rd Armor Regiment, 3rd Armor Division in Germany. His commanders again recognized his superior leadership skills and selected him first as a senior gunner and then as the commander of the battalion commanders tank. Throughout his command, his tank was consistently named top tank in the battalion.

Sergeant Major Preston took the knowledge and expertise he gained in