

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL KEITH A. LANDRY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary service of Colonel Keith A. Landry. This month, Colonel Landry will end his tenure as Commander of the Louisville District of the Army Corps of Engineers after establishing a record of service that has helped strengthen and protect our community. While he may be leaving Louisville, his service and contributions will be visible for decades to come.

Born in North Carolina and hailing from Beaufort, South Carolina, Colonel Landry was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1985. From there, he embarked on a career driven by his dedication to service and country that has taken him around the world and back. After completing combat tours during both Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, Colonel Landry began his command in Louisville in 2008, leading the District's significant engineering achievements to include over a billion dollars worth of military construction, the inspection of hundreds of miles of levee, and operation and maintenance of reservoirs, locks, and dams.

Since arriving in Louisville, Colonel Landry has worked to ensure that "River City" is not just our nickname, but a source of pride. His committed leadership helped shepherd the McAlpine Locks and Dam expansion project to completion, ensuring that Louisville would continue to benefit from the billions of dollars of cargo transported up and down the Ohio River year after year. And thanks to his expertise and guidance, the Ohio River has not had an unexpected closure to commercial navigation for more than a day during his command—an extraordinary feat, given extreme weather and flooding that we experienced during that time.

Through his 26 years of service to our nation—and counting—Colonel Landry's work has not just helped improve our infrastructure and safeguard our communities, but it has contributed to our economy and the strength of our nation. We in Louisville are grateful for the time he has dedicated to our city, and will surely miss his expertise, commitment, and leadership.

I am proud to join all of our community in thanking him for his outstanding service, dedication, hard work, and faithfulness to our nation. And I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the best to a true public servant, Colonel Keith Landry, and his family in this next chapter of their lives.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LIMITED USE OF FORCE IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO MISSION IN LIBYA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation authorizing the limited

use of United States forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya. This resolution is a companion to a Senate joint resolution introduced today by Senators JOHN KERRY, JOHN MCCAIN, BENJAMIN CARDIN, and RICHARD DURBIN.

Since Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi responded to peaceful demonstrations by attacking Libya's own citizens, the United States has been actively engaged with our international allies in thwarting the ability of the Qaddafi regime to visit violence, murder, and destruction on the people of Libya. This past February, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Libya and froze the assets of its leadership, promising to hold Qaddafi, his family, and the government of Libya accountable for its human rights abuses. Qaddafi responded by increasing his assaults on civilians. As Libyan forces approached the city of Benghazi, in which Qaddafi vowed to show "no mercy" to opposition forces which had captured the city, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1793, mandating "all necessary measures" to protect civilians in Libya, implementing a "no-fly zone", and enforcing an arms embargo. On March 19, the United States Armed Forces and our coalition partners launched Operation Odyssey Dawn in an effort to enforce the Security Council resolution. That mission has since come under NATO command and is now called Operation Unified Protector.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no question that the United States is engaged in hostilities in Libya. Our Armed Forces have assisted in combat operations including providing intelligence, aerial refueling, targeting, and other aspects of NATO's daily bombardment of Libyan forces loyal to Qaddafi. The President engaged in these hostilities without an authorization from Congress, and has anyway exceeded the 60-day War Powers limitation on the use of force without congressional consent. It is high time that Congress asserts its authority and engages proactively with the administration on this most serious question of war.

But the solution, Mr. Speaker, is not to simply cut off funds. Instead, Congress must limit and closely monitor the President's commitment of forces. This resolution authorizes the use of force in Libya for one year from the date of enactment, limiting the President's ability to engage our Armed Forces indefinitely. This resolution bans the use of ground forces and requires the President to continually report to Congress on the progress of our military operations, the plans to achieve our stated goals, and the changing situation on the ground. We must also make an effort to put Libya's frozen assets to good use, returning funds to the Libyan people and using some of that money to offset the cost of NATO's operations.

It is too late to debate whether we should be involved or not: we already are. What we must do is ensure that the legislative and executive branches are working in harmony to maintain a military commitment that is limited and brief, and that best serves the people of Libya. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

DEDICATION OF N.C. VETERANS
PARK

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today citizens and communities all across the United States join together to celebrate our nation's 235th birthday. In doing so, we rejoice in the moment, reflect on the past, and recommit ourselves to a brighter future for our wonderful nation.

One very special celebration is taking place today in Fayetteville, North Carolina, that deserves the special recognition of the U.S. Congress—the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park.

Fayetteville, and all of North Carolina, have a long and historic commitment to the men and women who have protected our country's freedoms. From Cherry Point Air Station to Charlotte Air National Guard, from Camp Lejeune to U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, from Fort Bragg and Pope Army Air Field to New River Air Station and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, from the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point to the Oak Island and Wrightsville Beach Coast Guard Stations, North Carolina has opened its hearts and hands to support those who have made so many sacrifices and opportunities for all of us.

Embracing the military and its veterans have earned North Carolina the distinction as the "most military friendly state" and home to one of the largest percentages of veterans in America. Ensuring that our veterans' service and sacrifice are never forgotten will be the legacy of the North Carolina Veterans Park.

This multi-dimensional park will capture the commitment, courage, and country-first attitude that shines through the veterans of our nation. And in doing so, it will be a legacy that generations and generations can learn how the actions of a few saved so many.

I want to share the words of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, who once said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

The North Carolina Veterans Park will be another chapter in our state's and nation's efforts to honor those who have served and lived with great distinction.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the North Carolina Veterans Park storyline states:

From the soils of North Carolina,
You left your families and homes
With purpose to serve your country.
You are our veterans.

This is your place to reflect on and
Share your experiences.
To feel pride in your service,
Bond with fellow veterans, and heal.
Here, may you find your support and inspiration

To live your lives today.
The people of North Carolina
Honor your service and welcome you home.