

HONORING COLONEL RONALD LIGHT AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT IN WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Ronald Light and the men and women of the Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District, MED, located in Winchester, Virginia, for the support they have provided for troops deployed overseas.

Colonel Light, commander of the MED, has had a distinguished military career since his graduation from The Pennsylvania State University in 1981. As an officer, he has completed the Engineer Officer's Basic and Advanced courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff Officer Course, and the U.S. Army Airborne School, while earning a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College.

For his service, Colonel Light has been awarded the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, five awards for Meritorious Service, two Army Commendation medals, the Army Medal of Achievement, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among others.

As the senior engineer commander responsible for reconstructions in Al Anbar and Baghdad provinces in Iraq, he managed the award of 194 projects valued at \$1.32 billion and completed contracts worth an additional \$782.4 million.

Since Colonel Light assumed command at the MED in 2009, employment has approximately doubled from 250 to 500 personnel. The MED employs 427 civilians comprising 23 nationalities, 53 advanced degrees and 24 different languages all dedicated toward the goal of preparing combat theaters for members of the military. The MED employs local accountants, architects, attorneys, paralegals, engineers, property managers, security specialists, and many others.

The MED has proved extremely beneficial not only to the U.S. Military, but also to Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley. The MED partners with local civic organizations, churches and school groups to help carry out many critical engineering projects abroad. The integration of the military and the surrounding communities will create a precedent for more companies to locate in Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley, recognizing the presence of a trained workforce and relative proximity to our nation's capital.

Colonel Light and the MED's dedication to the armed forces has advanced the mission of all military units in forward theaters of combat. We express our appreciation to the dedicated individuals staffing the MED for their service and honor them as the best our military officers and civilians have to offer.

CONGRATULATING JAMES HUNTER AND JOE LAROSE OF THE ROCK BRIDGE BRUINS MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Hunter and Joe LaRose of the Rock Bridge Bruins Men's Tennis Team for winning the Class 2 A Missouri State Doubles Championship on May 28.

These young men should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the 2 A Doubles Tennis Championship to their school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing James Hunter and Joe LaRose for a job well done!

HONORING JEFFREY GRALNICK

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jeffrey Gralnick, who passed away this past May at the age of 72. A legendary news executive and producer, Jeff's 52-year career began with the black-and-white news segments of the 1950s and grew into leadership positions at nearly all the major broadcast networks including ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and MSNBC.

One of the first producers of "60 Minutes," Jeff worked with Walter Cronkite, Don Hewitt, Dan Rather, Peter Jennings, Barbara Walters, Brian Williams, Katie Couric, and Tom Brokaw. As an executive producer and network executive, Jeff oversaw the broadcasts of space launches, presidential elections, and was in charge of the CBS news desk on the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

Jeff's enduring legacy is memorialized in the people he mentored over the years who are employed throughout the news industry. A tough and demanding teacher, Jeff was always eager to share his knowledge and experiences with younger coworkers. His intense character, professionalism, and integrity have left a lasting impression throughout the news industry.

A fierce competitor with a tireless work ethic, Jeff was always welcome to new challenges. After beating his first bout with cancer in his early sixties, Jeff found inspiration in the saying "as soon as you feel too old to do something do it," and decided to climb to the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro, nearly making it to the top.

I offer my condolences to Jeff's wife of 41 years, Beth, their son Robert, their daughter Kate and her husband Tim, their grandson Adam, and Jeff's brother Bill. Even though Jeff passed away this past May, his work will live on through the broadcasts he has produced, the networks he helped shape, and the anchors and producers he mentored throughout his career.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. VLADIMIR SWIRYNSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Vladimir Swirynsky, one of Cleveland's most prominent poets.

Born in Germany on May 20, 1948, Vladimir Swirynsky immigrated to the United States in 1952. After completing his education, Vladimir served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was stationed in Long Bien and worked as a morning report clerk. Following his service, Vladimir returned to Cleveland, married, and began a career at Republic Steel.

In 1994, after a divorce, Vladimir left Cleveland in search of healing and found solace in the arts. He travelled to New Orleans, celebrated Mardi Gras, joined a band and began reading poetry. He was enthralled by poetry and realized his own talents. He spent years travelling around the country and perfecting his newfound creative outlet.

Today, Mr. Swirynsky has published thirteen books of poetry and is celebrated as one of Cleveland's finest poets.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Mr. Vladimir Swirynsky. His story and poetry will continue to inspire all of those who hear his prose.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD—AMERICA'S FIRST IN THE NATION AIR GUARD UNIT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNEAPOLIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the capable and courageous men and women of the Minnesota Air National Guard on the 90th anniversary of its founding. The Minnesota Air National Guard holds the distinction of being the first in our nation Air Unit of the National Guard recognized by the United States government.

The Minnesota Air National Guard took flight with humble, but honorable beginnings. On September 26, 1920 Captain Ray S. Miller and two other Minnesotans rented a Curtiss Oriole biplane to launch an 8-day flight to Washington, DC. Their mission was to be the first federally recognized National Guard flying squadron. Subsequently the 109th Observation Squadron, the predecessor to today's Minnesota Air National Guard, passed muster inspection on January 17th, 1921.

The creation of the 109th Minnesota Observation Squadron created the flight path for Minnesotans to continue making history while serving our state and our nation. The 133rd Airlift Wing (133rd AW) of the Minnesota Air National Guard Wing is headquartered at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, and provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift of troops, cargo, and medical patients anywhere in the world utilizing the C-130 Hercules. The 148th Fighter Wing (148th FW),

headquartered in Duluth, provides the United States Air Force with combat Air Sovereignty and Air Defense. Additionally, both Wings are continually prepared to support the State of Minnesota with assistance in the event of disaster declaration.

During WWII the 109th Observation Squadron was deployed to Europe, initially flying the Supermarine Spitfire Mk V and later reconnaissance missions with the North American F-6 Mustang. During the Korean War, Minnesota's Air Guard was again activated, contributing pilots to active wings throughout the Korean theater.

Throughout the Cold War of the 1950s and early 1960s, both units of the 179th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in Duluth and 109th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in St. Paul provided active air defense commitments with 24-hour alert status. Threats by the Soviet Union to oust Western troops from West Berlin in 1961 prompted the Berlin Crisis and a call-up of selected National Guard forces throughout the United States. Included in this mobilization were members of the 133rd Air Transport Wing, who served in federal active service for eleven months while operating out of their home station at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport. While the Minnesota Air Guard was never officially mobilized during the Vietnam War, the organization flew hundreds of supply and transport missions to Southeast Asia.

Today, the Minnesota Air National Guard continues to serve with valor and with honor. We all recall the critical moments following the attack on our nation on September 11th, 2001. Immediately, F-16s from the 148th Fighter Wing were called into action for combat air patrols over critical areas. Since then, the Air Guard has provided support for our nation's efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn as well as other operations worldwide. Brave men and women today from 133rd Airlift Wing and the 148th Fighter Wing continue to serve our nation with distinction in overseas operations today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the 2,000 airmen and women serving in the Minnesota Air National Guard as we commemorate the 90th Anniversary of this pioneering unit.

IN HONOR OF GUERINO AND CAROLYN RИPEPI'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Guerino and Carolyn Ripepi to acknowledge their 60th anniversary.

Guerino and Carolyn were married on May 5, 1951 at St. Paul's Croatian Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the course of their lives together Guerino and Carolyn raised four children in Parma and later North Royalton, Ohio. The couple takes great pride in the accomplishments of their seven grandchildren.

The Ripepi's were active members of the Northeast Ohio community. Guerino was a member of the Brooklyn-Parma Knights of Columbus and Parma Elks Lodge. Carolyn was

involved with her children's lives as a Cub Scout Pack leader and was awarded a Marian Award by the Girl Scouts. Carolyn also belonged to the Ridgewood Lanes women's league.

After a career with Erie Lackawanna Railroad and Parma City Schools, respectively, Guerino and Carolyn retired to the Timber Pines Retirement Community in Spring Hill, Florida. They continue to be active, participating in such activities as golf, bocce and billiards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the long and happy life that Guerino and Carolyn continue to enjoy together.

THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH WATKINS SAUL

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I rise to offer heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of Elizabeth Watkins Saul, a humanitarian, social service advocate and life activist.

I am moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements of the gentle and loving spirit of an accomplished woman who lived such a brief and beautiful life of service. She strived for excellence in every endeavor and she exuded boundless energy and love that was shared in the field of community and social activism. As a wife, community leader and social service advocate, we embrace her husband, family and the community that embraced her service and humanitarian efforts. A woman for whom education was important, Elizabeth Watkins Saul received her B.S. Degree from the historic Texas Tech University with a degree in political science and public policy.

On this special occasion and celebration of the life of a phenomenal woman, I join with the immediate family, and loved ones in saying farewell and praising God for the life of a woman of God who was selfless and lived a productive life of purpose. Elizabeth enjoyed fishing, painting, traveling, decorating, BINGO, reading and spending quality time with her friends and family. Elizabeth was dearly cherished by her loved ones, colleagues and her community in Fort Worth, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; Alexandria, Virginia; Orlando, Florida; and Tucson, Arizona. Elizabeth's employment spans from Clinique Cosmetics, Capitol Hill, The Metropolitan Orlando Urban League, Raytheon and Tuskegee University Resolution Team. She most recently worked as a successful and well respected Senior Manager of Human Resources at Raytheon Missile Systems, where she played an integral role in the recruitment of Tuskegee graduates for careers in engineering and management. Elizabeth was a Tuskegee University presidential transition team member. In addition to being an essential part of President Gilbert Rochon's Transition Team; Ms. Saul was a member of two Transition Team committees: Improve the Management and Performance of the Kellogg Center and Improve Staff Quality and Productivity. Tuskegee will establish the

Elizabeth Watkins Saul Scholarship at the University beginning in the fall of 2011. As a woman of integrity and character, Elizabeth was both gifted and inspiring, always leaning on the everlasting tasks of making a difference in her community. Where she saw pain, she sought to relieve it with personal interaction; where she saw potential in others, she gave them impetus and encouragement; where she saw despair, she brought direction and promise; and where she saw the need for love and caring, she unselfishly gave of herself.

The life of Elizabeth Watkins Saul was one of accomplishment and service. In her passing, we pay tribute to an accomplished woman and her life of service to each of us. She will be remembered for the love of her family, friends, Sorority Sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and colleagues. This attribute set her above and beyond all selfless giving. She has a special anointed gift of discernment and those that had an opportunity to be in her presence were blessed to experience her tireless energy for service and were beneficiaries of her boundless generosity. It is my prayer that by her example that each of us become the bearers of her humanitarian legacy. We come now to join in prayer for her parents, and a host of loving relatives, friends, whose lives have been forever changed by this exemplary woman of excellence and peace. I thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Elizabeth, our friend. Elizabeth was a devoted wife and leaves memories and love to her husband H. Rock Saul of 17 years; father and mother George, Sr., and Carolyn Watkins; Siblings Gerald Cook, George Watkins, Jr., Darnetta Kay Watkins-Owens (Michael); Mother-in-law Arleen Haydel; Sister-in-law Nicole Saul, six nieces and nephews, one godchild (Evans); Grandmother Dear Watson and a host of family members and special friends.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN WOOLSEY'S SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as Dean of the California Congressional delegation, I rise to highlight the career of Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, who has announced that she will retire after the 112th Congress. Congresswoman WOOLSEY broke barriers when she began her career as the first former welfare recipient to serve in Congress. As a young single mother with three children, she needed public assistance to make ends meet—even though she was employed. This sensitivity to working families has shone through her Congressional career.

Rep. WOOLSEY serves as a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, and as a member of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

On this committee, she helped to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act, which protects Americans who need temporary employment leave due to a serious illness or to care for a sick family member. Recently, Congresswoman WOOLSEY proposed "the Balancing