

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMBATING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, our nation's armed forces are the best in the world, but I rise today to speak against a form of cancer spreading within the ranks that is compromising the integrity of our armed forces.

For 25 years, Congress has pressured the Department of Defense to take bold action against sexual assault among our service men and women, and for 25 years, we've heard the same promises. In hearing after hearing, they've offered the results of study after study; told us about their zero tolerance policy; created task forces; and promised to prioritize this issue within the chain of command.

Despite these promises, sexual assault in the military is at an all-time high and rising. According to the Defense Department, there were more than 70 assaults per day in 2012, an estimated 26,000 total and a 30 percent increase over two years. Worse, only three percent of estimated sexual assaults in the military in 2012 were prosecuted. Countless service members continue to have little faith in the military justice system, and countless more suffer in silence for fear of retaliation.

The existing military justice system has clearly demonstrated its inability to solve this problem. As the civilian institution tasked with military oversight, it is incumbent upon Congress to act.

The amendment offered by my colleague, Representative SPEIER, is an effective and meaningful solution. This amendment is modeled on legislation, the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act (STOP Act), which I'm proud to cosponsor.

The STOP Act rightfully removes the sexual assault response process from the military chain of command and replaces it with an accountable, civilian-controlled oversight office. It ensures that trained, impartial prosecutors respond to allegations of sexual assault, not higher ranking commanders with a potential bone to pick.

It provides victims with real access to justice, via an objective response system. And it means no more fear of retaliation, lost promotion, re-victimization, and pushback. Sexual assault is a scourge that weakens our military and our nation and has absolutely no place in society. I encourage my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to support this sensible amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN D. WROTH

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wroth's recent retirement from a distinguished military career in the United States Air Force. His service to our nation is one of honor and devotion, to which the people of West Virginia and the United States of America owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, John Wroth received his bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston in 1987 and began serving his country in 1989, the year he received his commission from the United States Air Force Officer Training School. He has led unit deployments to Europe, the Pacific and Southwest Asia and, as a graduate of the elite Air Force Weapons School, he led as mission commander on the first night of Operation ALIED FORCE in the Balkan Peninsula and served as the Master Air Attack Plan Team Chief in support of both Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Wroth has served as a unit scheduler, standardization/evaluation officer, tactics and training instructor, flight commander, platform instructor and lead electronic warfare instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School.

Lieutenant Colonel Wroth has received numerous awards and decorations throughout his service to our nation: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the NATO Medal. Furthermore, Wroth led the Air Force ROTC of Duke University to a number one rating for all small detachments.

Currently, Lieutenant Colonel Wroth is Chief, Nuclear Operations Branch serving on the Nuclear Command and Control System, and is the primary liaison to the Department of Homeland Security and the White House Military Office.

In addition to his devoted service to our country, Wroth also managed to raise a wonderful family with his wife, Lydia. Together they have four children, Ian, Sarah, Jacob, and Dylan.

Mr. Speaker, the exemplary service of Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wroth is deserving of the utmost respect. His dedication to country and family is a model for all of us, and I am proud to call him a fellow West Virginian.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PETE VONACHEN

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Harold "Pete" Vonachen, an American veteran from Illinois, who passed away on Monday, June 10th, 2013 at the age of 87. Pete was best known as "Mr. Baseball" around Peoria, and as a dedicated community leader and philanthropist. His loss will be felt throughout the community.

Pete Vonachen, who graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, started out in the restaurant business, opening Vonachen's Junction in 1955. He carried over many of the same philosophies from his restaurant days to his other businesses, including a recognition of the importance of people. Pete treated everyone as a friend, regardless of whether you were a coworker, customer, or competitor.

As his name and reputation grew, Pete purchased the Peoria Suns Minor League baseball franchise in 1985, later changing the name to the Peoria Chiefs, a tribute to Peoria's last baseball team. With the help of his close friend the great baseball broadcaster Harry Caray, he was able to reach an affiliation agreement with the Chicago Cubs. Under Pete's leadership, the once struggling franchise became the first Midwest League team to draw more than 200,000 fans in one season.

Pete Vonachen also served his community in many roles, including as the Director of the Peoria Cerebral Palsy Board, a member of OSF St. Francis Medical Advisory Board, the Chairman of the Children's Hospital of Illinois Medical Center, a Peoria Park District trustee, the Director of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Peoria Rotary Club, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I am forever grateful for Pete's contributions as a serviceman and leader in his community, and am deeply saddened by his passing. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his wife Donna, the rest of the Vonachen family, and the entire Peoria community.

CONGRATULATING TERRY AND ROSY BROMELL

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate and congratulate Terry and Rosy Bromell on the occasion of their 50th

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.