

RICHARD TEGLEY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply saddened to have learned that Richard Tegley, a force in our community, passed away earlier this month.

Richard lived a remarkable life—first bravely serving his country in the Air Force for 22 years, then on to an illustrious career as a real estate broker in the Inland Empire, where he quickly became a leader in the community. For decades, Richard was an advocate for the people of Moreno Valley and Riverside, whom he cared so deeply for.

He was a trusted friend who helped ensure that I would be able to stand here in the House today. I always knew that I could turn to him to get a perspective on the issues facing our community, and I will miss his dedication and passion for others.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORLD
WAR II MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the World War II Merrill's Marauders unit for their accomplishments in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. The 70th anniversary of the disbandment of this courageous and noble unit is on August 10, 2014.

In 1943, almost 3,000 U.S. Army volunteers from the jungles of Panama and Trinidad, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, New Georgia and the United States, landed in Bombay, India on October 31, 1943. On January 1, 1944, the unit was officially designated as the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, code-named "Galahad," and later nicknamed Merrill's Marauders by the press after their commander, Gen. Frank D. Merrill. They were the first American ground troops to fight the Japanese in Asia.

Merrill's Marauders trained with Britain's Major General Orde Wingate's Chindits before beginning their history-making march in the China-Burma-India Theater, the "forgotten" WWII Theater. With only what they could carry on their backs or pack on mules, Merrill's Marauders walked farther, almost 1,000 miles, than any other WWII fighting force.

Trudging behind enemy lines up the foothills of the Himalayas and into the jungles of northern Burma, Merrill's Marauders succeeded in capturing the only all-weather airstrip at Myitkyina on May 17, 1944. This feat obliterated Japan's control of the sky and enabled the Allies to begin flying supplies into Burma so the Ledo and Burma roads could be connected to open up a crucial pathway into China. Although vastly outnumbered, Merrill's Marauders then went on to defeat the Japanese 18th Imperial Division in five major battles and thirty minor engagements.

The volunteers of this short-lived mission were considered "expendable" since a plan existed to get them into, but not out of, Burma.

The unit was expected to have a casualty rate of more than 85 percent. Jungle diseases ravaged their numbers so only about 300 of the approximately 1,300 remaining Merrill's Marauders were still fit for combat when they reached their objective. They later went on to join replacements who continued to fight in Burma as the 475th Infantry, which became part of the Mars Task Force.

For their accomplishments in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations, the Merrill's Marauders unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. They also have the extremely rare distinction of every member of the unit receiving the Bronze Star Medal. There were also six Distinguished Service Crosses, four Legions of Merit and forty-four Silver Star Medals awarded. Twenty-five Merrill's Marauders have been inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

The legacy of the Merrill's Marauders continues to be honored today by members of the 75th Ranger Regiment, headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia, who wear the Marauder patch as their crest. Camp Frank D. Merrill, where the mountain phase of today's vigorous Army Ranger training takes place in north Georgia, is named in honor of the unit's commanding general.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Merrill's Marauders for their steadfast courage and commitment to serving our country during World War II. The Merrill's Marauders made significant contributions in safeguarding our liberties as Americans seventy years ago and we honor their outstanding valor and patriotic service that helped make America the great nation it is today.

CELEBRATING FLORENCE-FIRESTONE/WALNUT PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce (FFWPCC) on its seventy-fifth anniversary. Ever since its incorporation in 1939, the Chamber has provided a forum for local merchants, business and property owners, professionals, residents, lenders, and teachers to work together in making the Florence-Firestone community a better place to do business. Since 2006, the Chamber has served the Walnut Park business community as well.

The Chamber was severely shaken by the 1992 Los Angeles riots, but it was kept afloat by Community Development Commission (CDC) funding secured by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who was then the Supervisor for Los Angeles County's Second District. This CDC funding has continued under current Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The Chamber has also benefited from funding under a partnership with the County's First District and its Supervisor, Gloria Molina.

At present, the Chamber gets funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. With this funding, the Chamber supports business development through technical as-

sistance, workshops, seminars, and individual consultations.

The Chamber also uses its community newsletter to spread word about business assistance programs, and to advocate on behalf of the businesses in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Region. Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are two of the local communities that have faced the most challenges during the recent recession, with unemployment rates exceeding 20 percent. The FFWPCC has aggressively confronted these challenges by seeking and identifying opportunities to enable the creation of new employment opportunities.

To this day, the FFWPCC serves its members by promoting their businesses' products and services and by protecting their interests at all levels of government. This was particularly evident in the Chamber's recent collaboration with Los Angeles County Supervisors and business and property owners to beautify the streetscapes in the business corridor linking the Florence-Firestone area to Walnut Park. The streetscape improvements have made the shopping community much more inviting, and have helped community members and visitors take pride in their walkable and sustainable community.

After this streetscape project was finished last year, the Chamber continued to tackle new challenges. It is now working on another beautification project in Walnut Park, with the help of Los Angeles County Supervisors. The Chamber has also brought new business opportunities to Walnut Park by organizing an annual Summer Fest in the community. Last year's event attracted over 50,000 people, and this year's attendance is expected to be even higher.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its seventy-five years of faithful and diligent support of local businesses, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce for making Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park better places to work and live, and in wishing the Chamber many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAKE
DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL FIGHTING
FALCONS 50TH SEASON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lake Dallas High School who will be celebrating their 50th football season this year. The Fighting Falcons have played 494 games in their illustrious time with a winning record of 260–226–8. They have appeared in the playoffs 18 times throughout their victorious history.

I am proud to say that in 2002, Lake Dallas introduced a new football facility in Corinth that now holds 6,000 spectators. In 2008, Lake Dallas and Sherman scored 115 points in one game to tie a state record.

Impressively, the Fighting Falcons have also had notable college and NFL players. These include Dusty Dvoracek, James Franklin, Justin Hill, Graysen Schantz, Chase Baine, Daryl Williams, Dontonio Jordan, and Dalyn Williams.