

of Highland, Indiana, served in the United States Army until he was discharged in September of 1945. In 1944, during the Invasion of the Rhineland, he was taken prisoner by the Nazis two days before Christmas and was liberated on April 29, 1945 by the American Forces. After twenty-seven years of faithful service, Walter O'Keefe was discharged from the United States Marine Corps with the rank of 1st Sergeant. O'Keefe hails from Dolton, Illinois where he is a father of three, grandfather of six, and has four great-grandchildren. Douglas Dettman resides in Schererville, Indiana, and served in the United States Army during the Vietnam conflict. Dettman received the Good Conduct Medal, Combat Medic Badge, Purple Heart, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, and the Silver Cross for his valorous actions as a medical aid man.

The great sacrifice made by these eight men and those who served our country has resulted in the freedom and prosperity of our country and in countries around the world. The responsibility rests within each of us to build upon the valiant efforts that these men and women who fought for this country have displayed, so that the United States and the world will be a more free and prosperous place. To properly honor the heroism of our troops, we must make the most of our freedom secured by their efforts.

In addition to the eight veterans who are to be honored at this patriotic celebration, I would also like to commend all of those who served this country for their bravery, courage, and undying commitment to patriotism and democracy. May God bless them all.

We will forever be indebted to our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they made so that we can enjoy our freedom. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in saluting these eight men and the other veterans who have fought for our great country.

WELCOMING THE 1999 AEA
CLASSIC TO SAN DIEGO

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the industry, finance and media participants in the 1999 American Electronics Association (AEA) "Classic," an annual meeting linking high-tech industry leaders, entrepreneurs and financial partners that is being held this week in San Diego, California.

It is my great honor to represent one of the nation's most "wired" congressional districts. Within an hour's drive of the AEA Classic gathering lies the entire 51st Congressional District that I represent. It is also home to the global capital of wireless telecommunications, exemplified by firms such as Qualcomm, Ericsson, Motorola and, very soon, Nokia. We are also home to leading participants in the PC and electronics industries, including Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Sony and others. Major software firms like Peregrine Systems, Intuit and Stac, integrated solutions providers like SAIC, and technologically advanced national

security industry employers like TRW, Titan, Cubic, Orincon, CSC, Jaycor, General Atomics and many others, all have either headquarters or major presences in San Diego County.

I have seen the future, and it is made in San Diego in more ways than one.

Our leading technology employers have two things in common: leading-edge ideas, backed with sufficient financing to get them to market and to prepare them for the markets of the future. This principle, bringing great ideas together with the business know-how and the financing necessary to make them succeed, is the motivating purpose for the annual AEA Classic.

The jobs and economic opportunities of the future are being made today at meetings like the AEA Classic, in San Diego today. They are not being created by the government or by regulators or by bureaucrats, but by entrepreneurs with dreams, and by people with resources to make these dreams real. To ensure that these innovations keep coming, I believe that we need to work together to improve education in every community for every person. And we need to keep the long, taxing arm of the federal government out of the way.

The AEA Classic meeting in San Diego deserves Members' attention, because their next purchase, their constituents' next job, or the technology for their next phone call may well depend on its success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for permitting me to take note of a major force in the development of America's dynamic high-tech industry.

IN OBSERVANCE OF DUTCH
AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, 1776, a small American warship, the *Andrew Doria*, sailed into the harbor of the island of Saint Eustatius in the West Indies, which is a colony of the Netherlands. Only four months before, the United States had declared its independence from Great Britain. The American crew was delighted when the island's governor, Johannes DeGraaf, ordered that his fort's cannons be fired in a friendly salute. As this was first-ever military salute given by a foreign power to the flag of the United States, it was a risky and courageous act. The British seized the island a few years later. DeGraaf's welcoming salute was a sign of respect, and today it continues to symbolize the deep ties of friendship that exist between the United States and the Netherlands.

After more than 200 years, the bonds between the United States and the Netherlands remain strong. Our diplomatic ties, in fact, constitute one of our longest unbroken diplomatic relationships with any foreign country. Fifty years ago, during the Second World War, American and Dutch men and women fought side by side to defend the cause of freedom and democracy. As NATO allies, we have continued to stand together to keep the transatlantic partnership strong and to maintain the peace and security of Europe. In the Persian

Gulf we joined as coalition partners to repel aggression and to uphold the rule of law.

While the ties between the United States and the Netherlands have been tested by time and by the crucible of armed conflict, Dutch-American heritage is even older than our official relationship. It dates back to the early 17th century, when the Dutch West Indies Company founded New Netherland and its main settlements, New Amsterdam and Fort Orange—today known as New York City and Albany. From the earliest days of our Republic, men and women of Dutch ancestry have made important contributions to American history and culture. The influence of our Dutch ancestors can still be seen not only in New York's Hudson River Valley but also in communities like Holland, Michigan; Pella, Iowa; Lyden, Washington; and Bellflower, California—where many people trace their roots to settlers from the Netherlands.

Generations of Dutch immigrants have enriched the United States with the unique customs and traditions of their ancestral homeland—a country that has given the world great artists and celebrated philosophers.

On this occasion, we also remember many celebrated American leaders of Dutch descent. At least three presidents, Martin VanBuren, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt, came from Dutch stock. Our Dutch heritage is seen not only in our people but also in our experience as a nation. Our traditions of religious freedom and tolerance, for example, have spiritual and legal roots among such early settlers as the English Pilgrims and the French Huguenots, who first found refuge from persecution in Holland. The Dutch Republic was among those systems of government that inspired our nation's Founders as they shaped our Constitution.

In celebration of the long-standing friendship that exists between the United States and the Netherlands, and in recognition of the many contributions that Dutch Americans have made to our country, we observe Dutch American Heritage day on November 16. I salute the more than 8 million Americans of Dutch descent and the 16 million people of the Netherlands in celebration of this joyous occasion.

CLARIFYING OVERTIME
EXEMPTION FOR FIREFIGHTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. I commend the gentleman from Maryland for introducing this bill, and as a former firefighter, appreciate his initiatives to help the firefighters of our nation.

This bill would clarify the overtime exemption for full time firefighters and EMS personnel. This would apply to all firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMS), rescue workers, ambulance personnel, and hazardous materials workers who are employed by a municipality, county, fire district, or state fire department. As the founder of the