

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION'S CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of professional pleasure and personal pride that I rise today to honor an organization that I have long admired and respected. The organization of which I speak is our neighbor just across First Street, the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, though it is perhaps best known simply by its initials—ROA.

The association was organized in 1922, at the instigation of General of the Armies John J. Pershing, who was then serving as the Army's Chief of Staff. Like many others who served in uniform in World War I, General Pershing was convinced that the war could have been significantly shortened or avoided altogether if an adequate pool of trained officers had existed at the time. Taking his sentiments to heart, 140 Reserve Officers met at Washington's Willard Hotel and organized the Reserve Officers Association. It was largely through the dedicated efforts of that voluntary organization and its members that the United States established its Officer Reserve Corps, which was to supply the great majority of America's trained officers in the days leading up to World War II.

It is appropriate and salutary for all of us here to recall that these first ROA members were citizen-soldiers who clearly saw the approaching storm clouds. They pushed the nation toward an unprecedented level of pre-war preparedness that arguably saved lives and formed the very foundations of the great victories of democracy that were to follow.

With the end of the war, ROA resumed its normal operations, raising and maintaining the nation's awareness of the role and contributions of its military forces in the uneasy post-war world. It was in these tense days, in June 1950, that the Congress granted ROA the formal charter that established the association's object and purpose. That formulation was clear and direct, unambiguous and unequivocal: ROA was "to support a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security and to promote the development and execution thereof."

For 50 years, ROA has followed that guidance, and taken the lead in rigorously advocating a strong and viable national defense posture for our nation. ROA has worked to support concepts that have strengthened our ability to preserve our freedom and to advance our national interests across the world. It

worked to revitalize and fund the Selective Service System, support our Cold War allies, and focus the weight of public opinion in favor of our national commitment during the Gulf War, and expanding NATO. It has played a major role in persuading the Congress to provide more than \$15 billion in critically needed equipment for our nation's Reserve components.

In addition, ROA has also clearly understood that not all ideas are good ideas. It successfully opposed efforts to combine the Army Reserve and National Guard, and to disestablish the Coast Guard, and Air Force Reserves, as well as the Selective Service System and the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Mr. Speaker, ROA has, for the past 78 years, proven itself to be a strong and articulate voice in the Halls of Congress and the corridors of government for all our service members. It has lived up to its charter and supported the cause of national defense in seasons when it has not been popular to do so. It has established an enviable reputation for nonpartisan expertise and even-handed advocacy, a reputation that has grown and flourished as defense issues have become ever more complex in these days of the Total Force Policy.

ROA enjoys the confidence of the Congress and of the Department of Defense. Its successful legislative efforts have made it a valued partner in the formulation and development of the annual defense bills and in building broad, bipartisan support for our men and women in uniform. Over the years I have learned that serious debate on any issue dealing with our Reserve forces is not complete until we have heard from ROA. As the number of members of Congress with personal military experience has declined, the importance of ROA's contribution to developing our military policy has increased exponentially. ROA has played and will continue to play a crucial role in shaping the debate over the appropriate roles and missions of our Armed Forces.

The nation is most fortunate to have such an asset to call upon. We should all be grateful. Congratulations to the Reserve Officers Association of the United States on the fiftieth anniversary of the granting of its congressional charter.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN ANDERSON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding

young man from Arkansas' Third Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jonathan Anderson of Bentonville, Arkansas, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Jonathan's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Jonathan is an outstanding student who brings a special mix of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Bentonville High School, Jonathan has maintained a grade point average of 3.7, which has placed him on the honor roll for four years. Jonathan is a member of the National Honor Society and has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Outside of the classroom, Jonathan has distinguished himself as an excellent student leader. He has repeatedly lettered in the Bentonville High School Band and was the 1999 Marching Band Field Commander. He is a member of the Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, A Cappella Choir and the cross country team. In addition, Jonathan is a member of the Civil Air Force Patrol and with great pride he has advanced quickly through the ranks. He has received countless awards and honors through his involvement with the Civil Air Patrol.

Jonathan's grandfather served our country greatly in World War II, and his service inspired Jonathan to follow in his foot steps. It has been Jonathan's childhood dream to attend the United States Air Force Academy and become an Air Force pilot. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate him on completing the first step in his long journey.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jonathan Anderson. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Jonathan will do very well during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

A CALL TO PASS THE HATE
CRIMES PROTECTION ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, two years ago today the conscience of the nation was shaken by the cruel and brutal murder of a

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