CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO ASTRONAUTS NEIL A. ARMSTRONG, BUZZ ALDRIN, AND MICHAEL COLLINS

SPEECH OF HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2815, authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal to astronauts and national heroes Neil A. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, in recognition of their monumental and unprecedented feat of space exploration, as well as for their achievements in the advancement of science and promotion of the space program.

The Apollo program was designed to land humans on the Moon and bring them safely back to Earth. Some of the missions achieved this goal, but Apollo 11 was the first and with this amazing feat accomplished, three men became national heroes to millions of Americans.

These three men set out on their historic voyage on July 16, 1969 at 9:32 a.m. from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida powered by the mighty Saturn V rocket. Their spacecraft reached lunar orbit 76 hours later and after a rest period, Armstrong and Aldrin entered the Lunar Module and prepared for the descent to the moon’s surface. On July 20, 1969 at 4:18 p.m., their small craft touched down at what has become known as the Sea of Tranquility. After eating their first meal on the moon, Armstrong and Aldrin began their surface operations earlier than planned.

At 10:56 pm millions around the world were glued to their television sets as a live television feed provided the first images from the moon’s surface as Neil Armstrong uttered those now famous words, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Minutes later Buzz Aldrin joined him on the surface and they began their task of collecting 47 pounds of lunar surface material which would return to earth for analysis. Two and a half months after Truman’s activation that Connecticut National Guard’s Company K, 169th Infantry Regiment, was only a diversion in advance of a Soviet attack on Berlin, the Truman Administration sent four divisions to Europe to bolster the two already on occupation duty and began pressing to transform occupied West Germany into a rearmed anti-Communist bastion.

Upon their return to earth, these men became instant national heroes as they became the first men to land on the moon. Apollo 11 once again sparked the interest and wonder of all Americans regarding the space program, which would carry on through to the birth of the Shuttle program in the 1970s and which still exists today.

Mr. Speaker, this is with a great deal of pride that I support this legislation authorizing the presentation of Congressional Gold Medals to Neil A. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to do the same.

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACTIVATION IN KOREAN WAR

HON. JOHN B. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I mark a very significant anniversary in the history of the Connecticut National Guard. Fifty years ago this week, the Connecticut National Guard’s Company K, 169th Infantry Regiment, 43d Division was called into active duty for service in the Korean War.

On June 25, 1950, Communist-supported North Korea invaded South Korea by crossing the 38th Parallel. That same day President Harry S. Truman began the activation of the National Guard. It was only a few short months after Truman’s activation that Connecticut’s National Guard had received official orders from the United States Army. On September 5, 1950, at 7:15 a.m., Company K, based in the Middlesex County, reported for roll call.

The Company, along with the rest of the Division, was sent to Camp Pickett in Virginia for training. On July 19, 1951, the Division received its orders to report for overseas duty in Germany. The 43d Infantry Division was the first National Guard Division ever to go to Europe in peacetime. Its orders were part of a determined effort to strengthen the free world’s defenses against Russian aggression.

In name, it stayed there for more than 2½ years. Company K went into the portions of Bavaria that directly faced the Iron Curtain on the Czechoslovakian border. There it organized the terrain and built a defense system as part of a strengthening NATO force.

A June 25, 1990 article in U.S. News and World Report aptly describes the reason why Company K’s involvement was so crucial in the Korean War, “The War’s effects were felt far from its battlefields. Worried that Korea was only a diversion in advance of a Soviet attack on Berlin, the Truman Administration sent four divisions to Europe to bolster the two already on occupation duty and began pressing to transform occupied West Germany into a rearmed anti-Communist bastion.”

On June 25, 2000, the members of Company K will hold their 50th Anniversary Reunion. I would like to urge my colleagues to join me not only in celebrating their anniversary, but also in recognizing the service and sacrifice these individuals gave to their country in its time of need.

IN HONOR OF BETTY WYTIAS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and recognize the laudable efforts and accomplishments of Betty Wytias. It is both fitting and proper to recognize Ms. Wytias because of her exceptional record of service and civic leadership.

Betty Wytias has touched the lives of many people and made a tremendous impact on our community. As a working professional, she gives freely of her time and energy to domestic violence prevention efforts, especially through the Colorado Bar Association and SafeHouse Denver. She is a former co-chair of the Denver Domestic Violence Task Force, a member of the Colorado Coalition for Elder Rights and Adult Protection, the International Women’s Rights Action Watch and has been a member of the SafeHouse Denver Advocacy Committee since 1994.

Betty Wytias is an Assistant Attorney General and has been instrumental in the formulation of the domestic violence prevention agenda for the Colorado Attorney General’s Office. Her primary focus is child abuse and neglect cases and she sits on the Department of Human Services’ statewide child fatality review team.

Recently, Ms. Wytias was honored by SafeHouse Denver with the Carolyn Hamilton Henderson Memorial Award which is given to individuals who have provided inspiration and leadership in efforts to end domestic violence in our community. She knows the pain of family violence and is an outspoken, determined and compassionate advocate on issues related to domestic abuse. In her own words, “The issue of family violence is so widespread and the abused are still so isolated. People don’t understand that . . . I have a voice and intend to use it.”