A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RANGER ROBERT GEER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION INTO THE RANGER HALL OF FAME

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly great American. An American war hero who will soon be inducted into the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Mind you, being a Ranger to begin with is an honor in itself, but being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame is an honor of unbelievable proportions. On Wednesday, July 25, 2001, Robert Geer of Norwalk, Ohio will join the ranks of the elite as an inductee in to the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, GA.

Soon after the conclusion of World War II, Robert Geer joined the US Army in 1948. His Army career only lasted 4 years, but they were extraordinary years. In 1950, he volunteered for the prestigious Rangers and was assigned to 1st Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne).

As the Korean War escalated he was sent into action on the Asian continent. One particular battle in February of 1951, the Battle of Chipyong-Ni, ended his Army career. On February 3, the 23rd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), under the command of Colonel Paul Freeman, was ordered to hold a crossroad and protect the vital communications hub at Chipyong-Ni. During the next several days, patrols reported extensive Chinese movement. In fact, 18,000 troops were encircling the 23rd Regimental Combat Team's position. On February 13, the Chinese attacked the position. The 23rd Regimental Combat Team was overrun. Splintered and wounded, the Rangers and a piecemeal platoon of survivors from the overrun companies were ordered to retake the lost position.

Soon the platoon leaders and officers were killed. The chaos that ensued prevented the make-up platoon mounting coordinated attack. The Ranger platoon pressed forward under heavy fire. Ranger Geer assumed command and continued to attack with the few remaining Rangers. As they were securing the position, a grenade was thrown in his direction. Unable to see the grenade in the deep snow, Ranger Geer thrust his weapon between himself and where he assumed the grenade to be. When the grenade exploded, shrapnel tore out his left eye and destroyed his weapon. Bleeding, blind in one eye, unarmed, grossly outnumbered and out of ammunition Ranger Geer ordered a withdrawal. He continued to fire, covering the withdrawal of his troops until his ammunition was expended. Armed only with a knife, he discovered his brother, Richard, who was wounded twice in the fight. Ranger Geer carried his brother's wounded body off the hill on that cold February day.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly men like Ranger Robert Geer that make this great country what it is today. He has set an example for all Americans and especially his grandson. T.J.