

July 24, 2001

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 Chipyeong-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 Chipyeong-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. Sadly, Richard paid the ultimate price and was killed in action.

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.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Root, who currently attends the United States Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him and thanking him for his service to the country.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF BATAVIA AS NEW YORK STATE'S "CAPITAL FOR A DAY"

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform this body that on Wednesday, July 25, 2001, the Capital of New York state is moving to the city of Batavia, in picturesque Genesee County. While the move may not be permanent, it is significant, and will provide residents of Batavia and Genesee County an opportunity see, first hand, all their state government has to offer.

Commissioners and Executive Directors of 18 State Agencies—along with New York State Governor George Pataki—will be at Genesee County Community College for "Agencies at Your Service," providing information on a wide variety of programs and services, as well as allowing local residents to sign up for such programs as Child Health Plus.

Governor Pataki will end the day with a Town Hall meeting at the Genesee Center for the Arts. Capital for a Day is a tremendous outreach initiative, and the governor should be commended for his unique and visionary effort to bring state government directly to the people of New York state.

Further, Capital for a Day will provide our community an opportunity to showcase Batavia and Western New York to all of the Empire State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in recognizing the city of Batavia as New York state's Capital City for Wednesday, July 25, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on July 23, 2001 to cast recorded votes for Rollcall No. 257, 258 and 259. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on No. 257, 258 and 259.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 236. On Approving the Journal, had I been present I would have voted Yea;

Roll Call No. 237, H.R. 1, No Child Left Behind, disagreeing to Senate amendment and

agreeing to a conference. Had I been present I would have voted Yea;

I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 238, H.R. 1, motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present I would have voted Yea;

I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 239, the Maloney Amendment, increasing funding for the Census Bureau by \$2 million in order to facilitate more accurate counting of Hispanic subgroups. Had I been present I would have voted Nay;

I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 240, the Maloney Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted Nay;

I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 241, the Delay Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted Yea; and

I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 242, the Jackson-Lee Amendment. Had I been present I would have voted Nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 259 on July 23, 2001, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW ALEXANDER ENGEL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students, Matthew Alexander Engel. The Boy Scouts of his troop will honor him as they recognize his achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor on this coming Thursday, July 26th.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

This award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless