

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

14389

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

others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Mr. Engel, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition. Congratulations to Matthew and his family.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT LESLIE
GRAINGER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert "Bob" Leslie Grainger, who recently passed away. Mr. Grainger was a dedicated community member for many years, and was heavily involved in the California Rodeo in Salinas, California.

Mr. Grainger was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and lived in Salinas for 67 years. He attended Stanford University, was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, and became a farmer and produce grower. During his military service in World War II, Mr. Grainger held the rank of First Lieutenant, and he received the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Mr. Grainger served as the California Rodeo Salinas President in 1977 and was heavily involved in announcing at the annual event. Furthermore, Mr. Grainger involved himself in many community activities, such as the Boy Scouts and Eagle Board of Review and the First Presbyterian Church. In his free time, he was an avid fisherman, hunter, and golfer. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Grainger established himself as a successful agricultural businessman and dedicated community member.

Mr. Grainger's contributions and loyalty to the Salinas Valley were hallmarks of his long years of community service. Therefore, I honor the life and contributions of Mr. Grainger with his friends and family, including his wife of 54 years, Sally; his sons, William and Joseph of Salinas, and John of Carmel; his sisters, Olive Bundgard of Salinas and Lesley Browne of Lincoln, Nebraska; his eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

ENSLAVEMENT OF WOMEN DURING
THE COLONIAL OCCUPATION
OF ASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I was joined by Ms. Soon Dok Kim, an un conquered survivor of one of the worst crimes committed against women—the mass rape of 200,000 women and girls orchestrated by the Imperial Japanese Army. To this date the Government of Japan still has not issued a clear apology, offered state reparations, or attempted to educate its population on these atrocities. Therefore, I am introducing a resolution in Congress today that calls upon the

Government of Japan to formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology for the sexual enslavement of young women during the colonial occupation of Asia and Pacific Islands during World War II.

Ms. Soon Dok Kim told a large audience this afternoon about how she was kidnaped from her village at 17 years old and forced to be a comfort woman. She is a very courageous person to take such a public role and share the story of her suffering in order to seek justice.

It has been almost 56 years since Japan surrendered to the allied powers. Very few comfort women are still alive and time is running out for Japan to properly account for its actions. We must act soon and remember that there is no statute of limitations on crimes against humanity.

When human rights are violated, the international community must act because we have a moral responsibility to do so.

So, let us do what is just and what is right for the comfort women and other victims. Let us speak out for them. Let us stand up for them. Let us lend them our strength.

We must act, and we must speak out because in the end, people will remember not the words of their enemies, but the silence of their friends.

Let us not remain silent.

DALLAS INNER CITY GAMES

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Inner-City Games, a nationwide program dedicated to providing opportunities for inner-city youth to participate in sports, educational, cultural, and community enrichment programs. In recent years, the program has expanded its education efforts by focusing on educational technology and the digital divide.

The Inner-City Games was formed in response to the growing number of children across the nation living in poverty and facing the negative influences surrounding them in inner-city neighborhoods. Involving young people in sports clinics and competitions teaches valuable life lessons, brings young people from different cultures together on an equal playing field and teaches kids about teamwork, discipline, setting goals, working hard, and the valuable lessons of winning and losing. At the Inner-City Games, young people are taught that participation and learning are more important than winning and losing.

Inner-City Games brings together local community leaders, creating an alliance between the private and public sectors to achieve their mission. Mayors, Police Chiefs, Public Schools, Parks and Recreation Departments, Public Housing and other youth service providers are working together to create a truly meaningful opportunity for thousands of young people across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the Inner-City Games are due to launch in Dallas, Texas this week. This makes Dallas the 15th city to join this remarkable program. I commend the efforts of the

city of Dallas and the tremendous number of people and organizations that came together to make the Games possible. Today, I especially want to thank Mr. Todd Wagner, National Board Member and Dallas Chairman for the Games. Mr. Wagner was instrumental in bringing the Inner-City Games to Dallas, and he deserves recognition for his outstanding efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Inner-City Games and the opportunities it creates for thousands of young people across America. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the City of Dallas as they launch the first annual Dallas Inner-City Games this week, as well as Inner-City Games across America.

END OF INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS
SIGNALS INSTABILITY IN SOUTH
ASIA

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to see that the recent talks between Pakistan and India ended with no agreement due to India's intransigence. India wanted a statement that Pakistan was engaging in cross-border terrorism, when India itself is responsible for terrorism against its own people.

Last month, a group of Indian soldiers tried to burn down a Gurdwara and some Sikh houses near Srinagar in Kashmir. This terrorist act was prevented by the efforts of townspeople of both the Sikh and Muslim faiths. In March 2000, during former President Clinton's visit to India, the government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura, according to two independent investigations. The book *Soft Target* shows that India blew up its own airliner in 1985. 329 innocent people died in that explosion. The newspaper *Hitavada* report that the Indian government paid an official to generate state terrorism in Kashmir and in Punjab, Khalistan. According to a 1994 State Department report, the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers to kill Sikhs.

Before the meeting, the Council of Khalistan wrote to President Musharraf. They noted that he and his government had been friendly to the Sikhs and their cause of freedom. They noted that in 1948 the Indian government promised the United Nations that it would hold a plebiscite so Kashmiris could decide their political status in a free and fair vote. This shouldn't be too hard for "the world's largest democracy" to do, but we are now more than halfway through 2001 and it hasn't been held yet. When does India plan to keep its promise?

In addition, the people of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987 and the people of primarily Christian Nagaland are actively seeking theirs. In all, there are 17 freedom movements in India. When will these people be allowed by "the world's largest democracy" to exercise their right to self-determination? Self-determination is the birthright of all people and nations.

Mr. Speaker, if America can do something to help bring democracy and freedom to South