ourselves now is a breakdown of our solidarity, which must be absolute. Racism and hate are characteristics of terrorists, not of individuals who treasure freedom. I urge my colleagues to join me in encouraging unity with our fellow Arab and Muslim Americans and all Americans, who share our commitment to freedom and democracy. Unity, not hatred, will provide our nation with clarity and moral and spiritual development we must not lack, will provide our nation with unity, and a solid foundation of truth. A testament to General Shelton's exceptional leadership and of his commitment to our Nation is his meteoric rise through the Army's general officer ranks from brigade general through general in 9 years! In 1987, as a brigadier general, General Shelton served for 2 years in the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Operations Directorate, followed by another 2-year assignment as the 101st Airborne Division's Assistant Division Commander, which included a 7-month deployment to the Gulf for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Following the Gulf War, General Shelton was promoted to the rank of major general and was assigned to command the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and in 1993, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and assumed the command of the XVIII Airborne Corps. While serving as Corps Commander, General Shelton commanded the Joint Task Force that conducted Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti. In February 1996, General Shelton served as the Chief of the Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. As the Command's Chief, General Shelton became the overall commander of our Nation's elite fighting forces participation in joint operations.

True to his roots as a "soldier's soldier" and a leader who is "at home" being out in the field, I was not surprised to learn that General Shelton was in Namibia reviewing special operations forces when he was contacted by the Pentagon regarding his interest in being considered for the Chairman's position. Following his nomination by then President Bill Clinton, and confirmation by the Senate, General Shelton became the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to improve the quality of life for our men and women serving in our armed forces.

General Shelton sought and received the largest across the board pay increases for the military in nearly two decades; pushed for greater salary increases for our mid-grade noncommissioned officers; and instituted a retirement reform package that reinstated benefits for those who entered our Nation's military service after 1986; implemented an enhanced housing allowance that gradually eliminated out of pocket expenses for service members living off their post or base; and advocated for medical health care reform that made health care more responsive to the needs of our military and their families, and included military retirement at the age of 65.

As part of Chairman Shelton's dynamic leadership, he established a U.S. Joint Forces Command to serve as the nucleus for Joint Experimentation and Joint Force Readiness; established a Joint Task Force-Civil Support to increase the military's ability to respond to U.S. homeland defense crises, and established a Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations to develop and enhance
measures and protocols to further safeguard our information networks. In his Joint Vision 2020, General Shelton set forth the goals and metrics for the future joint force. General Shelton's paper is the Defense of the United States, designed to improve the interoperability of our services including: a Joint Warfighting Logistics initiative, a revision of Joint Professional Military Education Programs, development of a Global Information Grid, and an enhancement of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council's focus on joint warfighting. Additionally, General Shelton through his hard work, preparation, and personal presence, the Department of Defense realized an increase of 112 billion dollars for defense spending over the 5-year defense plan, as well as implemented new processes to carefully manage and account for resources in support of the overall National Security Strategy.

During General Shelton's distinguished career he was awarded numerous awards and decorations, including: the Defense of the United States, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with oak leaf clapper), the Bronze Star Medal with V device I (with three oak leaf clapper), and the Purple Heart, for injuries received during combat in Vietnam. General Shelton has also been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and the coveted Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, as well as numerous foreign awards and badges.

General Shelton's leadership, drive and initiatives have proven time and time again that he was a superb choice to serve as our Nation's top military adviser as we entered into the 21st Century. On September 11, 2001, our Nation suffered from the horrific terror attacks in New York and in Washington, and I am confident that if it were not for the Joint Chiefs of Staffs' instantaneous and swift response to the attacks under the leadership of General Shelton working under our President, the Secretary of Defense and the State Department, our top-notch national security team, the damage and casualties we suffered may have been far greater.

General Shelton meritoriously served as our 14th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with honor and distinction during the past four years. While he may have served as the senior military officer and operated at the highest levels of government, General Shelton never lost touch with our men and women in uniform, and no matter how busy or over committed he is, he always makes the time to assist others. In August 2001, a member of my staff underwent two surgeries and General Shelton and his staff called Matt to see if there was anything that they could do—that is but one example of the true, caring professional that epitomizes General Shelton as a "soldier's soldier."

I also want to recognize and offer my sincere gratitude to General Shelton's wife Carolyn for her dedicated work, tireless efforts, and support of our military families during her service to our country and Mrs. Shelton's three sons Jonathan, Jeffrey and Mark deserve our thanks for supporting their father during his distinguished service.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to General Henry H. "Hugh" Shelton, the 14th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a superb leader, a quiet diplomat, a higher gentleman of the truest sense of the word, and a true friend of mine and of our great Nation!

Mr. RADANOVICh. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don and Craig Saladino on the occasion of the grand opening of their new facility. Saladino Company operates as two separate privately owned corporate entities: Saladino Sausage Company and Saladino’s, incorporated, which is a specialized foodservice distribution company.

The Saladino Sausage Company was established in Fresno, California in the meat department of a grocery store, owned by Don Saladino’s father. Don’s sausage products were first made and sold in 1944. The distinct sausage recipes were made from special family recipes brought over from the Calabrese region of Italy. Don’s passion for sausage helped Don’s business grow quickly and earned him a reputation for producing quality sausages at a fair price.

Craig, Don’s son, joined his father in the family business in 1979. Together they extended their core product line to include pizza sausage and linguica sold to local restaurants and pizzerias. The Saladino Sausage Company’s wide variety of raw and cooked sausage products soon developed a loyal following of retail and institutional customers. A growing reputation of integrity and quality products soon presented Saladino’s with expanded distribution.

Saladino’s expansion has allowed the company to move into their new state-of-the-art distribution facility. The new facility has increased warehouse capability, climate controlled docks, and a layout that allows for orders to be processed more efficiently. The new facility will help Saladino’s Company to continue building on a tradition of service.

Saladino’s Sausage Company is run by President Don Saladino. Under Don’s leadership, the company has maintained a high level of quality, integrity and growth. Don’s motto, “Never forget where you came from,” keeps the company focused on providing continuous quality service to its customers. Saladino’s Incorporated is run by President Craig Saladino. His company has a unique philosophy of partnership with its foodservice customers, vendors and associates.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Don and Craig Saladino and Saladino’s Company on the occasion of the opening of their new facility. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Saladino family and the Saladino Company many more years of continued success.