

roles. It was also a sad day for me personally as over the years John and his wife Karen have become close friends. I rise today not; however, to remark on the retirement of a great soldier but to thank him for a lifetime of service to our country.

General Pickler leaves the Army after over 36 years of dedicated service to our Nation and the soldiers that he loves. His biography is distinguished.

Lieutenant General John M. Pickler assumed the duties of the Director of the Army Staff on 17 August 1999.

A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, General Pickler was graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, and commissioned in the Field Artillery on 9 June 1965. He was awarded a Master of Science in Physics from the University of Virginia in 1971.

Prior to assuming duties as the Director of the Army Staff, he served as Chief of Staff, United States Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia; Commander, Fort Carson, Colorado and Deputy Commanding General, III Corps; Deputy Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Commanding General of Joint Task Force Six, Fort Bliss, Texas; and Assistant Division Commander (Support), 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Carson, Colorado.

General Pickler has held a wide variety of Field Artillery positions from battery through corps, culminating as the Chief of Staff, III Corps Artillery and the Director of Plans, Training and Mobilization, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Other key assignments include Instructor and Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics at West Point; Executive Officer to the Director, Defense Nuclear Agency; Commander of 2d Battalion, 81st Field Artillery, 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) with concurrent duty as Commander of the Idar-Oberstein (Germany) Military Sub-community. Following command, he was assigned as the 8th Infantry Division Inspector General. In 1987, he returned to Germany as Commander, 8th Infantry Division Artillery in Baumholder, and then became the Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, Washington, DC, in 1989. In addition to Germany, his overseas assignments include Vietnam and Turkey.

General Pickler is a graduate of both the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and also the Army War College with duty as an Advanced Operational Studies Fellow at the Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters; the Legion of Merit with Three Oak Leaf Clusters; the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Bronze Star with "V" Device; and the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters.

General Pickler and his wife, Karen, have one daughter, Nevelyn, and two sons, Andy and Jeff.

General Pickler attended his last parade as a soldier on Monday, 29 October 2001. I am proud to have had the opportunity to attend it and witness the retirement of a friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 499, H.R. 3379, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park, New York, as the "Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building." Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 500, H.R. 3054, to award congressional gold medals on behalf of the officers, emergency workers, and other employees of the Federal Government and any State or local government, including any interstate governmental entity, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CLIFTON E. ARMSTEAD, OUTGOING CHIEF OF THE WILMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today as a member of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus to honor and pay tribute to a leader in the firefighting community—Clifton Armstead outgoing Chief of the Wilmington Fire Department. Clifton Armstead is an outstanding, dedicated and caring Delawarean with an abundance of accomplishments in this field. On behalf of myself and the citizens of the First State, I would like to honor this outstanding individual and extend to him our congratulations on his 36 years in the fire department.

Today, I recognize Clifton Armstead for his long and distinguished career in the Wilmington Fire Department. On January 4th 2002 Mr. Armstead will officially retire from a post that he has held since 2000, but from a fire department that he has been part of for over three decades. He has provided service in a manner that has brought distinction not only to himself but to the entire Wilmington Fire Department.

Family, friends and fellow firefighters can now take a moment to truly appreciate the world of difference Clifton Armstead has brought to the firefighting community. He has served for many years as a member of Engine, Ladder and Rescue Companies as well as the Training Unit. Mr. Armstead was promoted to Lieutenant in 1983 and appointed Deputy Chief of Operations in 1993 where he served for seven years before being appointed Chief of Fire in January of 2000.

Clifton E. Armstead has spent all of his life helping the community of Wilmington and all of Delaware. Mr. Armstead graduated with the Class of 1962 from Wilmington High School.

He also attended Delaware Technical and Community College, the National Fire Academy and the Delaware State Fire School. Of particular interest are the many supervisory and management classes that have helped him to become such a successful and important leader to the City of Wilmington.

Mr. Speaker, with his wife Dawn at his side, and his daughter Jaye, the Armstead family proudly and unselfishly contributes every day to the quality of life at home in their community and our entire state.

Mr. Clifton E. Armstead's contributions cannot be commended enough. As he retires from the Wilmington Fire Department we can be sure that his contributions will not end. His commitment to fighting fires and saving lives has earned him a permanent place in Delaware's fire service history.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES K. REES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a most exceptional California Inland Empire community leader, friend and great American—Mr. James Rees.

Calvin Coolidge, America's 13th President, once said, "No person was ever honored for what he received; honor has been the reward for what he gave." And Jim Rees gave much during his years of military service and banking career.

With true valor and love of country, Mr. Rees voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army in 1942 and became an Officer in 1944. Like many other members of the Greatest Generation he served in World War II in both the European and North African/Middle East theaters. After the war, Jim returned to the United States and in 1948 enlisted in the Air Force. He quickly rose among the ranks and in 1957 achieved the rank of Major. Jim served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, and in 1968 voluntarily retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He has been honored with numerous medals ranging from the WWII victory medal to the National Defense Service Medal as well as the Air Force Longevity Service Award with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

After a distinguished career in the Air Force, Mr. Rees established himself in Riverside and went into the banking business. He served the community with the same care and dedication he had served our country. An avid golfer, Jim was instrumental in the revitalization of the March Air Force Base golf course. Jim has also been active in the Strategic Air Command Group of Veterans and has always been proud to call himself a team player.

A love of country can only be matched by a love of family. Mr. Rees has four children, Christine, Susan, Laura, and David, five grandchildren, Amy, Jennifer, Jim, Ian, and Susan and great-grandchild, Samuel who all refer to him as their hero. No greater honor can be bestowed on a man who has selflessly and wholeheartedly served our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Jim's life, we see a man dedicated to military service and