TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY PERCY OF ROME, GEORGIA, SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Ashley Percy, winner of the 2001 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation’s future.

Ashley is an exceptional student at Camden-Frontier High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She is involved in the National Honor Society, as well as volleyball, basketball and softball. She has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics as well as her involvement in athletics. Ashley also served as a Congressional Page for the United States House of Representatives.

THEREFORE, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Ashley Percy for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SAM SPECTOR AND THE OSS-101 ASSOCIATION, ROME, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the OSS-101 Association represents the men of World War II Detachment 101 of the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to today’s CIA), who served in guerrilla warfare behind the Japanese lines in Burma. Mr. Sam Spector, of Rome, Georgia, is President of this association. He and the other fighting men of “Merrill’s Marauders” have remained extremely grateful to the Kachin people of Burma, for the crucial help provided by them during the war.

By 1942 the Japanese were well experienced in jungle fighting. Burma was one of the world’s most hostile environments. It was also the home of a very special group of people—the Kachins. They lived in the northern-most state of Burma, and they cherished their freedom as do we. Though the Japanese occupied most of Burma in 1942, they were unable to secure the Kachin State. The Kachins took a stand, and became what was known as Detachment 101 of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, also known as the American-Kachin Rangers. This was the first United States unit to form an intelligence screen and employ a large guerrilla army deep in enemy territory.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower commended Detachment 101 of its exemplary performance.

After the war, members of Detachment 101 distinguished themselves in all services and in private life. An association was formed to join ex-101ers, fraternally, as well as to maintain ties with the Kachins, in Burma (now Myanmar). This friendship has been maintained in spite of the distances and years.

In 1995, 18 Americans, including 12 American veterans of 101, decided to spend their 50th Anniversary in Burma with their Kachin friends. There was a celebration of the American-Kachin Rangers. Among those attending were 3800 Kachins and more than 250 WW II Kachin veterans. Since that time, the Association has printed and distributed thousands of translated grade school readers, a book on Kachin history, and a first aid book; and is active in teaching agriculture.

During March 2001 the group visited the air strip captured by Merrill’s Marauders to place a wreath. At that time they noted the Japanese had erected a memorial to their dead, and the group decided it would like to place a memorial to the Americans (Merrill’s Marauders, Mars Task Force, the 19th Air Force, and Detachment 101 USA Kachin Rangers). There are no memorials to our veterans in Southeast Asia, although there are many in Europe, and one in the Philippines that honors those Americans and Filipinos who died.

I urge all my colleagues, and Americans everywhere to join me in saluting these brave Americans and Kachin heroes, for their sacrifices that were so vital in our victory in the Asian theatre in World War II. I especially salute Rome, Georgia’s Sam Spector, who is a leader in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL GWILYM H. JENKINS, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to inform my colleagues on the upcoming retirement of Rear Admiral Gwilym H. Jenkins, Jr., Deputy for Acquisition and Business Management for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. In the very near future, Admiral Jenkins will retire after over 30 years in the U.S. Navy. He has distinguished himself, the Navy, and our nation with dedicated service.

Admiral Jenkins began his service in the military in 1966, when he enlisted in the Naval Reserve. Throughout his career, Admiral Jenkins has continued his formal education. He received a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He received masters degrees from the Naval Post Graduate School and is a graduate of the University of Southern California Program for Executives.

Admiral Jenkins has held many command assignments and honorably served the American people throughout the world. Admiral Jenkins has served on the U.S.S. Savannah, U.S.S. Raleigh, and U.S.S. Puget Sound. He has also served as Supply Officer and Comptroller, Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Procuring Contracting Officer for the A06E TRAM and Business and Financial Manager of the CH–46 and CH–53 Marine helicopters, Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

As Director of Contracts at Navy Supply Center, Jacksonville, Florida, and while working at the Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he championed the use of electronic bulletin boards in contracting. Admiral Jenkins also served as Executive Director for Procurement at the Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he was responsible for the implementation of the electric commerce mall on the World Wide Web, significantly reducing unnecessary Department of Defense logistics infrastructure.

Through his work in Navy acquisition, Admiral Jenkins has consistently reached out to communities and to small business owners throughout the United States and has helped bridge the gap between military and civilian America. Admiral Jenkins, through his unique and amiable style, has worked to make this intimidating process easier for Americans to understand. I am especially grateful to Admiral Jenkins for traveling to Warrensburg, Missouri, to take part in my annual Federal Procurement Conference held each year at Central Missouri State University. I know the residents of Missouri’s Fourth Congressional District join me in
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to improve the forecasting of inland flooding associated with tropical storms and to develop an inland flood warning system to alert residents of dangerous flooding.

The people of North Carolina are all too familiar with the death and devastation that can come from the heavy rains that hurricanes and tropical storms often bring to our state. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd killed forty-eight people and caused nearly $3 billion worth of property damage, primarily through flooding in inland communities. Recently, Tropical Storm Allison cut a path across the nation, killing more than 50 people.

If Floyd and Allison taught us anything, it was that we have been more successful preparing coastal communities for these types of storms than in preparing inland communities. Too many folks think of hurricanes or tropical storms as something that affects only the coast and beach cottages. These storms hit us where we live.

Floyd and Allison demonstrated all too clearly that the greatest threat posed by these storms are the torrential rains that often do the most damage hundreds of miles inland. A new study by Ed Rappaport of the Tropical Prediction Center shows that since 1970, freshwater flooding caused 59 percent of storm deaths in the United States, whereas only one percent lost their lives in coastal storms.

Inland residents need a warning system that raises the awareness of the destructiveness of these storms so they can protect their families and property. Currently, technology exists to help track and prepare coastal communities for the wind, rain, and storm surge damage associated with tropical cyclones. But, now we must move forward with efforts to improve inland flood forecasting and warnings. This bill will provide the funds and the road map to get us there. Ultimately, we can save lives.

This legislation builds on work being done by National Weather Service (NWS), emergency management officials, meteorologists and others to reduce the risks of injury due to inland flooding. The bill authorizes $5.75 million over five years for the National Weather Service to improve its ability to forecast inland flooding associated with tropical storms and hurricanes and to develop and deploy an inland flood warning system—such as one similar to the Saffir-Simpson scale for wind speed familiar to coastal residents.

Joe Allbaugh, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Administration, recently expressed a too prevalent view about storm damage when he said, “I don’t think that we can fault the forecasters. No one can predict 66 inches of rain.”

We must do better than that. It’s time to develop the tools so forecasters can warn the...