

*July 13, 2006*

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS, Vol. 152, Pt. 11**

**14427**

1975, he served as special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for manpower and reserve affairs. Dr. Elster also held positions as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resource Management and Support.

Dr. Elster was recognized for meritorious civilian service as Provost and Academic Dean at the Naval Postgraduate School, from July 1995 to December 2005. Because of his leadership, the Naval Postgraduate School attained unprecedented stature in the defense establishment and the academic community. It was recognized in 2005 with the highest score for military value of all Department of Defense education commands by the Education and Training Joint Cross Service Group.

The Naval Postgraduate School is respected as a world class research university due in part to Dr. Elster's leadership, strategic vision, and devotion to public service. Much of the academic work of the school's students and faculty responds directly to real world defense mission needs.

As Dr. Richard S. Elster prepares for retirement, I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing appreciation for his dedication to the Naval Postgraduate School and will wish him well in all the days ahead.

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**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

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**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, and 369.

Rollcall vote No. 364 was on ordering the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 365 was on agreeing to the resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 366 was on a motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 367 was on the Kanjorski of Pennsylvania substitute amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 368 was on final passage of H.R. 2990, the Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 369, was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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**CITY OF HICKORY CREEK RANKED  
IN TOP TEN**

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community within my district for

being acknowledged as one of the "Top Ten Best Places to Live in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex" by D Magazine, a regional monthly publication. This top honor went to the town of Hickory Creek for its excellent schools, affordable housing, low crime rates, and its small town ambience.

Every 2 years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. The town of Hickory Creek received the number nine spot on the list and is also recognized as a place for "quiet, hassle-free, safe living." Also worth mentioning, the town of Hickory Creek was acknowledged as having the "best value for quality of life." For this, it received the honor of the first spot on list of "Best Deals" in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as rated by D Magazine.

With a population of 2,400 and an annual growth rate of 1.5 percent, the town of Hickory Creek is the smallest suburb to make the Top Ten. In 1996, the town's annual sales tax revenue was \$30,000. Today, that number is closer to \$1 million.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mayor John Smith and the City Council of Hickory Creek for building the town of Hickory Creek into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant place to live.

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**LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL  
M. DUNN**

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**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career has come to an end. LTG Michael M. Dunn is retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

Lieutenant General Dunn received his Bachelor of Science degree in astrodynamics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, in 1972. After graduating fourth in his class in June 1972, General Dunn flew the F-106 at Castle Air Force Base, CA. Following various duties in Washington, DC, Florida, and Alabama, he transitioned to the F-15, which he flew in the Far East. He is a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours.

In 1976, he went to the Squadron Officer School and later received his Master of Science degree in systems management at the University of Southern California in 1981. In 1983, he attended the Air Command and Staff College in Maxwell AFB, AL, and three years later attended the Air War College. In 1989, Lieutenant General Dunn attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Dunn commanded the 1st Operations Group at Langley Air Force Base, VA. He was the Senior Military Fellow and is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has served in four joint tours, including the Headquarters U.S. European Command, the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Headquarters United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea,

and the Joint Staff. In Korea, he was the lead negotiator with the North Korean Army at P'anmunjom.

Most recently, Lieutenant General Dunn served as president of National Defense University. He has provided strong leadership, coordinating the several schools with the National Defense University. During his tenure, the professional military education of our military made great strides forward.

Lieutenant General Dunn's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters.

Throughout his career, LTG Michael M. Dunn has served the Nation well. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Lieutenant General Dunn all the best in all the days ahead.

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**TRIBUTE TO NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL  
WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

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**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. This summer, Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association celebrates its 40th Anniversary of caring for animals in a sheltered environment.

Eight very kind-hearted women from Morris County started Noah's Ark in 1966 with hopes of curtailing the pet overpopulation problem and promoting animal welfare. Noah's Ark provides homeless animals with a clean and comfortable living environment, food, veterinary care, and lots of warm attention. Under no circumstances are any of the animals taken to Noah's Ark subject to euthanization.

Since 1966, life expectancy for animals has increased significantly thanks to more specialized food and improved health care. Comprehensive spay and neuter operations have expanded dramatically. With these improvements in the quality of life for animals comes an increase in cost of caring for a pet! Noah's Ark continues to be an instrumental resource for those families that can no longer afford to keep their pets.

Thanks to the hospitable residents of Northern Jersey, thousands of animals have been saved in the past 40 years. By selflessly opening their homes to wonderful cats and dogs and generously offering monetary donations, a very supportive network of donors and volunteers have helped Noah's Ark to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in applauding the impressive efforts of the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association over the past 40 years and for their fine example of service to our community.