

government, private sector, the culture that was so dear to him, and the church his faith so firmly treasured. Those will always speak for themselves in defining the distinctiveness of the man.

But if there is anything I want to emphasize about his character, it is the immense wisdom he shared with me throughout the years I worked for him, and the many times he nourished and encouraged me first as a congressional staffer in Washington, and eventually as the delegate from American Samoa years later.

His simple yet honest and direct approach to all issues forged the basis of my professional life in Washington. Fuimaono's determination for the development of American Samoa and yet his sensitivity to protecting the Samoan culture pushed me to strive for that delicate balance that can still define us as Samoans yet allows for us to be an equal participant under the complex, political system of the United States government.

So when I heard the news of the Paramount Chief's death, there was no question in my mind that I needed to go home, and be there, and honor his memory, even with the demanding schedule Congress is faced with as it works to address the national financial crisis we are now facing. I owed it to Fuimaono's children and his family to be in Samoa, if only for a day, to pay my personal respects and acknowledge my indebtedness to the one person who started it all for me.

I am most grateful and humbled that this great man had the patience and tolerance to help me develop confidence and pride in being Samoan. And if there is a last thing I would say of Paramount Chief Fuimaono, it is the fact that if it wasn't for his trust and belief in me, I would not be where I'm at and the person that I am right now.

Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also mention two other gentlemen, Roy J.D. Hall, Jr. and Michael F.J. Kruse, who over the years Uncle Fui had taken on as his own sons, like me. Roy J.D. Hall, Jr., has become a very successful corporate lawyer and also currently serves as counselor to the Honorable Lolo L. Moliga, President of the American Samoa Senate. The Honorable Michael F.J. Kruse is currently the first Samoan-appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of American Samoa.

I am sure there are many others whose lives have been deeply influenced by this great Samoan leader, but I can only speak for myself and for Roy and for Mike, who now contribute significantly to the needs of our Samoan people. We grieve on his passing and, again, I express my sincere condolences to Paramount Chief A.U. Fuimaono's children and family, and may God through His Everlasting Peace, grant His healing grace sooner on the grieving families and people of Samoa.

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF DON LYSTER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Don Lyster, a dedicated, hard work-

ing gentleman whom I am very fortunate to have had on my staff for the past seven years.

Don joined my staff in March 2002 as my legislative assistant handling labor, trade, immigration, homeland security and judiciary issues. I was proud to promote him twice during his tenure in my office, first to Legislative Counsel and then to Chief of Staff.

Don demonstrated his passion for issues affecting underserved communities and the lives of working families daily in his work. Through his efforts, legislation to expedite the naturalization process for legal immigrants serving in the U.S. military and members of the selected reserves, coupled with immigration protections for immediate family members of fallen soldiers, was enacted into law.

From a union family, Don's work on labor issues demonstrated his strong commitment to working families. He was constantly working to improve workplace conditions and grow jobs for working families. Don always worked to protect and increase worker's rights, not only on a national level, but by keeping close watch on the issues facing workers throughout Los Angeles.

His passion for telecommunications and internet matters was always seen through the perspective of the need to protect and expand affordable access for all consumers, which is especially important in California's 32nd Congressional District.

As my Chief of Staff, Don has played an integral role in helping advance my priorities on the Energy and Commerce Committee and as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment. I am grateful to have had him with me to assist in my role on the Steering and Policy Committee. Don has used his knowledge of telecommunications matters to help expand outreach in the Congressional District I represent through the use of new technologies. Through his words and actions, Don has trained, mentored and inspired my staff to constantly challenge themselves to meet new goals while helping them along the way.

Don's passion for life and love of his family will be sorely missed in my office. I join my staff in Washington, DC, and district offices in El Monte and East Los Angeles in wishing Don the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM
H. GOURLEY, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Maj. Gen. William H. Gourley, who passed away on August 25 this year. He will be greatly missed.

It is hard to condense the life of such a big man into mere words. His spirit and energy were indefatigable and inspired soldiers, family and friends alike.

I had the honor and pleasure to interview General Gourley shortly before he died in a retrospective look at his life. I did this as one way to pay tribute to General Gourley but also

as part of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Now General Gourley's story will be there for the generations to hear.

I got to know General Gourley when he retired to the Monterey Peninsula right about the time of the 1991 BRAC action which ended up closing Fort Ord in my district.

At the time I was serving in the State Assembly and was unaware that General Gourley, even then, was working behind the scenes to make sure the rank-and-file military was taken care of. General Gourley was fond of championing his own special commandments—his own 10 Golden Rules. When Fort Ord appeared on the BRAC list General Gourley worked his network in the Pentagon to make sure a portion of the base was dedicated to a VA clinic to serve the thousands of veterans living in the area. As his 10th Golden Rule says: "Make a better Army and Corps for your subordinates to inherit." In working to make sure the former Fort Ord held a VA clinic—even a small one—he was leaving something better behind.

But that was typical of Bill Gourley. He was a get-it-done kind of guy. He recalled a time from when he was stationed in Korea and was ordered to evacuate all civilian Americans from a town. One person refused to go unless the Army Chief of Staff wrote the order personally. Gourley wrote the order, forged then Army Chief-of Staff Maxwell Taylor's signature and the recalcitrant civilian up and moved.

Now, 50+ years later, that almost sounds comical. But it was serious business at the time and Bill Gourley was a man determined to follow through. As important as getting the job done, however, was his commitment to the chain of command. He once told a story about working at the National Military Command Center as a part of the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he monitored cables from Asia. One evening then-Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara requested to see a particular FLASH cable, "FLASH" being a message relating to ground operations in Vietnam and of the utmost top secret nature and extremely urgent. Gourley searched the files for the communiqué and noted that it said "For the Chairman's Eyes Only." He stalwartly told the Secretary of Defense he could not pass on the file to read because only the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs had the necessary clearance.

General Gourley was always all about the men and women of the Army. He tried to do right by them in every posting he had. When he was in command at the War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, he insisted soldiers couldn't come to class unless they brought their wives. This was so spouses would come to understand the Army mindset and form a greater bond within the family around shared duty and sacrifice.

Not every task he undertook played out the way he thought. He was in charge of a task force assigned to approach Mrs. Julia Abrams, the widow of General Creighton Abrams, to discuss the possibility of naming a new Army tank after the late General. Gourley related how he and his staff gave a command briefing on the tank to Mrs. Abrams spending excruciating detail on the vehicle and praising its abilities. When they were exhausted from effort and turned to look to Mrs. Abrams for a reaction, she simply said, "But General, is it a