

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues of the 111th Congress to join me in congratulating Dr. Lester Carter on receiving the James Baker Award. Dr. Lester Carter continues to provide immeasurable support and care to the African American Community and the Greater Milwaukee Community at large. I am proud that Dr. Carter is a resident of the 4th Congressional District and applaud his lifetime of accomplishments and success.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN VINCENT WILCZYNSKI UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SECTION OF THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CAPT Vincent Wilczynski. I want to commend Captain Wilczynski for his long and distinguished career as he retires as the Chief of the Mechanical Engineering Section of the Coast Guard Academy.

Captain Wilczynski has served as a visionary leader at the United States Coast Guard Academy. He received the national Professor of the Year award in 2001 and has worked extensively at FIRST Robotics, a non-profit organization that motivates young people to pursue careers in science, technology and engineering. Before assuming his current position at Yale, Captain Wilczynski cultivated and led the Mechanical Engineering Section as a Faculty Member and Chief of the Mechanical Engineering Section. He was also Head of the Engineering Department.

A 1983 USCGA graduate, Captain Wilczynski earned a graduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctorate from Catholic University. Captain Wilczynski's many accolades include the 2003 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME, Distinguished Service Award, the 2005 ASME Edwin C. Church Medal for national contributions in engineering outreach and he was awarded a prestigious American Council on Education Fellowship in 2006.

Captain Wilczynski's outreach and leadership have been invaluable to the USCGA, to Yale and to the Connecticut community as a whole. His unstinting dedication and innovative teaching have touched the lives of many Americans and his dedication will be remembered for years to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me, and the people of Connecticut, in thanking Captain Vincent Wilczynski for educating a generation of engineers and acting as an example to so many.

IN TRIBUTE TO HARRISON INDUSTRIES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Harrison Industries, which is being

recognized by the Ventura County Council, Boy Scouts of America, as Ventura County's Distinguished Citizen for 2010.

Harrison Industries is one of the oldest and largest privately owned trash collection businesses in the United States. It provides residential, commercial and industrial services to about 80,000 customers in Ventura, Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, the surrounding unincorporated areas of Ventura County and Carpinteria. In addition, Harrison-owned Gold Coast Recycling processes and markets the curbside recyclables for Santa Barbara County.

E.J. Harrison and Sons was founded in 1932. E.J. died in 1991 but his wife, Myra, remains with the company as founder. Four generations of Harrison family members are involved in the day-to-day operations of the company. Myra's oldest son, Ralph, is president while her other sons, Jim and Myron, serve as vice presidents.

Harrison Industries is on the forefront of the recycling movement in California. In addition, Harrison Industries opened the first liquefied natural gas fueling station in western Ventura County and converted a significant number of its diesel trucks to run on the cleaner burning LNG.

Harrison Industries has won many awards in recognition of its financial support of local non-profit organizations and community cultural events. The company has been particularly generous to organizations that help children such as the Boy Scouts of America. E.J. was a Pack leader for several years and taught his sons the traditions and expectations of the Boy Scouts. E.J.'s sons continue the Harrison family tradition of supporting the Boy Scouts.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Harrison Industries for its business leadership, community service, deep commitment to public service and for exemplifying the values found in the Scout Oath and Law, and in congratulating the Harrison family for this well-earned recognition.

TRIBUTE TO KEN BARKWILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ken Barkwill, a World War II Air Force veteran from Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Ken Barkwill was recognized on Tuesday, November 2. Below is the article in its entirety:

[From the Boone News Republican, Nov. 2, 2010]

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: KEN BARKWILL

(By Greg Eckstrom)

Ken Barkwill found himself in World War II as a result of his love of model planes and trains.

Not in a literal sense, mind you. It's likely that Barkwill would have been drafted into a

branch of the military during WWII and called to serve his country, but this love of building models—a seemingly insignificant interest—set in motion a series of events that guided him through an intriguing life thus far, and one that was guided by these interests.

Originally from Marion, this love of building models led a young Barkwill to a job at the local airport as a youth. As part of his pay, he received instruction at the airport and did some flying. He was hooked.

"That's why I wound up in the Air Force," he said. "Back in '43, there was a draft and I was going to be drafted. I'd been in the civil air patrol in high school. If you wanted to, you could go sign up ahead of time, and I wanted to go into the Air Force, so I went in April and signed up to go into the Air Force and finally got called up in September."

Barkwill took his training at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. The training was, in a word, "sandy."

"All I could think of was sand all over the place," Barkwill said. "Hot and sandy."

After getting through basic training, Barkwill went to college for five months at the University of Alabama before going to Texas where he worked on the line with guys waiting to get into school at Randolph Field in San Antonio. From there, Barkwill was sent to armament school in Denver, where after learning from others for his entire military career was given a strange offer from one of his instructors.

"Barkwill," he recalled the teacher asking. "How would you like to stay in Denver?"

He was offered a job as an instructor, after being identified as a "high achiever" along with two other individuals. Having a girlfriend in Denver at the time, the decision was not difficult . . . especially for someone with a love of airplanes.

"That was an interesting stint," he said. "We got B-17s in there. We didn't have a plane with a chin turret on it. One day they come in and belly-landed a B-17 and we wound up with that one to teach the chin turret on, because it didn't wipe it clear out. And then, B-29s were just out when I was there. We got some through there, too, and got to teach armament on them."

Barkwill worked as an instructor from December of 1944 to July of 1945, when he was sent to a replacement depot in the Philippines.

Upon arrival, Barkwill recalled a great deal of uncertainty. The depot was a jumping off point, and all he could do was wait for his orders, which came one day in the form of a simple phrase: "Get your gear together, you're shipping out."

He got on a truck and was transported down the road a few miles. Barkwill unloaded in a new camp with some others before being given his orders.

"There were several of us pulled out of the depot and moved down the road a ways to an outfit called recovered personnel," he said. "And we were supposed to go in behind the first wave of troops in to Japan and evacuate POWs."

Fortunately, the cover of the first wave of troops was not needed, as the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, effectively ending the war.

The war was over, but Barkwill's duties on the recovered personnel outfit were still needed, and he was sent to POW camps in Japan to look for soldiers, check out graves for information and report back.

"It was interesting work," he said.

From there, Barkwill was sent to a different unit—this one in Cebu City in the

Phillipines—for some more interesting work. He was to investigate claims that the Filipinos made in regards to G.I.s' stealing items.

"It was interesting," he said. "They come in to our office. We set up an office down in Cebu City, and they come in and file applications with their claims. We had a bunch of Filipinos working for us, and they'd fill out their forms for them, and then we'd have to go out and investigate. Try to figure out whether they were legitimate or not. That was fun."

Everything from stolen chickens, cows and bicycles was investigated, as best he could, by Barkwill and his men. He was there for only about a month before finally coming home in February of 1946.

For Barkwill, his military experience, while not always pleasant, was beneficial.

"I . . . can't say I enjoyed it, but it was something I'll never forget," he said. "It was . . . an education. Quite an education. To this day, I don't think it hurts anyone to spend some time in the military. I feel it's quite an enlightening education."

That experience is also one that is not easy to share with a stranger. Barkwill said that it's a difficult topic for many veterans to share, with even their own families.

"I've enjoyed talking to a lot of old guys like myself around," he said. "We've talked about things that happened. You get to talking about what happened here and there, and you talk about things you haven't thought about for years and things you never told your kids. My daughter from Colorado, it was just a couple of years ago, found out a little bit about my military history. She was asking me questions and so I sat down and told her a little bit about what had happened. It was interesting overseas to see what the Japanese had done, what they were doing and how they had dug in. They were there forever. They found some of them in recent years still living in the hills still thinking the war is on."

It's also interesting, he said, how your memories work. Barkwill's wife, Mary, joked that he could remember his time in the military with such clarity, yet he doesn't remember what he did yesterday.

"Yeah, some of it comes back, Mary," he laughed. "It's amazing how your memory works."

Many of the memories came to Barkwill without any trouble as he recalled specific incidents. Being caught in a typhoon in Japan, finding a place for a haircut and a shave over there, and most of all arriving back in the United States after serving.

"Anybody that goes into the military, you get what you can out of it," he said. "You go and serve your time and hope that you get home. I tell you, that's a thrill. When you get on a ship and come back under the Golden Gate Bridge and see that bridge up there and see that harbor and that ship pulls up to the dock and you know you're back on terra firma in the United States. That was very, very exciting for me."

For Barkwill, it all started with a young man building models . . . and after the hobby managed to lead him into the military, it also brought him to the Boone & Scenic Valley Rail Road in 1983, where he joined the Boone Railroad Historical Society and designed and oversaw the construction of the depot for the new railroad. His reason for doing so? Model trains.

It's amazing where a love for a simple hobby can take you, and the stories that follow as a result.

I commend Ken Barkwill for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is

an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAYOR LEN AUGUSTINE TO THE CITY OF VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of my constituents, Vacaville Mayor Len Augustine, who is retiring after a lifetime of public service, having served in the military for 28 years followed by serving the City of Vacaville for 18 years.

United States Air Force Colonel (Ret.) Len Augustine is a Vietnam veteran who served in a number of important command and staff positions during his military career, including assignments in the Pentagon, Australia, Germany, and at Travis Air Force Base in California where he commanded a C-141 flying squadron. He completed his 28-year military career as Commander of the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, DC, where his unit was responsible for Air Force One. Len is a veteran pilot, having flown a variety of military aircraft including the Learjet C-21, Gulfstream III, C-141, C-123 and KC-97 and also UH-1 helicopters.

As mayor of Vacaville, Len saw many major projects through to completion. Most notably among these are the development and expansion of the region's biotech industry with Genentech, Alza, and Novartis; the expansion of Genentech, which made its Vacaville plant the world's largest bio-manufacturing facility; the expansion of the Kaiser Medical Center and development of the Kaiser Hospital; and the revitalization of Vacaville's Historic Downtown, including the Creekwalk Plaza, downtown library, and the popular Town Square in the heart of town, a concept Len brought home from a visit to Poland.

During his tenure as mayor, the city moved forward on the redevelopment of the Nut Tree property, creating much needed economic growth for the region. Len also worked on the State Compensation Insurance Fund office project and entitlements for Lagoon Valley, and he was instrumental in securing funding for the Leisure Town Road Overcrossing. His work on the Vacaville Strategic Plan process will continue to direct development and growth for generations.

In addition to Len's work on behalf of the City of Vacaville, his many professional memberships include the League of California Cities (Member and two-term Chair of Employee Relations Policy Committee), North Bay Division of the League of California Cities (past president), Association of Bay Area Governments (Executive Committee), Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (member), Solano Local Agency Formation Commission (member), Solano Economic Development Corporation (member), Solano County Mayor's Conference (past chairman), Travis Regional

Armed Forces Committee (past Chair), Solano Transportation Authority (past Chair), Solano County Water Agency (past Chair), Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board (member), Vacaville Sunrise Rotary Club (past President), Friends of Vacaville Schools Committee (as past Chair he led the effort to pass a \$100 million bond measure), Airport Land Use Commission/Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee (member), Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority (member), and the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Authority (member).

As Mayor Len Augustine retires, I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank him both for his outstanding service to our country and for his tireless work on behalf of the residents of Vacaville. His dedication to improving our quality of life has made a decided difference for all. I join with my colleagues along with his wife Sue, his children and grandchildren, as well as his extended family and friends, in wishing Len a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV FOR ORGANIZING THE OSCE ASTANA SUMMIT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for organizing the OSCE Astana Summit which will be held December 1-2, 2010.

In 2007, under the Bush administration, my colleagues and I spearheaded an effort in Congress calling upon the U.S. to support Kazakhstan's bid to chair the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Recognizing, as David Wilshire, Head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, noted, that "building a democracy is a long and hard task," we felt that the U.S. could and should offer a gesture of goodwill by assisting Kazakhstan in its bid to chair the OSCE, considering that Kazakhstan voluntarily worked with the U.S. under the auspices of the Nunn-Lugar program to dismantle the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and shut down the world's second largest test site.

From 1949 to 1991, the Soviet Union conducted nearly 500 nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, and exposed more than 1.5 million Kazakhs to nuclear radiation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, President Nursultan Nazarbayev was among the first to recognize and neutralize the dangerous threat posed by the nuclear arsenal Kazakhstan inherited and, as a result of his initiative, Kazakhstan in cooperation with the U.S. dismantled a nuclear arsenal which was larger than the combined nuclear arsenals of Great Britain, France and China.

President Nazarbayev's decision to dismantle changed the course of modern history, and I am pleased that the U.S. finally supported Kazakhstan's OSCE bid for 2010. While there will always be critics intent on setting Kazakhstan back in its attempt to move