The facility subsequently became a helicopter base, and in 1970 the facility was annexed by the City of Tustin and renamed Marine Corps Air Station Tustin. From World War II through the Persian Gulf War, the Marines at MCAS Tustin have played a critical role in protecting our national security. From 1962 to 1971, elements of Tustin's Marine Aircraft Group 16 were deployed to South Vietnam and Thailand, becoming the largest Aircraft Group in the history of the Corps. In August 1990, MAG–16 began deploying what eventually became five squadrons to Saudi Arabia for participation in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In all, MAG–16 flew over 11,000 sorties and 24,000 flight hours in support of the liberation of Kuwait.

Commissioned in 1943, MCAS El Toro was originally established as a training field for Marine pilots as part of the escalating war in the Pacific theater of World War II. In 1955, the Third Marine Aircraft Wing was moved to El Toro from Florida. Between 1968 and 1974, MCAS El Toro served as President Nixon's arrival and departure point to his ''Western White House'' in San Clemente. In 1975, the air station made history as part of ''Operation New Arrival'' by serving as the initial point of arrival into the U.S. for 50,000 refugees fleeing the repressive communist government of Vietnam. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Third Marine Air Wing flew more than 18,000 sorties and delivered approximately 30 million pounds of ordnance against enemy targets. El Toro Marines also participated in Operation Sea Angel in Bangladesh in 1991, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992, and Operation Nobel Response in Kenya in 1998.

It has been an honor to represent these fine Marine bases during my career in Congress. The Marines stationed at El Toro and Tustin have been the best of neighbors. Their service to the Orange County community has been an invaluable asset to a wide variety of groups including needy children and the homeless. Their annual air show raised funds for many outstanding local charities and provided a wonderful outreach to millions of people from throughout Southern California.

Most of all, the Marines' service to our country from these bases has helped to ensure freedom and liberty for all Americans.

I know my colleagues will join with me in marking the close of an era, and in honoring the outstanding men and women of El Toro and Tustin for their half-century of dedication and commitment to safeguarding our nation's security.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH ROBINSON

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an aviation pioneer and the community in Newton County, Missouri where he grew up. From Neosho, Missouri, Hugh Robinson entered the annals of aviation history, especially as it relates to the military. He is credited with making the third successful aircraft flight in 1907.

From there he created a series of first flights that may be unequaled in history. He was the first pilot to execute a right turn. Prior to this, it was believed that a plane would be torn apart by the force of such a maneuver. In 1911 he made the first authorized air mail flight; the first medical flight by carrying a doctor to a sick patient by airplane; the first to fly a hydroplane and the first pilot of a monoplane. He also helped design and build the first commercial airplane. Robinson trained the first military test pilots for the United States, as well.

Perhaps he is best known as the inventor of a simple device that still makes even the modern wing of the U.S. Navy possible—the tailhook.

Hugh Robinson wasn't satisfied though. He created his own career in the circus. He developed the ''Globe of Death'' where he rode, first a bicycle, and later a motorcycle at 60 miles per hour inside a giant globe. His death-defying act, developed in Neosho, made him the highest paid circus act in America.

This 4th of July weekend was chosen as the appropriate time to pay tribute to Robinson and his contributions to aviation and his service to country. The Neosho Municipal Airport will be named in honor of Robinson in ceremonies this weekend.

The Neosho Hugh Robinson Airport as it will be known has just finished several important improvements. The approaches to the runway had obstacles that left several hundred feet of the 5,000 foot surface unusable. Those obstacles have been removed, with crucial aid from federal sources, and now the airport can accommodate larger aircraft for a local firm that overhauls jet engines.

The road leading to the airport was relocated as part of the improvements. It will be named for Neosho Police Officer Terry Johnson who was killed earlier this year in a flying accident at the airport.

The celebration in Neosho will be marked by hot air balloons, a Civil War living history display, an air show, ground displays of the Confederate Air Force and military aircraft, and, naturally, fireworks. Music, crafts and lots of friendly Ozarks people should make this a wonderful weekend to visit Neosho and to honor the work of Hugh Robinson. (1882–1963)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 259, H. Con. Res. 94, I erroneously voted ''aye.'' My vote should have been in the negative.

COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTORY OF FREEDOM IN THE COLD WAR ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to introduce the Commemoration of the Victory of Freedom in the Cold War Act, a bill to recognize the accomplishments of the American people in winning the Cold War.

On September 26th, 1996, this House debated and approved without dissent, House Concurrent Resolution 181, which I offered to begin the process of national recognition for the tens of millions of citizen-patriots, who had participated in our 46 year Cold War struggle.

In 1997, both Houses of Congress amended the President's proposed fiscal year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act to authorize a Cold War Certificate of Recognition to honor the more than 22 million veterans of the Cold War. In that act, we established the date for the start of the Cold War as September 2d 1945, to coincide with the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, thus ending World War II and our alliance with the Soviet Union. In that act, we also established the date for the end of the Cold War as December 26th, 1991, to coincide with the end of the Union of Soviet Socialists Republics and the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The people of the United States of America should recognize and celebrate the grandeur of this historic accomplishment:

Four hundred million people in Europe and Asia were liberated from Soviet communism; Germany was united peacefully; the states of western Europe buried their historic animosities and started creating a peaceful European Union; struggles, which boiled over into conflicts all around the world, from Korea and Vietnam to Afghanistan and El Salvador, and threatened the nuclear annihilation of the entire human race ended without that horrible outcome; the potential for a truly global economy where the potential of the entire human race is available for the first time in the history of mankind was opened; and the American people and economy, long tied to the costs and commitments of defending the Free World, were unleashed resulting in the second longest period of uninterrupted growth in U.S. history.

During the Cold War, there were moments of great fear. We all remember the sealing of the western sector of Berlin and the threat of starving an entire city; the launching of Sputnik with the realization that the Soviet Union was a determined, resourceful foe; and the Cuban Missile Crisis which led us to the brink of war.

There were also moments of great stress and despair in our own nation. We went to battle for our beliefs. In the war in Korea, we lost more than 50,000 Americans. The war in Vietnam tested America's resolve. Our nation was torn apart so badly that some scars have yet to heal.

But there were also moments of pure magnificence. The Berlin Airlift and Inchon were great military successes and added to the honors of Armed Forces. Americans landing on the moon, the first safe return of the Space Shuttle, and the creation of the Internet are symbolic of an explosion in the development of useful technology.

Now, it is time to demonstrate our great respect for men and women who actually carried the burden of the policy of the United States during this Cold War. This bill, which would authorize the creation of a Department of Defense Cold War Victory Medal and create a Commission to plan for our celebration, is designed to do just that.