

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JERRY
WARNEMENT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of COL Jerry Warnement, whose dedication to excellence has earned him three separate colonel commands and two lieutenant colonel commands over the course of a career that has spanned more than 30 years.

Having studied extensively and earning two masters degrees, Colonel Warnement is an outstanding officer whose leadership and extraordinary command of logistics have made him a mainstay of combat service support for all of the Army. From 1988 to 1990, Colonel Warnement served as Commander of the 15th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. Here, his logistical support during two NTC rotations, and his subsequent efforts to deploy his battalion to Desert Shield/Storm were especially praiseworthy and indicative of the colonel's dedication and self sacrifice.

Colonel Warnement's service to his country extended to the classroom as well as the field. As a professor of military science for the University of Pennsylvania and five satellite universities, Colonel Warnement was responsible for recruiting, retaining, and commissioning a highly competent, freshman class which resulted in 95 percent of his students being commissioned on time and prepared for active duty. While Assistant Chief of Staff for the Material, 19th Theatre Army Area Command, the colonel consistently demonstrated his multifunctional leadership capabilities as he accomplished a diversity of missions on time, within budget, and always with the best interest of the soldiers at heart. From 1995 to 1997, as Commander of Anniston Army Depot, Colonel Warnement managed 2,900 personnel, a \$266 million operating budget—spread out over 25 miles—and accomplished every mission within budget. His unparalleled ability to manage money, material, and personnel ensured positive results, while his performance indicators within his area of responsibility were among the best in the world.

In his most recent and final assignment, Colonel Warnement exhibited brilliance in his ability to command one of the most unique and important colonel-level logistics organizations in the Army. His sound judgment and strong leadership guaranteed mission accomplishment. This coupled with his professional initiative to develop the Army's Logistics Integrated Database, while executing additional field training within budget, will have a long-term positive impact on the United States Army and the Nation as a whole.

Throughout his career, Colonel Warnement has faithfully executed his duties at home and abroad. He is a soldier's soldier and a consummate professional. Colonel Warnement's performance reflects great honor and credit upon himself, the Army, the Army Materiel Command, and our Nation.

HONORING MAYOR ALAN AUTRY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation for the service of Alan Autry as mayor of Fresno, California. Alan's first term began in January 2001, and he served for 8 years as Fresno's mayor. During this time, Alan's leadership and passion for the community of Fresno led to an unprecedented turnaround in the city, which is evident from its infrastructure and aesthetic value to its safety and fiscal responsibility.

Alan had much success in his two terms, including bridging the gap between North and South Fresno, or "The Tale of Two Cities" according to Alan. He successfully brought insight and urban renewal and development to Fresno's poorest neighborhoods, by increasing infrastructure, sidewalks, gutters, and streetlights in many areas of the city previously neglected with regard to modern essentials.

Under Alan's service, downtown Fresno was visually transformed. He championed a movement to aesthetically improve many areas of Fresno, the largest project of which was modernizing the convention center.

The safety and security of Fresno's residents was vastly improved by Alan's city policies, which included bringing up-to-date police and fire stations, and improving, cleaning, and expanding public spaces like city parks, which provide places for families and students to engage in healthful and constructive activity.

Alan is also a true fiscal conservative and a vigilant guardian of taxpayer money. When he took office in January 2001, Fresno's ledger showed that the city was \$500,000 in debt. By January 2009, Fresno had a significant turnaround with a surplus of \$17.5 million.

Education was also an important element in Alan's "Tale of Two Cities" platform. He fought hard against multiple levels of government to seek to influence and improve Fresno's notoriously under-performing schools, because he believes that good, effective schools are foundational in a healthy community.

Alan possesses a concern and care for his community that characterized his terms as mayor and underlines his leadership style. He was often out within the community talking to and caring for people. This helped to make him a very popular and well-respected member of the community and an esteemed leader. I congratulate Alan on the job he did in his 8 years as Fresno's mayor; I am proud to call him my friend, and continue to look forward to sharing many ideas and projects with him in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ROE V. WADE
DECISION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

On January 22, 1973, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun penned the historic majority opinion in the Roe v. Wade case. He wrote that "right of privacy, whether it be founded in the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, as we feel it is, or, as the District Court determined, in the Ninth Amendment's reservation of rights to the people, is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." Justice Blackmun's words confirmed the 7-2 landmark decision that all women have the constitutional right to choose.

Roe v. Wade established that reproductive healthcare is a personal matter that should be left to individuals. The question of whether or not to have an abortion is not an easy one, it is one of the most difficult decisions that a woman can face. While a woman's doctor, clergy, friends, and family may have opinions, the ultimate decision rests solely with her. This is not a decision that should be forced upon a woman by any government.

Having the right to choose is an essential right that should be protected, however there is much that can and should to be done to decrease the need for abortion. That is why I have consistently supported comprehensive sexual education in our schools. Our investment in abstinence-only education over the last 8 years has failed in giving our teenagers the medically accurate, life-saving information about birth control and sexually transmitted infections they need to make informed decisions. I also support overturning the "global gag rule." President Bush enacted the "global gag rule" 8 years ago today to prohibit international family planning organizations that receive funding from the United States from being able to advocate for choice. The global gag rule also bans foreign non-governmental organizations, NGOs, from being able, using their own funds, to engage in free speech and assembly activities on a woman's right to choose, and also prevented health care providers from counseling the world's poorest women about all their legal health care options. Reversing this policy will improve maternal and child health in developing countries, reduce infant mortality, lead to better diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancy and abortion.

Roe v. Wade marked a drastic change in our national policy on reproductive rights and I urge my colleagues to commemorate the 36th anniversary of this ruling.

36TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, today is the 36th annual March for Life marking the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that denied the American people the ability to address the abortion issue through their ballot box. I commend the estimated 200,000 Americans who traveled to our nation's capital to proclaim the inalienable human rights of unborn children. The organizers of this important event never let this anniversary pass without calling on our Nation to