

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
NORMA GARCIA FULLER

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller, an American patriot, who will be receiving the Living Hero Award. I have the immense privilege of representing so many courageous former service members and their families in Florida's 26th Congressional District, and Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller exemplifies the greatness of our military. Born and raised in Homestead, Florida, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller enlisted in the United States Army in 1989 and attended Fort Jackson, South Carolina for the majority of her training. Serving in several different roles in the United States Military, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller was placed on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at United States Southern Command in March of 2010. During this assignment she held numerous positions such as Assistant to the Inspector General, Human Resources Sergeant for the Resources and Assessments Directorate, and Executive Assistant to the Senior Enlisted Leader, where she was promoted to Sergeant First Class. In April 2013, she was mobilized to Guantanamo Bay where she served as the Joint Personnel Center Noncommissioned Officer and the Manpower and Personnel Noncommissioned Officer, where she was promoted to her current rank of Master Sergeant for her service to our country. Brave men and women like Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller protect and preserve the integrity of our nation and the freedom that we enjoy. I offer my sincerest recognition of her service to our community and our nation, and highest accolades for receiving the Living Hero Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
PROTECTIVE SERVICE REFORM
ACT OF 2015

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to reform the Federal Protective Service. On the twentieth anniversary of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (Murrah Building) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, I believe it is long overdue to improve the Federal Protective Service (FPS). In the aftermath of the 1995 Murrah Building bombing, the Department of Justice (DOJ) assessed the vulnerability of Federal office buildings in the United States, particularly to acts of terrorism and other forms of violence. The DOJ report made several recommendations, including upgrading the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and bringing each Federal facility up to minimum standards suggested for its security level. When the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was attacked, it was after careful planning that focused on gaps in the federal building security at the site to allow the massive destruction and the loss of life that touched all Americans.

The DOJ report noted that the FPS has the experience and historical character to provide security services in Federal buildings for much of the Federal workforce. But, the report also noted that FPS has limited resources to determine building security requirements to address terrorist threats. FPS, according to the report, needs to re-establish its role and take the lead in emphasizing the need for security.

Unfortunately years later, many of the reforms that DOJ found necessary have not taken place. Since the bombing of the Murrah Building, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General have both issued numerous reports indicating where FPS needs to improve in order to prevent another tragedy and improve security in Federal buildings. The GAO has made very clear that FPS must increase its oversight of its contract guard force, improve screening practices, and be more nimble in responding to threats to Federal buildings.

The Federal Protective Service is a part of the frontline defense for thousands of Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS has approximately 1,300 employees, including approximately 1,000 Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or "inspectors" and 15,000 contract guards, also known as Protective Security Officers (PSOs). After the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995, FPS' authorized staffing level was 1,450. FPS maintained about the same level of staffing until it dropped to 1,100 in 2007. After concerns about the decrease and its effect on security, Congress, through the appropriations process, began mandating a minimum staffing level. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires 1,371 full-time-equivalent staff, including 1,007 law enforcement officers. Ultimately, this means that the FPS has fewer employees than it had in 1996, in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, while GSA has expanded its real estate holdings since 1996 by nearly 33%.

FPS spends about \$1.3 billion in executing its mission while delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases. FPS services include providing a visible uniformed presence in major Federal buildings; responding to criminal incidents and other emergencies; installing and monitoring security devices and systems; investigating criminal incidents; conducting physical security assessments; coordinating a comprehensive program for occupants' emergency plans; presenting formal crime prevention and security awareness programs; and providing police emergency and special security services during natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and major civil disturbances, including man-made disasters, such as bomb explosions and riots.

As the Federal inventory of buildings has steadily increased over the last 30 years, the quality and implementation of security standards have varied greatly. The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has unfortunately found that security in Federal buildings is not uniform and is often set by non-security personnel employed by tenant agencies through a Building Security Committee for

each individual public building. This approach to security makes it difficult to gauge properly the actual risk at Federal facilities and then allocate FPS resources appropriately.

My bill, the FPS Reform Act of 2015, addresses some of the long standing issues identified by the original DOJ report in the aftermath of the bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Building and subsequent reports by the GAO. It creates a minimum level of training for Protective Service Officers (PSOs) while increasing the authority of PSOs to carry firearms and detain suspects accused of a felony. The bill also improves the training and procedures for federal agencies participating in the Building Security Committees to ensure that there are uniform and appropriate security standards for individual buildings occupied by federal agencies. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of DHS to study and report back to Congress on several areas of concern with respect to securing federal buildings including the level of personnel needed to secure federal buildings, the best model for funding FPS, the feasibility of federalizing FPS contract officers, and best practices in preventing explosives from entering Federal buildings.

Nearly 20 years after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building it is readily apparent that although FPS has made some strides in improving the protection of Federal buildings there is more progress that needs to be made. In my role as Ranking Member of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee and a former law enforcement official, I believe it is imperative that I do everything possible to protect the millions of federal workers and daily visitors, and to keep federal buildings safe. With increased oversight and additional legislative authority I believe the Federal Protective Service can thrive in its mission of protecting Federal Facilities, their occupants, and visitors by providing superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING W.C. GORDEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably talented individual, W.C. Gorden, has brought tremendous honor to one of Mississippi's premier education institutions, Jackson State University (JSU). Coach Gorden's legacy at Jackson State remains unmatched, and he has truly cemented his place in college football history.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee and a graduate of Tennessee State University, Gorden came to Jackson State first as its head baseball coach in 1971, he then became interim head football coach in 1976 and then head football coach in 1977. From then on, he led the Tigers to eight conference championship titles in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in the fifteen years he coached. In 1982, Gorden had 21 players drafted to the NFL, ranking JSU among the top 5 colleges in the nation for NFL draft picks. Also, during his tenure, JSU was the

only school in the SWAC to defeat Coach Eddie Robinson's formidable Grambling University's teams. Under Coach Gorden, JSU won 28 straight SWAC football games, and his teams led the nation in attendance among 1-AA schools 11 of the 15 years he coached. By the end of his career, Gordens' teams won more than 70% of their games. But one of the most amazing victories for Gorden was having the highest SWAC graduation rate among football players in the entire state of Mississippi from 1980 to 1981.

Coach Gorden's feats have been honored and recognized by many; he was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994; the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1997; the College Hall of Fame in 2008; and the Black College Hall of Fame in 2015. Coach Gorden's legacy falls in line with Mississippi's tradition of athletic exceptionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing W.C. Gorden for his exceptional strides in college football and his passion for producing excellence in the state of Mississippi.

HONORING COLONEL BILL BADGER

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Bill Badger, who passed away on March 11, 2015 at the age of seventy-eight.

Originally from South Dakota, Colonel Badger joined the National Guard as a high school junior and went on to enjoy a long, distinguished career as a United States Army pilot for thirty-seven years. A true patriot who served his country with honor and dignity, he served as Chief of the National Guard Bureau's Aviation Division at the Pentagon. Among his many professional accomplishments, he established the only two United States-based attack helicopter training sites: the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site in Pennsylvania and the Western Army Aviation Training Site in Marana, Arizona. Colonel Badger and his wife, Sallie, moved to Arizona in 1985 when Colonel Badger established the Marana site.

On the morning of January 8, 2011, Colonel Badger attended a Congress on your Corner event at a shopping center north of Tucson to meet then-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. That fateful morning a gunman opened fire on the innocent attendees, brutally murdering six and seriously wounding thirteen, including Colonel Badger and Congresswoman Giffords. As the gunman was reloading his weapon, Colonel Badger, who was injured and bleeding from the head, ran toward the gunman and put him into a chokehold until the authorities arrived, thus stopping the deadly rampage. But for the valiant actions of Colonel Badger, the toll of those killed and wounded would have been much higher. "I don't consider myself a hero," he would later say, "I did what anybody would do." Colonel Badger was a beloved friend to the January 8, 2011 survivors. After this devastating event, this humble hero focused his efforts on keeping guns out of the hands of people like the January 8, 2011 gunman so as to prevent future similar tragedies. Colonel Badger and his wife embarked on a

three-year journey across the country to promote his mission.

Colonel Badger was a hero to many long before he became one in the eyes of our nation on January 8, 2011. He was a caring and devoted husband to his wife, Sallie, a nurturing and loving father to his son, Christian, the beloved Scout master of Troop 007, a guide and counselor to numerous young people, many of whom attribute their current success to Colonel Badger's mentoring, and a friend to countless others, including the members of the Southern Arizona Jaguar Car Club, which he served as President for a time.

On March 11, 2015, the citizens of Arizona lost a friend who placed the safety and well-being of others above his own and who truly represented the best traits of humanity, heroism and sacrifice and the spirit of service to others. The citizens of Arizona owe Colonel Badger an extraordinary debt of gratitude for his tremendous service to our country and state.

Dedicated to his family, Colonel Badger will be greatly missed by his beloved wife, Sallie Badger, and his son, Christian Badger.

HONORING DAVID ARMSTRONG WEST

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of David Armstrong West of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on April 2, 2015 at the age of 81.

David was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where he spent much of his childhood. His father and grandfather both taught at the American University of Beirut, and his grandmother (who was born and raised in Damascus, Syria) also worked in Beirut.

In New York City in 1958, David married Lindsay Lattimore Butte, with whom I later worked while I was in the Virginia House of Delegates and she was with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. David attended Cornell University and studied ornithology, graduating in 1959 with a PhD.

David spent two years doing postdoctoral genetics research at Liverpool University in England before he began teaching in 1962 at Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) in Blacksburg. At Tech, David taught biology and genetics until he retired in 1998. He, Lindsay, and their family restored and lived in an 1840 brick house in town, and placed an historic and open space easement on their entire three-acre property in an effort to ensure it is preserved.

After he retired, David pursued interests in music, reading, travel, and the local mountains. Additionally, although we never went birding together, he and I shared an avid love for bird watching. David has written two books on 19th Century German naturalist Fritz Müller. The first is a biography entitled "A Naturalist in Brazil," and the second (recently completed) traces the development of Müller's ideas as well as his connections with other scientists such as Charles Darwin.

David is survived by his wife, Lindsay; sister, Elisabeth FitzHugh; brother, Allen; his son,

Peter and wife, Katherine Hood, of Brooklyn, New York; his son, Roger and wife, Deborah, of Silver Spring, Maryland; and his daughter, Susan West Marmagas and husband, William, of Blacksburg, Virginia. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Nicholas, Daniel and Tyler West and Anastasia and Elektra Marmagas.

David's contributions and his love for his family, neighbors, and community will long be remembered and cherished. My thoughts and prayers go out to David's family and loved ones. May God give them comfort during this time.

HONORING CAMBER CORPORATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Camber Corporation for twenty-five years of business, and for their service to the community of Huntsville, Alabama and to many other areas both in our great state and across the United States. I am pleased to recognize this company for its many accomplishments.

Camber Corporation, which is headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, was established on April 2, 1990 with just three employees, including the company founder, Walter Batson. Today it has grown to over thirty offices, with personnel in many other locations across America and around the world. Over the years, the company has done widely varied work for a number of organizations, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Courts, the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Center for Civil and Military Affairs.

I know that no matter the company, this level of success is possible only with the efforts of many skilled professionals working together to achieve the organization's goals, and Camber Corporation is the first to recognize that its staff of over 2,000 employees is its greatest asset. These staff members can claim expertise in many vital areas including Engineering, Software Development, Information Technology, Training, Modeling and Simulation, Acquisition Management and Decision Support, and Operations. Due in great part to the service of these dedicated workers, Camber Corporation's products and projects now support both government and commercial customers throughout the world.

Camber Corporation has been selected for numerous professional organization and Chamber of Commerce awards, including Best Places to Work in both Huntsville and Northern Virginia. I am honored to add my commendations to those already received. As an Alabamian and as an American, I am pleased to congratulate this company on the service it has rendered to the United States over the past 25 years, and on the contributions it has made to its home state of Alabama. I wish them many, many more years of success in the future.