

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL RICK HARNEY, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Colonel Rick Harney, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. Throughout his 37 year career, Col. Harney has selflessly served our country and community; namely, during the time he spent as Director of the United States Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) at the Carlisle Barracks, which I am honored to represent. USAHEC is a tremendous institution within my congressional district charged with educating members of our Armed Forces and honoring soldiers—past and present.

Col. Harney enlisted in the Army in August of 1978. In 1987, after matriculating from the United States Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia as a Distinguished Military Graduate, he received his commission as a Field Artillery Lieutenant. He has undertaken many notable assignments, including Assistant Commandant and Chief at the United States Army Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Virginia, and Commander of the Defense Distribution Center at the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama. Such roles have enabled Col. Harney to positively influence his colleagues, as well as the future strategic leaders of our military.

A Magna Cum Laude graduate from Hawaii Pacific University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, he also holds an impressive number of advanced degrees, including a Master of Business Administration from Webster University, a Master of Military Arts and Science from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College. In addition to his academic success, Col. Harney has received an extensive amount of awards and decorations. These include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Meritorious Service Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Superior Unit Award, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Parachute Rigger Badge. Such accolades are indicative of the high caliber of his dedicated service to our nation.

On July 7th, 2014, Col. Harney assumed duties as the Director of the USAHEC at the Carlisle Barracks in my congressional district. As an instructor and educator, Col. Harney has significantly improved the experiences of his fellow instructors and students. The initiatives and programs he has implemented have shaped the lives of the future leaders of our military, and have enhanced the effectiveness of the United States Army War College. Even though he will no longer be present at USAHEC on a day-to-day basis, his legacy will inevitably carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to congratulate Col. Harney on the culmination of a distin-

guished, 37 year career in the United States Army. I hope that he will celebrate the occasion in the company of his wife, Leslie, his children, Dominick, Aerin, Marc, and Ashley, and his grandchildren, Izumi, Eugene, Marc, Marvelo, Mecca, Ayrielle, and Ash'kelon. I wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF EMMA HARRIS ARMSTRONG

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Emma Harris Armstrong. Throughout her 99 years, Mrs. Armstrong has experienced important moments in history and has also continuously striven to improve the lives of her family, friends, and community.

Mrs. Armstrong's hardworking and independent attitude grew out of her childhood and subsequent life experiences. Growing up as the third child of twelve siblings, she, like her siblings, helped with household chores and sharecropping, while worshipping at the Mount Olive Baptist Church and attending school. At the Brunswick Courthouse in Georgia, Emma Harris Armstrong married John "Jackie" Armstrong. During their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong traveled across the United States to accommodate Mr. Armstrong's military career. During and after World War II, Mrs. Armstrong resided in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mrs. Armstrong often passed the time playing tennis with other Army wives, eventually becoming quite good at the sport. Through her and her husband's travels, Mrs. Armstrong cultivated a love for travel and the beautiful sites of this country.

Mrs. Armstrong has seen an incredible amount of change during her lifetime. During her life, Mrs. Armstrong has seen the devastating effects of the Great Depression, the desperate times of World War II, and the landing of the first man on the moon. Mrs. Armstrong lived through the painful effects of discrimination, however, despite everything, she always approached the evils of segregation with love in her heart. Through her independence and strong will, Mrs. Armstrong raised two children in the midst of these turbulent times while still finding time to be actively involved in her church, the community, and politics. Mrs. Armstrong worked on the Senate campaigns for both Senator George McGovern and Senator Tim Johnson.

On most days, Mrs. Armstrong can be found attending church activities, spending time with family, and devoting her time to the community. Throughout her years, Mrs. Armstrong has always treated all her family, friends, and visitors with graciousness and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible perseverance and steadfastness of this woman. Mrs. Emma Harris Armstrong is a great lady whose love and dedication inspires numerous people around her. I ask my colleagues to join me in venerating this distinguished individual.

HONORING SHARON P. PEARCE, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sharon P. Pearce, CRNA, MSN, of Lexington, North Carolina. Ms. Pearce's term as president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) will soon come to an end.

Throughout her presidency at the AANA, Ms. Pearce has been a strong advocate for patient safety and the practice of nurse anesthesia. She has worked tirelessly to advance policies that modernize the industry and meet the unique needs of patients. Ms. Pearce has also been a vocal advocate for veterans' access to quality healthcare.

Ms. Pearce has served as a CRNA for more than 20 years and has made great contributions to the healthcare system in North Carolina. She has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to professional development having received her Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia from Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Davidson County Community College.

Ms. Pearce has been an active member of numerous AANA committees and has previously served in AANA leadership positions including President-Elect, Vice President, and Region 2 Director. She has even served as President of the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Ms. Pearce produced the AANA Public Relations award winning video, "The Best Kept Secret in Healthcare," and is nationally recognized as a distinguished speaker on anesthesia topics.

Equally as impressive to her leadership in her official capacity as a CRNA has been her involvement in philanthropic endeavors. Among other charitable acts, Ms. Pearce has served on the board of directors for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, where she started and led a "Walk to Cure Diabetes" that raised nearly \$500,000 for research.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Sharon P. Pearce, CRNA, MSN, for her notable career and her esteemed service as the most recent president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

A SACRED TRUST: CELEBRATING MEDICARE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to mark the 50th anniversary of Medicare and to express my strong support for the programs that provide health coverage for older Americans.

Fifty years ago, our country made a commitment to our seniors. A commitment that said