

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
DAVID ZOLDOSKE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. David Zoldoske on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of dedicated service to the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State). He has been a leader in the effort for sustainable irrigation techniques across California.

David earned his Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Fresno State. He worked as a student research assistant, specializing in irrigation, before being hired as a full-time research technician in 1983.

David has worked at Fresno State for over 30 years. He currently serves as Director for the Center for Irrigation and Technology, the California Water Institute, and was also named the Executive Director of Water Initiatives at Fresno State. Through this capacity, he guides the university's water technology, water resource management, and policy initiatives.

David has served in a number of leadership positions throughout his career. He served as the President of the Irrigation Association, and the American Society of Agronomy California Chapter. David was also the founding Executive Director for the Water Resources and Policy Initiative for the California State University System, Senior Fellow with the California Council on Science and Technology, as well as member of the "SMART" Water Application Executive Committee. David has also been named an Honorary Member of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants.

David has been a member of the California Department of Food and Agricultural Nitrogen Tracking and Reporting Task Force. He was Co-Chair of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Committee, Vice-Chair of the California Department of Water Resources Strategic Planning Caucus for New Water Technology, and served as a member of the A-2 Subcommittee to the SBx7-Agriculture Stakeholders Committee.

Over the years, David has received numerous awards from his colleagues and peers. This includes being named "Person of the Year" by both the Irrigation Association in 2013 and the California Irrigation Institute in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I applaud Dr. David Zoldoske for his many years of tireless work on behalf of the Central Valley. His dedication to education is extremely commendable. I have personally worked with David for years in my capacity as a Member of Congress and I can proudly call him my friend. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Dr. David Zoldoske, and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI U.S. AIR FORCE CAPTAIN (CAPT) KERMIT O. EVANS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of U.S. Air Force Captain (Capt) Kermit O. Evans who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on December 3, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Captain Evans died when the Marine Corps CH-46 helicopter he was riding in made an emergency water landing in western Anbar province. Captain Evans was assigned to the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. He deployed with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base, Iraq. He was one of four service members who died in the accident.

According to the Associated Press, Captain Evans, a Hollandale, Mississippi native, was an avid sports fan and athlete who was pleasant and giving. Margaret Evans, Captain Evans' mother, said her son liked taking things apart and putting them back together. "He also had an inquisitive personality that probably landed him in his military career as an explosives ordnance disposal technician," Mrs. Evans said. "He liked to see how things work."

Captain Evans graduated from Mississippi State University where he earned a degree in chemical engineering. Captain Evans enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in August 2001. Following graduation, Captain Evans entered officer training school at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama and received his commission as a second lieutenant in November 2001. He was promoted to captain in November 2005. In the second phase of his Air Force career, Captain Evans entered Explosive Ordnance Disposal School at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Following graduation, he was stationed at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. While he was serving at Cannon Air Force Base, his unit earned the Sergeant Stryzak Award as the best EOD flight in Air Combat Command. Captain Evans was the head of the bomb squad at the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. In 2011, Cannon AFB officials honored their fallen comrade. They renamed the street in front of the 27th CE Squadron building as Kermit Evans Avenue.

Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Stephen Wood, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, said Captain Evans considered the Air Force as a career at a young age. He said Captain Evans had a solid Air Force career as a civil engineer, but wanted to do more, and began exploring bomb disposal. "That top level stratification was repeated throughout his career," Lt Col Wood said.

A funeral service was held for Captain Evans at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. A memorial service was held at the Simmons High School Gymnasium in Hollandale, Mississippi. Captain Evans was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on December 12, 2006.

Captain Evans is survived by his parents, Charles and Margaret Evans; his wife, Perneatha; his son, Kermit Evans, Jr.; and his brother, Kervin Evans.

Captain Evans proudly served our nation. He entered into the military ready to fight for the freedoms we all enjoy. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

HARK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem, on behalf of Albert Carey Caswell, to honor the men and women of The Armed Forces and the families of the Fallen this Christmas.

HARK

(By: Albert Caswell)

Hark the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new born king
As our Lord up to heaven a new one brings,
Peace on earth and mercy mild
Across this Nation a mother just lost her child,
Who on battlefields of honor stood tall the while
God and sinners reconciled
As our Father looks upon his new Angel and smiles,
Joyful all ye nations rise
For our freedom this day a hero died,
Join the triumph of the skies
A new Angel is on the rise.
Hark the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new born king
As a mother this Christmas stands with tear in her eyes,
For us all her baby died.
Hail the everlasting Lord
Heroes like this heaven was made for,
Light and life to all he brings
As up in heaven his new Angel sings,
Here with healing in his wings
As down below in their sleep,
To his loved ones in his tears in comfort he whispers again we'll meet,
Mild he lay his glory by born that no man may die
As now in men and women of honor we understand why
Bringing hope to all the land
As did this magnificent hero in his short life span.
Peace to every child and man
As too was his plan.
Hark the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new born king
Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
As do those who stand guard so abundant,
Come ye oh come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him,
Come and behold them,
Born the King of Angels,
Come let us adore him
Come let us adore him
Oh come let us adore him
Oh come let us adore them,
The Fallen.
Sing choir of Angels, sing in exultation
For those who did not waver, who on this day have met our savior,
Sing all our citizens of heaven above
To all our heroes who gave the greatest love,
Glory to God, glory in the highest
Oh come let us adore him
Oh come let us adore him
Oh come let us adore him
Oh come let us adore them,
All the men and women who have died in war then,
And the families who live in pain the more then.
Christ the Lord