

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN CHRIS D.
JANKE

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a true American leader and patriot, Captain Chris D. Janke, on the momentous occasion of his retirement after 27 years of honorable service in the United States Navy. In March 2015, Captain Janke assumed his duties as commanding officer of Naval Base Ventura County, California. With great distinction, he dutifully oversaw a diverse installation that supported more than 100 tenant commands with a base population of more than 19,000 personnel, as well as 11 deployable commands and three warfare centers.

Captain Janke's career at Naval Base Ventura County was underscored by exemplary leadership, perceptive planning, and focus on both mission execution and community engagement. These efforts were clearly demonstrated by Captain Janke's remarkable command of major aviation, shore, and port facilities, comprised of three primary sites: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island. His leadership of Naval Base Ventura County supported numerous tenants—including the renowned Naval Construction Group ONE—who carried out missions for the security and the safety of our nation.

Naval Base Ventura County is home to three runways and the only deep water military port between San Diego, California, and Kitsap County, Washington. Captain Janke directed the day-to-day operations of a 1,000-person organization providing comprehensive support services to the Fleet, Fighter, and Family. He brilliantly directed diverse installation programs, including fleet support operations, facilities maintenance and construction, utilities, environmental stewardship, housing, childcare, recreation, safety, resource management, protocol, public affairs, family support service, and IT technology management.

His visionary leadership was key to the successful execution of 104,237 tower and 26,105 flight operations per annum, supporting 35 different series of aircraft. The air terminal launched and recovered 3,631 flights, processed 42,817 passengers and moved over 2.7 million pounds of cargo and baggage. The port adeptly supported over 1410 tenants and 91 visiting ship movements—handling tons of military cargo in support of major joint operations and military exercises per annum. During his tour, Naval Base Ventura County hosted multiple visits from the Littoral Combat Ships and quickly became a major port of choice for visiting warships and other platforms in support of the Navy's worldwide mission.

Naval Base Ventura County plays a critically important role in our national defense, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

This is in large part due to Captain Janke, and this is a profound testament to his outstanding leadership. For these reasons, on the occasion of his retirement, I am pleased to join a grateful community to extend my most sincere congratulations and appreciation for his countless contributions to Ventura County, and our nation as a whole.

COMMEMORATING THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, June 6, marks the 74th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This joint undertaking to liberate the continent of Europe from the clutches of an evil and aggressor enemy was the first and most emphatic demonstration of the invincible strength of democratic nations when acting collectively.

For nearly seventy years, from April 4, 1949 to January 20, 2017, peace in Europe has been secured and no adversary, not the old Soviet Union or the contemporary Russian Federation, has dared to risk war by attacking a European ally of the United States because every American president has made clear that the United States is committed to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty which holds that an attack on any NATO member is regarded as an attack on all of them.

Mr. Speaker, "Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin.

With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France.

They just did not know when or where.

So in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery.

Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France.

And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way onto and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.

And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace.

With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

"They will need Thy blessings.

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.

"They fight not for the lust of conquest.

"They fight to end conquest.

"They fight to liberate.

"They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.

"They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home."

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high; U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians.

German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

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