

But the operation was a success.

More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day+5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them came the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and said to them that they were about to embark upon a "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world" were upon them.

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, fully justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in their courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg.

There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

It is equally fitting and proper that we never forget D-Day and that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the light of freedom would never be extinguished in the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233 on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GORDON WALTER SONDKER

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, we lost a beloved Southwest Washington resident and Navy veteran this past month. Gordon Walter Sondker passed away on May 13th at the age of 91, leaving a legacy his family will carry on for generations.

Born on February 10, 1927, in Holton, Kansas, Gordon lived his life full of passion and

pride for his community and country. Gordon served in the Navy and was very active in the Monticello Lions Club and Toastmasters. He was also a founding member of the Southwest Washington Canoe Club. Gordon and his wife, Barbara, were also very involved in their community and gave back whenever they had the opportunity. Gordon was also involved with the Longview Community Church, American Field Service, Kelso Methodist Church and the Columbia Theatre Guild.

To say Gordon dedicated his life to helping others and working to better his community would be an understatement. Gordon was an exceptional example of what it means to be an American patriot, and he will be missed by everyone who was blessed to know him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233 on June 5, 2018. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call vote 231, Yea on Roll Call vote 232, and Yea on Roll Call vote 233.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 175th Anniversary of the Independence Fire Department in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent.

Throughout the first half of the 18th Century, Independence, Missouri was a prospering village on the cusp of achieving the noteworthy status of an industrialized community. As people planted their roots and a community flourished, there emerged an evident need to protect what they had established. In 1843, community members petitioned the state legislature, and the 12th General Assembly of Missouri approved the establishment of a volunteer fire department known as the "Independence Fire Company".

At that time, it is my understanding that these volunteers carved out an indelible mark of innovation in the community, with a manpowered wooden engine and buckets of water to put out fires as their only tools. In August of 1894, the Independence Fire Company transitioned from a volunteer based organization to a professionally paid department. Furthermore, it gives me great pride to know just how far this company has come over the years.

By the end of the 1950's, the department boasted the employment of more than 100 firemen, nearly five times the amount the company had at the beginning of the decade. Furthermore, with eight stations total, the department expanded its protection of a population

of 16,000 to nearly 100,000 citizens. This period of rapid expansion was initiated by the Missouri Inspection Bureau; however, it is my belief that these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of each and every individual within the department.

Today, the department encompasses 10 fire stations, 165 firefighters, and an area of 78 square miles. Under the current leadership of the Fire Chief Douglas Short, the Independence Fire Department remains an institution that protects and serves the community. Just as those who established the company 175 years ago, they maintain the same selfless sacrifice regarding the protection of countless lives and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the Independence Fire Department for their 175 years of dedicated service to the community. Let us join in recognizing the bravery of the men and women, past and present, who have honorably served the community and preserved the integrity and excellence of this establishment.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING DARLENE QUICHOCHO AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE JANE WHA- YOUNG KIM AWARD FOR TEACH- ING EXCELLENCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Darlene Quichocho as the recipient of the first Jane Wha-Young Kim Award for Teaching Excellence sponsored by the Jane Wha-Young Kim Foundation. Darlene currently teaches English and Speech and Drama at George Washington High School in Guam.

The Jane Wha-Young Kim Award for Teaching Excellence was established in 2017 to recognize one full-time middle or high school teacher on Guam who models excellence as a teaching professional. Darlene was chosen for her effective use of instructional practices and materials, her ability to inspire, enable, and assist students to achieve their full potential. She was also recognized for encouraging community engagement and service by students.

Darlene was chosen unanimously by a selection committee, made up of Jane Wha-Young Kim's family and prominent members of the education community on island. Darlene was chosen from among nine outstanding nominees based on her exemplary teaching record at the George Washington High School, her strong support for various extracurricular activities, and her exceptionally positive impact on her students, colleagues, and community. The award was presented to Darlene on Monday, April 23, 2018 at George Washington High School.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Darlene, her family, and school community on this accomplishment. I look forward to her continued success and future contributions to our island.