

My hometown was founded on October 27, 1869, on just 70 acres of land in Orange County; and today, Santa Ana is the second largest city in Orange County.

It is home to veterans of World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and the last few conflicts.

It is also home to the largest Hispanic population, percentagewise, in the country. It is essentially the new Ellis Island of the United States.

Congratulations to the city of Santa Ana on their 150 years. Congratulations to their constituents and to the council and to the mayor.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

(Mr. WRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to think it is appropriate to conduct an impeachment inquiry behind closed doors, shutting out the American people.

They have denied Republican Members of Congress the right to fully participate in the inquiry process but expect them to cast a vote to impeach a duly elected President of the United States without seeing all the facts.

In addition to all that, Democrats denied us the right to vote on a resolution to censure Chairman SCHIFF for his deception of Americans day in and day out.

This morning, I joined dozens of my colleagues as we stormed into the SCIF demanding transparency, shedding light on this corrupt process. Instead of having a conversation, Chairman SCHIFF abruptly ended the deposition, taking the witness with him out of the room.

The Speaker of this House is putting her hatred of the President above what is best for her constituents. She is harming the entire Nation by conducting this inquiry in such a manner.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We are better than this; our country is better than this; and the American people certainly deserve better than this. They deserve better than an impeachment inquiry in a secret room based on assertions of a phantom whistleblower.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TOM C. "IKE" MORRIS

(Mr. ROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of the 21st Congressional District of Texas. This man was a hero, veteran, and the oldest known graduate of Texas A&M University, the alma mater of my bride. His name was Colonel Tom C. "Ike" Morris.

Colonel Morris passed away Sunday in San Antonio at the age of 109 years old, leaving behind a life and legacy all of us can only aspire to someday.

Colonel Morris is the epitome of what the Greatest Generation embodied. He worked five jobs to stay in school during the Depression and graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

Working his way through school didn't stop him from being an engaged member of the Aggie community. He was senior class president, chaired the committee that set the first requirements for seniors to earn the famous Aggie Ring, and was a member of the track and field team.

He also knew what it meant to fight for a man's right to live free. He fought in the 38th Infantry of the 2nd Infantry Division in World War II. He went on to land on Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy and, with his unit, he liberated the first city in France.

Colonel Morris married his high school sweetheart, and they were married for 77 years.

Colonel Morris celebrated his 109th birthday this August. When asked about the secret to living a long life, Colonel Morris said, "Do your best."

We could improve from adhering to such sage, simple advice.

Colonel Morris, we thank you for your service and for leading a life worthy of example. May you rest in peace now. God bless you, sir.

HONORING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 241 MARINES LOST IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the 241 American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice on this very day 36 years ago in Beirut, Lebanon.

For my family and so many families, today is deeply emotional.

When I enlisted in 1979 as a young man, I wanted to serve and be part of something bigger. That led me to the United States Marine Corps and, like every marine, I took an oath to God, country, and to the Corps.

Semper fidelis is not just a slogan or a creed; it is a way of life that only those who have earned the eagle, globe, and anchor can fully understand. Semper fidelis is part of the very fabric of every marine, past and present.

I served as a first lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. In 1983, my battalion was ordered to Beirut, Leb-

anon, in support of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment and the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit.

I vividly remember the evenings we sat on the roof of the Marine barracks with the American flag flying over our head. The barrage of small arms gunfire and mortar rounds made it very clear that we were in harm's way every day.

On this very day 36 years ago, a terrorist affiliated with Hezbollah and financed by Iran drove a truck bomb into the barracks we called home.

241 American servicemen were killed, 220 of which were my fellow marines. 241 sons, brothers, fathers, and friends never returned home. 241 came in peace, and 241 lives were stolen from us by an act of absolute pure evil.

It was the deadliest day for the Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima.

It is by the grace of God that I was able to come home to my wife, Denise, who was expecting our first child. My battalion had shipped out 10 days before the bombing.

Mr. Speaker, today is not about me. People may not recognize the 241 names listed here, but they are the names of the 241 who answered the call of duty 36 years ago.

Today is about those 241 soldiers, sailors, and marines who laid down their lives to protect our freedoms, and today is about every veteran who has nobly worn the uniform of our Armed Forces.

On this somber day, I look out at the flag flying above the U.S. Capitol and feel the same reverence I felt standing below the Stars and Stripes on the roof of the Beirut barracks in 1983. Though I will never know exactly why I was spared when so many were not, I understand that our first duty is to remember and be faithful.

Mr. Speaker, three of my fellow marines, Representatives GALLAGHER, CARBAJAL, and MOULTON, joined me to offer legislation to remember the faith and loyalty of the 241.

Fellow marine, Representative GALLEGOS, joined me to offer legislation to provide a sliver of justice for the Gold Star families who lost their loved ones. Our bill, the OORAH Act, passed both the House and Senate, and for that I am very grateful.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is still work to be done here. Terrorists and those who support them financially must be held accountable for their terrible actions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for participating in this Special Order to remember the sacrifice of those who answered the call of duty to defend our freedom in conflicts across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my fellow Hoosier and decorated Vietnam veteran.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.