

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the men and women of our armed services from South Carolina who have a long tradition of valor in times of national crisis. From the large communities of Charleston, Georgetown, Myrtle Beach or small towns like Ridgeville, Goose Creek, Aynor, or Awendaw—soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have served our Nation well in war. There is no greater service than to fight for the safety of one's nation and the security of the world. From the Marne to the Philippines, and from the Chosen Reservoir to Khe Sahn, South Carolina has sent its best and its brightest to defend freedom and democracy.

As Veteran's Day approaches, I find myself reflecting upon the sacrifices that these men and women made for these United States. Hundreds of South Carolina servicemen in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam paid the ultimate price through the sacrifice of their lives and lie buried in cemeteries and watery graves around the globe. But for many, the possibility of a simple military grave marker, the return of their remains to their families and loved ones, or even an accounting of their whereabouts still eludes them. South Carolina's First District has no less than 15 POW/MIA's still unaccounted for from Korea and 9 POW/MIA's from Vietnam. To those families and friends who have lost a loved one, and those today who still seek a final determination as to the fates of their loved ones, I pay tribute for the sacrifice of these brave men.

Recently, I have worked with organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Vietnam Veterans Association, AMVETS, the American Legion, Jewish War Veterans, Catholic War Veterans, and other groups to determine how our country might best care for our veterans. People like Tom Burch and Bonny Stilwell of the Vietnam Veterans Coalition who take up the cause of veterans from every era, especially Vietnam veterans, are to be commended for their tireless efforts. As a member of the International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, I have heard their pleas for an absolute accounting of all servicemen in Southeast Asia. As a member of that committee I voted for language which would mandate a complete accounting of all of our servicemen in Southeast Asia and give immigration preference to those who help identify U.S. servicemen remains or clarify their status as MIA/POW. For all of the veterans' groups, especially to Anne and "Tank" Lanford of the South Carolina Vietnam Era Veterans Association I pledge my continued support to bring all of our boys home and put an end to the uncertainty that their families face day in and day out.

I would like to leave you all with a story I once heard about our Nation and its veterans. I think that it might act as a reminder to us all of our veterans' sacrifices and our country's duty to them.

While camped on the plain at West Point, NY, on a cold winter's night General Washington met with his officers who had gathered in a small hut to discuss the possibility of the Continental Army seizing control of the Congress because of their lack of pay and land grants to the soldiers. After listening to eloquent and inspired speeches from many of the officers who urged their brothers to declare the Government dissolved, General Washington, who had previously sat quietly in the back of the room, rose to his feet. Suddenly, the lively and spirited debate ceased and still fell over the room. General Washington slowly, and deliberately unfolded a letter from a Member of Congress who had written him to urge his soldiers to keep their posts until spring when the Government might be more secure. After unfolding the letter Washington stared at the page for a moment then, for the first time ever in front of his troops, Washington reached into his tunic and unfolded a pair of spectacles, gently placing them on his nose saying, "Gentlemen, please forgive me for my trouble in reading this letter. For you see, I have not only grown gray, but almost blind in the service of my country."

That night General Washington read that letter but no one heard it. It was drowned out with the soft sobs and cries of the officers present who had served the country in its struggle for independence. After Washington left the building the officers voted unanimously to continue to serve without pay and our Nation survives today. Years later, on the only occasion when then President Washington spoke of the incident, he simply said, "A nation can only ensure its longevity and its security by assuring its care of its veterans. Otherwise it cannot hope to muster any army for its defense in the future." Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree more.

Now, over 200 years, later, it is time for us to renew our commitment to our veterans. I plan to begin by remembering their contributions and sacrifices and continuing the fight for a full accounting of all of our men. As citizens we owe every veteran at least that much. The patriot, John Adams once said, "I study war so that my son may study politics, so that his son might study philosophy and art." This is a dream that I know all veterans share.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rio Hondo Community College

in Whittier CA, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary and the appointment of its 8th superintendent/president, Dr. Jesus "Jess" Carreon.

Rio Hondo Community College District encompasses a 65.5-square-mile area which includes the cities of Whittier, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South El Monte, and portions of Norwalk, La Mirada, Downey, La Puente, Industry, and El Monte. According to the 1990 census, the population of the district is approximately 318,000 with nearly 107,000 households.

As part of the great growth in community colleges in the late 1950's early 1960's period, the district was established by election in 1960, with the first independent board of trustees elected in 1962. In 1963, classes were offered for the first time at a local elementary school, Little Lake. The present campus opened in the fall of 1966 with an enrollment of 3,363 day students and 2,682 evening students. The site of the present campus was part of the former Pellissier dairy estate.

The combination of a convenient urban location with a scenic rural setting enhances the college's well deserved reputation for dedication to excellence in teaching, student services, and innovative programs. Rio Hondo annually draws approximately 15,000 culturally diverse students to its hillside campus.

Dr. Jesus "Jess" Carreon, superintendent/president, was named at the board of trustees meeting in April, 1995, and assumed leadership of the college on July 1. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have visited the college countless times and have held numerous seminars and conferences at its facilities. I have always been impressed with the college's staff and appreciate the strong professional support they have provided me.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to celebrate the Rio Hondo Community College District's 35th anniversary and I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending our best wishes and congratulations to the college's President Carreon, and the board's members, President Maria Elena Martinez, Vice President David Siegrist, clerk Don L. Jenkins, and members, Dr. Barbara Stone and Alex Morales.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a great high school band in my district. The Sheridan High School Band, from Sheridan, IN, recently won the annual class D, Indiana State Band Championship.

All too often, Mr. Speaker, we pay homage to athletic teams, and fail to recognize the other accomplishments to which our young

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