

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the birthday of the United States Army Reserve. April 23rd marks 90 years of service by the Army Reserve to the United States of America.

Throughout our history, the purpose of the United States Army has been to fight and win the nation's wars. To be sure, America's Army Reserve has existed side-by-side with the Army to accomplish that mission, but the scope and method of that support has changed commensurate with the nation's needs. Simply stated, the United States Army Reserve has been and will always be a model of flexibility that is a crucial national treasure and the envy of the world.

In its early days, America's Army Reserve existed to ensure that the sons and daughters of America, who were put in harm's way in the name of defending freedom, received the finest medical care as far forward as possible. It was an extraordinary success. During World War One, almost 45,000 officer and enlisted Army Reservists served in medical units throughout the European theater.

What was an experiment in the medical arena alone soon had application in combat and other combat support specialties as well. America's Army Reserve was crucial in the years between the world wars. Its officers ran hundreds of Civilian Conservation Corps camps here at home during the Depression. Not only did they keep their own leadership skills sharp, they also helped others to become productive citizens at a time when the nation was in dire economic straits.

During World War Two, the hundreds of thousands of Army Reservists who served spelled the difference as America thwarted the forces of darkness, deceit and dictatorship around the world. They responded again when freedom called on the Korean peninsula. Almost a quarter of a million citizen-soldiers were called to active duty during that conflict, and their valor, fidelity and bravery were above reproach. Seven Army Reservists earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for their service in Korea.

America's Army Reserve was needed, and was there, in Vietnam, again providing the vital combat support that makes the combat soldier's life a little more bearable.

No amount of superlatives can begin to describe the contributions of the United States Army Reserve during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Of all reserve component forces mobilized by the Department of Defense, clearly a third of them proudly wore the uniform of America's Army Reserve. Almost 85,000 Army Reserve citizen-soldiers answered freedom's call, again, 20,000 of them

being members of the Individual Ready Reserve.

In the post-Cold War era, it is not just a slogan, but a clearly established fact, that America's Army cannot accomplish its mission and cannot go to war without America's Army Reserve. The Army Reserve provided 70 percent of the Army's reserve component support during Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti. In Bosnia, the Army Reserve is also providing over 70 percent of the Army's reserve component support. Not leaving anything to chance, the Army Reserve in fact has established a chain of support that begins here in the United States and culminates in Bosnia itself. While America's Army Reserve helped restore democracy in Haiti, its citizen-soldiers have literally restored hope and faith in the future for the civil war-weary people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that many of my colleagues here have also experienced the competence and magnificence of the United States Army Reserve right here at home. It was the Army Reserve that guided people to safety following the onslaught of Hurricane Andrew. It was the Army Reserve that provided clean, potable water to the people of North Dakota following the ravages of last spring's flooding. And it was the Army Reserve that quickly and efficiently established recovery operations in the devastating aftermath of Typhoon Paka in Guam.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere conviction that there is no better defense bargain today than America's Army Reserve. As the geostrategic environment has changed, so has the Army Reserve. This proactive, visionary understanding of the nation's needs has led to an Army Reserve that is more trained, more ready and more relevant than any other comparable force on this earth. As we speak, there is a miracle taking place whose impact may be felt half a world away. The 310th Chemical Company, headquartered at Fort McClellan, Alabama, epitomizes the seamless integration between the Active Army and the Army Reserve. This unit is, in fact, a combined active-reserve outfit, with four of its platoons belonging to the Army Reserve and one belonging to the Active Army. The 310th was identified to receive new biological weapons detection equipment, which is of utmost importance to the Army's defense, but also to the defense of the United States should we, as a nation, ever face the consequences of these terrible weapons. On just four days advance notice, the 310th was rescheduled for its annual training from this coming summer to this past February. The unit's soldiers, and the civilian employers who support them, responded magnificently, with virtually no problems encountered during this training change. What makes the 310th all the more extraordinary is that, while its soldiers were undergoing that training, they were also notified that they were being mobilized as part of the U.S. response to the transgressions of Saddam Hussein against the United Nations. They progressed through their training and mobilized in anticipated deployment to the

Persian Gulf region. It was the ability of this unit to train and mobilize on such a short notice that, I feel, contributed to Iraq's decision to accommodate U.N. inspectors searching for the very weapons that the 310th is designed and equipped to detect.

In closing, I ask that we pause and reflect on what our nation's defenses would be without America's Army Reserve. I shudder to think of that possibility. We cannot and must never take for granted what these citizen-soldiers, and just as importantly, their families and civilian employers, sacrifice for the benefit for every citizen of this nation. We have been blessed with freedoms that are the dream and envy of peoples in far-flung corners of the globe. This April 23rd, think about your freedom of speech, your freedom of assembly and your freedom of religion. Consider your right to vote and our freedom of the press. And as you reflect on these basic freedoms, think about the people who make that all possible. When you do, I hope you will join me in taking a minute out of our busy schedules to personally thank and salute the men and women of America's Army Reserve.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU LANGONE, RECIPIENT OF THE 1998 MAPLE LEAF AWARD

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Ms. Mary Lou Langone of Maplewood, New Jersey who is being honored with the 1998 Maple Leaf Award on this occasion of the 30th Annual Maple Leaf Award Ceremony.

Mary Lou Langone has certainly had a positive impact on the community of Maplewood, both through her work in the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce and, through her service in numerous volunteer organizations and service groups. After attending Columbia University, completing business and accounting courses, and working at ADP, Mary Lou changed direction toward a vocation in which she has had both talent and success. She attended the New Jersey School of Floral Design and then opened her own business, Patina's Florist, which has flourished under her creative direction.

As a successful Maplewood businesswoman, Mary Lou's contributions to the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce, include her membership on the Board of Directors, founder and past President of the Profile Program for the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce, and Chairwoman and Coordinator of the Chamber Holiday Decorations. Professional recognitions include Vice-Presidency of the Eastern Region of New Jersey for FTD, design teacher at New Jersey School of Floral Design, and "Designer of the Year" in 1983. Patina's has also received awards several times as "Shop of the Year."

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