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TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CHIEF  
WARRANT OFFICER KEVIN  
REICHERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert.

Last week I attended Officer Reichert's funeral in his hometown of Chetek, Wisconsin, a small town of 2,000 people in the northern part of my congressional district.

Chetek is like any small town in rural America. When a member of the community is recognized for outstanding deeds, everyone shares in the pride and joy; and when tragedy strikes, the community shares in the grief. It is unfortunate that last week the people of Chetek came together to bury a hometown hero.

Kevin Reichert lost his life, along with his copilot Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs, during an Apache flight-training mission in Albania while in support of Operation Allied Force. These two men were stationed in Illesheim, Germany, with their families and were the first American casualties of Operation Allied Force in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Reichert began his military career in the United States Air Force, where he served with great pride and honor. He later transferred to the U.S. Army in order to realize his lifelong dream of flying. Kevin was accepted to an Army aviation flight program. He later distinguished himself as an outstanding and decorated officer. His commitment to his country was an inspiration to those who served with him.

When I attended Kevin's funeral, I had the opportunity to speak with Chief Warrant Officer Paul Clark, who lived with Kevin in Illesheim and served with him in Albania. In his eulogy, Officer Clark honored his fallen fellow soldier by saying, "Kevin always answered the call. He always cared about everyone. He was proud of what he did and his unit was proud of him."

Other pilots in Kevin's squadron said that he took great pride in every task that he was given. One pilot even said that Kevin was considered peacemaker of the troop.

Kevin was a devoted husband to his wife Ridgeley and a loving father of their three children, daughter Carrisa, and sons Christopher and Colten. In Chetek, family, friends and teachers remember him as a young man who always contributed to his community and was never shaken by adversity.

While growing up in Chetek, Kevin displayed early signs of his desire to serve his country and fly. One of his biggest hobbies in high school was flying model airplanes. Kevin was so committed to realizing his dream of flying

that he enlisted in the Air Force just one year before graduating from high school. Shortly after basic training, Kevin returned to Chetek in his uniform to thank those who had helped him along his way.

The teachers at Chetek High School remembered him as a young man with an incredible desire to learn and a willingness to contribute to the world in which he lived. He touched many lives, and those who had contact with him were proud to call him their friend.

This young man from western Wisconsin wanted nothing more than to provide for his family, to serve his country, and to fly helicopters. He was the son every mother wants, the student every teacher dreams of, the husband and father every family needs, and the soldier every Nation must have.

Mr. Speaker, this tragic accident reminds us that all men and women in our Armed Forces operate in dangerous conditions every day to carry out their mission. It reinforces our respect for the sacrifices that they and their families make in order to serve our country and protect our Nation's interests across the globe.

Kevin Reichert's death is a great loss to our Nation and to our community in western Wisconsin. Our Nation owes Officer Reichert and his family a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. His service to our country and his ultimate sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are called the sons of God. And God bless Kevin Reichert, Officer David Gibb, and their families. And God bless all our young men and women in our Armed Forces throughout the globe who are serving our Nation and protecting our freedom.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, DECLARATION OF POLICY OF UNITED STATES CONCERNING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-150) on the resolution (H. Res. 179) providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4) to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 883, AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-151) on the resolution (H. Res. 180) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 883) to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United

States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN EDWIN  
RIPKEN, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for a fine job there on behalf of the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Calvin Edwin Ripken, Sr., born on December 17, 1935, in Harford County, Maryland, at a place designated on Harford County maps circa 1940 as "Ripken's Corner."

At the age of nine, young Cal was left fatherless due to an accident that took the life of his father, Arend, at the intersection of U.S. 40 and Maryland Route 7 in Harford County. Fostered by two older brothers, Ollie, 18 years his senior, and Bill, some 10 years older, Cal followed his brothers to every sand lot game they played in the old Susquehanna League.

At the age of 12, Cal became the batboy of the Aberdeen Cannons, a semi-pro baseball club playing in that same Susquehanna League. One day when his signs were being stolen by an opposing team, Manager Fred Baldwin asked young Ripken, "Boy, do you know how to give signs?" Calvin said, "yes." So for the next 2 years, young Cal gave the signs sitting on top of the bats. No one ever figured out where the signs were coming from.

In 1953, Cal Sr. graduated from Aberdeen High School and was offered a soccer scholarship to Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

Cal Sr.'s baseball team began when he played for those same Cannons in 1955 and 1956. He was a catcher, the same position his older brother, Ollie, had held years before. In 1957, Cal accepted a minor league contract with the Baltimore Orioles and was sent to play in Phoenix, Arizona.

On November 30, 1957, Cal married Violet Gross, a marriage that produced four children in Elly, Cal Jr., Fred, and Bill. Cal Sr. subsequently progressed through the Orioles' minor league system until spring training of 1961. During a game as a member of the Rochester Red Wings, Cal was struck by foul tips twice in succession on the right shoulder, causing a disabling injury. Following a short rehabilitation stay in Little Rock, Arkansas, Cal was given the opportunity to turn his talents to managing and became, at 25 years old, the youngest manager in the Orioles' system. From there he rose through that system to become the Orioles' third base coach. And then, in

1987, he became manager of the Baltimore Orioles, the team he so dearly loved.

Cal Ripken, Sr., and Cal Ripken, Jr., represent the first ever father-son teammates to win a World Series, in 1983. In addition, Cal Sr. is the first manager to ever manage two sons, Cal Jr. and Billy, on the same major league baseball team at the same time.

On March 25, 1999, at the age of 63, Cal Sr. succumbed to lung cancer. Cal Sr. never moved away from his hometown. There he was not known as the father of Cal Jr. but as a neighbor who would help anyone who was in need. After his retirement from baseball, Cal remained involved in the community by lending his support to many causes. Specifically, Cal and Vi dedicated their time and money to many charities, including the Maryland Special Olympics and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County.

Cal also hosted an annual instructional baseball camp for youngsters who wanted to learn how to play the game of baseball. Cal Sr. loved to teach and would spend countless hours helping those who wanted to learn from this man, who had spent his entire life in the game of baseball.

Cal Sr. and Vi were the driving force behind the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County in Maryland. Recently, the Justice Department granted the Boys and Girls Clubs \$77,777.77 in memory of Cal Sr. The sevens symbolize the number worn by Cal Sr. on the baseball field. The number 7 is now etched inside the third base coach's box at Camden Yards.

I offer my sincerest sympathies to Cal's wife Vi, his children, Cal Jr., Billy, Fred, and Ellen. The loss of Cal Sr. is felt by all who admired this great man who gave back so much to his community.

#### PILT PAYMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague knows, I have the great honor and great privilege of representing the State of Montana here in the House of Representatives.

Montana is one of the largest districts, both in population and area, in the Congress. I represent an area of 148,000 square miles and approximately 90,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, about 30 percent of Montana is owned by the Federal Government; and that is about 42½ thousand square miles, or 27.2 million square acres. To put that into perspective, Mr. Speaker, the Federal lands in Montana is about equivalent to the size of the entire State of Kentucky or the entire State of Louisiana, or Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia.

As you colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, State and local governments are

prohibited from taxing Federal lands. But State and local governments are obligated to provide services: law enforcement services, fire protection, search and rescue, schools, hospitals, and other emergency services.

The Federal Government compensates local governments really in two ways. One, it makes payments to State and local governments in lieu of taxes. We call this PILT payments. In addition to that, the Federal Government provides for revenue sharing. The receipts and certain income from the development of resources go to State and local governments. Certain minerals, timber harvest, oil and gas leases, even a portion of outfitter fees, 25 percent, go to State and local governments.

But, Mr. Speaker, the PILT payments, the payment in lieu of taxes payments, in Montana is about 17 cents per acre of Federal land. Private land in Montana, on average, produces revenues to State and local governments of about \$1.48. So the PILT payments are not much more than 10 percent of what private taxes would produce.

In 1995, the Congress authorized the first increase in PILT payments in over 20 years. However, Congress has failed to appropriate the full level of PILT payments authorized and the Clinton administration has never requested the full level of funding.

But even more troubling is the Clinton administration has been locking up the public lands by dramatic reductions in timber harvest, withdrawal of mineral districts, the shutting down of oil and gas expiration, and the closing of public lands for recreation and for tourism, and that has further reduced the revenues and income to State and local government.

More troubling than that even, the Clinton administration recently proposed the ending of revenue sharing arrangements altogether. Mr. Speaker, this proposal has been opposed by local governments and it has been opposed by the Montana legislature.

Mr. Speaker, what this resolution says is that Montana local governments, Montana State government opposes the Clinton administration's policies of closing down the public lands and failure to fulfill its obligations under PILT payments. We have to restore resource development, Mr. Speaker, and we have to fully fund the PILT payments.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a copy of the resolution passed with 119 votes in the Montana 1998 legislature.

MONTANA STATE CAPITOL,  
Helena, MT, March 31, 1999.

Hon. RICK HILL,  
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC.  
DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HILL: On behalf of the State of Montana it is my honor and duty to send you the attached copy of House Joint Resolution 19 for your information.

House Joint Resolution 19 is urging the full funding of payments in lieu of taxes on federal land in Montana, the proper harvest of the allowable sale quota for timber, and a

renewal of the federal governments' compact with state and local governments to contribute a fair share of taxes on federal land in Montana.

On behalf of the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and all of the members of these esteemed bodies, I thank you for your consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,

MIKE COONEY,  
Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE FULL FUNDING OF PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES ON FEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA, THE PROPER HARVEST OF THE ALLOWABLE SALE QUOTA FOR TIMBER, AND A RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S COMPACT WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE A FAIR SHARE OF TAXES ON FEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA

Whereas, the ability of Montana's economy has historically been dependent on use of our abundant natural resources; and

Whereas, the natural resource harvest has contributed billions of dollars to Montana's economy by providing employment opportunities to members of our communities and by supporting our business communities; and

Whereas, revenue from industries related to natural resource harvest has produced taxes for the support of local and state governments; and

Whereas, the federal government has long recognized the importance of supporting local governments in counties where the United States controls management of public lands by reimbursing state and local governments by payments in lieu of taxes (PILT); and

Whereas, a variety of federal legislation, such as the Forest Reserve Act of 1890 sought to make equitable distribution to counties and to the education system of 25% of net proceeds derived by the sale of resources harvested on federal land; and

Whereas, the federal government is now reducing the volume of timber cut in relation to the allowable sale quotas (ASQ), redistributing funds historically contained in the 25% fund (outfitter fees), reducing its commitment to full funding of PILT, which was reduced from 100% in 1994 to 53% in 1998, and redefining its commitment to states and counties (a decoupling effort to overturn the 1890 Forest Reserve Act); and

Whereas, this effort has and will cause irreparable financial harm to state and local governments, our natural resource industries, and employment opportunities for Montanans.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:

That the Legislature of the State of Montana petition the U.S. Congress to ensure a full commitment by the federal government to full funding of PILT, a commitment toward the proper harvest of the natural resource base by way of already adopted ASQ, and a renewal of its compact with states and local governments to contribute to the federal government's fair share in taxes on land present in Montana but retained by the federal government.

Be it further resolved, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Western Governors' Association, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.