

gratitude to the millions of women who have donned the uniform of our armed forces and served proudly in the every military conflict in which this Nation has engaged. On Saturday, May 18, I spent some time with a group of ladies of whom we should all be extremely proud. I was honored to take part in the Harrisburg Armed Services Day celebration of Women Veterans organized by City Councilwoman Patricia L. Stringer and local veteran Barbara Lewis. I could not commend the women veterans attending that gathering enough then and cannot do so now. Nevertheless, it is only fitting that we should attempt to honor those who have sacrificed so much for our benefit.

The roughly 2 million women who have served with the military have served in every conflict since the American Revolution. Over 55,000 of these veterans have come from my home, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All have left a legacy of service, duty and patriotism. We would do well to remember their devotion to country, and to imitate their heroic sense of responsibility, especially as we find ourselves confronted with new enemies and a new war.

On Saturday, May 18, I spoke with veterans such as Sandra Mosten and Betty Curtis, a former WAC corporal, who served in the Army at a time coincident with my service in the early 1950s. Sandra and Betty served our country proudly, and perhaps without realizing it, have blazed a path for women who have come after them. Indeed, 90,000 women serve in the U.S. Armed Forces today, and all have been strengthened in their commitment to the military by the examples of the strong women who have gone before them—veterans like Sandra Mosten and Betty Curtis.

Mr. Speaker, the history of women in uniform moves me each time I recount their great accomplishments. The Army Nurses Corps, founded in 1901, served as the vanguard unit for official participation of uniformed women within the military. The Navy and Marine Corps soon followed suit and enlisted women into a variety of roles during World War I. By World War II, 400,000 women served in non-combatant military positions. Many of us will remember the Women's Army Corps organized by Oveta Culp Hobby, the first lady of Texas and, later, the first Secretary of Housing and Education. The WACs, as they were fondly dubbed, were joined by the Navy's WAVES, the Coast Guard's SPARS and Air Corp's WASPs. Their jobs may have been labeled noncombatant, the risk was often just as great as those faced by men in the front lines. For example, 87 military nurses fell into enemy hands as POWs during the war.

I personally remember the WACs and WASPs of Central Pennsylvania who instilled in the youth of the community a renewed sense of duty—a sensibility I carried with me, into my adulthood and which propelled me forward during my time in the Army during the Korean War. In fact, the years just prior to my enlistment were critical to the future of women in the military. In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. The Act granted women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and newly created Air Force. Over 500 women then served in the combat zones of Korea. When America entered that long conflict in Vietnam, women again were an integral

part of military operations. Nearly 7,500 women served their country honorably during that conflict. Following their example, President Ford signed into law an Act admitting women into the service academies of the various military services. The WAC formally dissolved a few years later, marking in many ways the full integration of women into the military, free of segregated units. We only need to view the heroic exploits of women in Desert Storm and Afghanistan to see how far women have come in the military. I need look no further than the confines of my Congressional District.

I am reminded of the new traditions of women's military service that are being created each and every day when I look at the Headquarters of our Pennsylvania National Guard, located at Fort Indiantown Gap near Annville, Pennsylvania. There, the first woman to attain the rank of General in the Pennsylvania Guard commands the Army Guard with devotion and professionalism. I had the great honor of noting Deputy Adjutant General Jessica Wright's promotion to Brigadier General in this body last Congress. Let me also note the tremendous accomplishment of a young soldier I met just a few months ago, Krista Griffith of Hershey, Pennsylvania. Krista has recently become the first woman to attain the rank of Sergeant Major in the Pennsylvania Guard. Old enlisted veterans like myself will note that Sergeant Major is one of the non commissioned officers (NCO) in the Army. Sergeant Major Griffith, an intelligence specialist, will soon serve 6 months in Bosnia as part of the SFOR operations the 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania Guard will soon undertake.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know General Wright, Sergeant Major Griffith, Sandra Mosten, Betty Curtis, Barbara Lewis and so many other women veterans from Central Pennsylvania. We as a country should be honored to remember the 2 million women veterans who have served this country and the thousands who serve in uniform today during this time of war. We will never forget their sacrifices or their commitment to service. I thank them all on behalf of the people of my district. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking them on behalf of a grateful Nation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 6, 2002*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote on a motion to adjourn. Had I voted, I would have voted "no" on this vote—No. 213.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FREDERICK J. STOKLEY

#### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 6, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding individual who has demonstrated a true commitment to education, Mr. Frederick J. Stokley, C.E.O. and

Superintendent of Schools in Ridgewood, NJ. Tomorrow, on June 7, 2002, the Ridgewood community will celebrate Mr. Stokley's 15 years of service to the Village of Ridgewood. Amid fireworks, plays, and tributes to Mr. Stokley, the community will thank him for his dedication. The results of his work are felt not only in the public schools of Ridgewood, but throughout our community. He is a wonderful example of the type of person who makes Bergen County such a wonderful place.

The Ridgewood school district is considered to be one of the premiere suburban school districts in the New York metropolitan area, and indeed the entire State of New Jersey. Much of this is because of the guidance of Mr. Stokley as Superintendent. The experience that he brought to the job has continued the strong tradition of excellence in Ridgewood's education system. When Mr. Stokley joined Ridgewood in 1987, he had already served as Superintendent of Schools in Massachusetts and Louisiana. Additionally, Mr. Stokley has taught at outstanding institutions such as Harvard University, Cambridge College, and Boston College. Ridgewood was lucky to have a man of such intelligence, experience, and devotion join its fine school system.

As a former member of the Ridgewood Board of Education and former educator, I can tell you first hand the importance of leadership and serious commitment to the public school system. And I believe, as the residents of Ridgewood will agree, Mr. Stokley has provided those very qualities for our community. I applaud his dedication and his service in the past 15 years in our community. And I wish him all the best for the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Stokley on his 15 very successful years with the Ridgewood Public Schools and thank him for his fine example for all of us committed to providing a quality education for our children.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF HOWARD EISENBERG

#### HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 6, 2002*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the City of Milwaukee lost one of its most brilliant and compassionate citizens on Tuesday when Howard Eisenberg died of complications of a heart attack.

Dean of the Marquette University School of Law since 1995, Mr. Eisenberg symbolized the humanity and dedication to public service toward which all lawyers and jurists should strive. Hailed by members of the legal community across the country, Mr. Eisenberg earned praise for his efforts to give everyone access to the justice system. In Milwaukee, he owned a well-deserved reputation for offering help to those in need, giving advice to those who asked, and taking on pro bono cases on behalf of those with limited financial means.

Even Mr. Eisenberg's hobbies and leisure time activities reflected his drive to help those in need. He was, after all, a lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs.

Mr. Eisenberg was as groundbreaking as he was compassionate. He served as Wisconsin's chief public defender from 1972 to 1978,