

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close in just about 2 or 3 minutes and yield back my time to the Chair, but I want to close this way by saying that I am a person who believes that this country's strength is the fact that we are a Nation under God, and those people that are opposed to this legislation, in my opinion, do not either understand the history of America and the history of the Johnson amendment, or they are for whatever reason concerned about the churches and the synagogues having the freedom, the total freedom of speech that they enjoyed in 1953, that was taken away from them in 1954.

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Mr. Speaker, with the help of my colleagues, and I thank the Democrats who have joined me in this effort, we will continue to fight this battle for returning the First Amendment to our churches and synagogues.

I want to close by a certain way I close in my district every time I speak, and that is to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the Members of Congress, both House and Senate, and their families. I ask God to please bless the President of the United States as he has some very difficult decisions in the days ahead of him, as we do. And I always close by saying three times, I ask God to, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

HONORING GENERAL BERNARD A. SCHRIEVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for the remainder of the majority leader's hour, 44 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for his courageous stand, and his desire to ask for the Almighty's blessings on this country again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States of America.

He was born in Bremen, Germany in 1910. Bernard Schriever came to America in 1917 and became a naturalized citizen in 1923. After graduating from Texas A&M, he began his military career in 1931 as an Army artillery officer, later transferring to the Army Air Corps for flight school and flying 36 combat missions during World War II. In 1943, General Schriever became chief of staff for the Maintenance and Engineering Division of the Fifth Air Force Service Command, and then commander of the advance headquarters,

Far East Service Command, which supported theater operations from bases in Hollandia, New Guinea, Leyte, Manila, and Okinawa.

He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1943 and then to full colonel in December at the young age of 33.

Following World War II, General Schriever was assigned to the position of Chief of the Scientific Liaison Section under the Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel, Army Air Force headquarters, and while in that post, he developed planning documents that linked ongoing research and development efforts with long-range military planning.

In 1954, the Air Force's highest priority was the development of the first intercontinental ballistic missile, the Atlas, and soon thereafter development of that missile became a top national priority under the Eisenhower administration to counter the Soviet nuclear threat. At that time the Soviet Union had produced nuclear and thermonuclear bombs and was pursuing an aggressive rocket technology program culminating in the October 1957 launch and orbit of the Sputnik satellite.

General Schriever led the development of the new United States ballistic missile program and headed the Western Development Division, later called the Ballistic Missile Division, which was solely responsible for planning, programming and developing the intercontinental ballistic missile. In fact, the size and funding of the Western Development Division was actually larger than the Manhattan Project.

On December 17, 1957, the Air Force conducted the first successful test launch of an Atlas missile, and by 1963 the Strategic Air Command had deployed 13 Atlas missile squadrons with nearly 120 missiles on alert to meet the contemporary Soviet Union threat. General Schriever oversaw the simultaneous development of the Atlas missile and the intermediate-range ballistic missile, Thor, which achieved an initial operating capability in 1959. Furthermore, the more advanced Titan intercontinental ballistic missile reached initial operating capacity by April 1962. And by October of 1962, 10 Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles were placed in service in response to the Cuban missile crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of amazing that General Schriever's efforts produced, within only 8 years, four complete missile systems for the United States, each system being more advanced and more complicated than its predecessor. Both the Atlas and the Titan systems were modified and became the workhorses for America's space program, and the Atlas missile is still used as a satellite launch vehicle today.

General Schriever retired in 1966 as a four star general, and continued his service to the United States as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the Defense Science Board, and the Ballistic Mis-

sile Defense Organization Advisory Committee. His expertise is still sought in the continuous development of America's space systems.

Walter J. Boyne, former director of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, wrote, "Today's navigational, meteorological, intelligence, and communication satellites owe their existence to the work of Schriever and his team." Furthermore, the Air Force in its official biography of General Schriever recognizes him as "the architect of the Air Force's ballistic missile and military space program."

Furthermore, the Falcon Air Force base outside of Colorado Springs was renamed the Schriever Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, during my service in the United States Air Force, I had the opportunity to work on many of the systems that General Schriever and his team pioneered. His name was spoken with an air of reverence, and the enormity of his accomplishments in developing a viable deterrent to the Soviet threat and ensuring American predominance in space was not lost on all of the Air Force personnel. I remember an article in Air Force News back in 1999 where General Schriever stated, "We envisioned that space would become critical to our warfighters. Even back in the 1950s when we were talking about deterrent capabilities, we believed space would become an important factor. Nowadays, thanks to space, in the first few days of a conflict, we can shut their eyes, ears and their ability to talk. Then you can apply your forces with much less risk. Just look at what happened in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans, entirely different from Korea and Vietnam. Space had everything to do with that."

General Schriever continues to uphold that premise, as he recently stated at a ceremony last month honoring space and missile pioneers when he said, "We have to be number one in space. We need to keep that position to deter that kind of capabilities to make war."

Mr. Speaker, America's dominance in space today is due in large part to the leadership, talent, and selfless service of General Bernard A. Schriever. I stand here today to state that Congress recognizes and honors him for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States.

Thank you, General Schriever. God bless you, and God bless America.

HONORING JOHNNY UNITAS

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the untimely death