

HONORING THE JACKSONVILLE
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Jacksonville Rotary Club for their 85 years of service to Cherokee County. Throughout its history, the Jacksonville Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Jacksonville Rotary Club has benefited numerous organizations and programs that serve the local community including the Anderson/Cherokee Crisis Center and the Jacksonville Literacy Council. The Ambassadorial Scholarship program has enabled local students to enrich their lives and further their education by helping them study abroad. Their valuable community service has also been seen through annual events such as the Pancake Supper, United Fund activities, support of Boy Scout Troop 407, and benefit golf tournaments.

Through these initiatives, the Jacksonville Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE EMPLOYERS OF
OUR GUARD AND RESERVE BUT
MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this important resolution. When it comes to taking care of our citizen-soldiers, many employers have gone well beyond what the law requires. They make up any loss of income that an employee encounters when going on active duty, or they keep the soldier's family on the company health insurance, or they find other ways to ease an employee's separation from loved ones during activation. This bill is an excellent opportunity for Congress to thank these conscientious employers.

In particular, I would like to extend special gratitude to those employers who have taken it upon themselves to eliminate any pay gap that their employees encounter because their military salary is less than their civilian salary.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Employees Support for Guard and Reserve, nearly 1/2

of our activated citizen-soldiers have employers who eliminate that pay gap. Companies making such payments include IBM, Sears, General Motors, Home Depot, United Parcel Service and Ford Motor Company.

In addition, the governments of at least 30 states, including my home state of California, offer this differential pay for state employees who go on active duty.

Unfortunately, the Pentagon has prevented the Federal Government from following these conscientious employers and making up any pay gap encountered by Federal employees who have been activated in the Guard and Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a wonderful article by Bob Barr that ran in the Washington Post highlighting the efforts of Senator DURBIN and other Members of Congress on this issue.

While I strongly support this resolution I also believe that what is good for the goose should be good for the gander, and that the time has come for the Federal Government, the largest single employer of the citizens who make up the Guard and Reserve—must match the example set by employers throughout this country and support our own citizen-soldier employees.

PRIVATE SECTOR SURPASSES AGENCIES ON PAY
TO DEPLOYED

(By Stephen Barr)

Wachovia Corp., the banking giant, Eaton Corp., an industrial manufacturer, and Enterprise Rent-a-Car keep their employees on full salary and benefits, regardless of military compensation, when they are called to active duty in the reserves and National Guard.

Other organizations also help out their reserve and Guard employees beyond the letter of the law. Citizens Financial Group Inc., the Los Angeles Police Department, Sears, Roebuck and Co., the state of Delaware and Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. provide financial support to their employees, including a pay differential, for periods ranging from a year to the duration of the deployment.

The companies were among 15 recently honored by the Pentagon with the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, in recognition of their exceptional support of their Guard and reserve employees. The 15 companies went beyond the requirements of the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which seeks to guarantee that workers have a comparable job waiting for them when they return from their military service.

The federal government, however, falls short of being a model employer in its treatment of civil service employees called to active duty. Although federal agencies comply with the law, the government does not make up the difference in pay when an employee is called to active military duty and receives a smaller salary.

David M. Walker, the head of the Government Accountability Office, attended the Freedom Award banquet Oct. 15 and later told a House committee that "the U.S. government is not leading by example or practicing what it preaches in connection with employer support for the Guard and reserves."

Walker, in his prepared statement, said the GAO and federal agencies are constrained by law and ought to have some leeway to ease salary shortfalls for Guard and reserve families.

"Federal agencies should be able to make up any salary differential that activated

Guard and reserve members might otherwise lose out of our annual appropriation," Walker said. "We would also like to be able to be sure that applicable employees and their family members continue to receive their employer-provided benefits."

There are about 1.13 million people in the Guard and reserves, and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and other members of Congress have estimated that about 40 percent of those called to active duty suffer a loss of income, putting mortgages and other obligations in jeopardy, because their military pay is less than they would have earned in their civilian jobs.

About 126,850 reservists are employed by federal agencies, and about 96,600 of them work for the Defense Department. Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) estimates that 17,000 federal employees have been mobilized to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places.

The Senate has approved an amendment sponsored by Durbin that would require a federal employee's agency to pay the difference between a worker's reservist pay and federal civilian pay. More than 100 House members, organized by Lantos, have written to the House Appropriations Committee backing the Durbin amendment.

The amendment has been stripped out of bills during past House-Senate negotiations—what the senator calls "the darkness of a conference committee."

In general, Defense officials have opposed bills that would close the "pay gap" for some mobilized reservists because they believe it could cause morale problems. Officials have contended that all parts of the armed forces—active, Guard and reserves—should be compensated according to their performance of military duties under the existing military pay system.

The officials point out that federal employees who are mobilized may take a month of military leave each calendar year with differential pay and that a special category of federal employees, military technicians, can receive two months at full civilian salary. Federal agencies also may pick up health insurance costs for up to 24 months for their mobilized reservists.

Still, the House members said in their letter, "what is good for the goose should be good for the gander," suggesting that the government, as the largest employer of reservists, should be able to match the support offered by companies to ease financial burdens on employees called to serve.

A PROCLAMATION THANKING SPECIALIST
RODNEY HENDERSHOT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Spc. Rodney Hendershot has served in the U.S. Army's Alpha company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry with loyalty, duty, respect, selflessness, honor, integrity and courage; and

Whereas, Spc. Rodney Hendershot volunteered to serve at a time of great unrest when America's values of freedom and liberty for all were challenged most; and

Whereas, Spc. Rodney Hendershot has fought for the freedom of the Iraqi people and the security of this great Nation.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in