

FREEDOM FOR ALBERT SANTIAGO
DU BOUCHET HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Albert Santiago Du Bouchet Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández is the director of the independent Havana Press Agency. His peaceful, pro-democracy activities and truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports that Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández was harassed and threatened because he insisted on reporting and covering the historic congress of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society (APSC). The CPJ also reports that Castro's thugs ordered him to appear at a police station on the opening day of the APSC meeting. Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández bravely disobeyed their command, and reported on the momentous events that occurred at the historic congress.

In retaliation for telling the world the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime, Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández was arrested on August 6th and, in a sham trial 3 days later, sentenced to 1 year in the totalitarian gulag. As the 2005 edition of the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices states, "Prison conditions continue to be harsh and life threatening." According to CPJ, Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández has suffered severe headaches and progressive loss of his vision since his arrest in August 2004.

Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the belief that freedom of the press and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Du Bouchet Hernández, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is morally repugnant that, in the 21st Century, men and women are still locked in the dungeons of dictators because of their beliefs in freedom and human rights. It is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Albert Santiago DuBouchet Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

CONGRATULATING LONG'S DRUG
STORE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-standing institution in my dis-

trict that has been serving the people of Knoxville, Tennessee for 50 years. On March 27, 2006, Long's Drug Store will mark its Silver Anniversary.

Determined to provide friendly, prompt service to the Knoxville community, Dr. Clarence Long opened Long's Drug Store on March 21, 1956. It was the first drug store to serve West Knoxville and was included in the first shopping center in Knoxville. Long's is a landmark that has remained at its Kingston Pike location since its opening.

Along with Dr. Long, several members of the Peck family joined the staff in the late 1950s and early 1960s. After the passing of Dr. Long in 1966, the Peck family took over the business and continues to maintain it today.

Today, Long's Drug Store offers the community the same welcoming service it did when it opened its doors 50 years ago, despite advances in technology. Long's continues to fill prescriptions and provide free home delivery service to its customers.

While commonly paired many decades ago, soda fountains in drug stores are a rare find these days. Long's Drug Store has the distinction of having the only old-time soda fountain in the City of Knoxville. This soda fountain provides relief during hot East Tennessee summers with its delicious Coke floats and chocolate malts. It is one of the most popular and memorable sections of the store.

Always at near capacity with loyal customers, both young and old, Long's provides a welcoming meeting place to enjoy a fountain drink or congregate with neighbors over breakfast or lunch.

Long's Drug Store provides its customers and the citizens of Knoxville with caring, personal service. Generations of customers continue to come to Long's for their pharmacy needs as well as a place to meet friends. I'm sure that Dr. Long would be delighted by the staying power of his business and its commitment to tradition.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend Long's Drug Store for its service to the people of Knoxville, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this anniversary and wishing them the best for the next 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO DELTA COMPANY, 113
AVIATION, OREGON NATIONAL
GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the citizen soldiers of Delta Company, 113 Aviation, Oregon National Guard on the occasion of their return home tomorrow from a 14-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Commanded by Captain David Doran, the 92 Soldiers of this heavy lift helicopter company operating CH47D Chinooks proved to be one of the most effective and versatile aviation companies in the Army's Total Force Structure.

The "Mustangs" of Delta 113 were alerted in June 2004 and assembled from cities and towns throughout Oregon, including: Athena,

Baker City, Beaverton, Bend, Boardman, Clackamas, Corvallis, Echo, Eugene, Fairview, Haines, Helix, Hermiston, La Grande, LaPine, Lyons, McMinnville, Merrill, Milton-Freewater, Ontario, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Portland, Prineville, Redmond, Roseburg, The Dalles, Umatilla, Union, and Vale.

By late February 2005, the aircrews were fully trained, loaded up, and ready for deployment into the theater of operations. In March 2005, Delta 113 arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Within the first 20 days, the maintainers had the aircraft ready to fly, aircrews were oriented on the mission and environment, refuelers had moved out beyond Kandahar to Forward Operating Bases, and Delta 113 had assumed the mission.

They immediately integrated with Task Force Griffin (12 Aviation Brigade) and in 3 weeks, the Mustangs had conducted a thorough relief-in-place of the outgoing Heavy Lift Helicopter Company and were conducting all heavy lift operations in southern and western Afghanistan. Their missions included: Combat Service support and Air Assault support for units of the 25th Infantry Division and 173rd Airborne as well as the 7th Special Forces; downed aircraft recovery; and transporting VIPs, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. These missions were all accomplished while flying their standard re-supply missions, moving more than 95 percent of personnel and equipment throughout southern Afghanistan. The Mustangs were responsible for airlifting 11 million pounds of supplies and equipment and 45,000 troops. In addition they carried troops directly into contact with the enemy, executing over 100 deliberate operations with the 173rd Airborne and 3rd and 7th Special Forces Groups.

Delta 113 was critical to the success of Operation Catania in June of 2005. This 4-day operation resulted in the death or capture of over 150 Anti-Coalition Militants, marking it as one of the largest single engagements of Operation Enduring Freedom to date. During this fighting, four CH47Ds were damaged by enemy fire and two were forced to make emergency landings. All four were recovered and repaired by "Mustang" Downed Aircraft Recovery Teams (DART) on the same day and returned to service within 24 hours.

In September 2005, the Mustangs lost a crew of 5 and an aircraft to an enemy RPG during Operation Hazurbus. The fallen soldiers included Sgt. Tane Baum and Warrent Officer Adrian Stump, both of Pendleton. The Company quickly rallied and continued to execute assigned missions. This ability to remain focused during a time of extreme tragedy is the hallmark of this unit's greatness and an example of their commitment to duty and dedication to mission accomplishment.

In addition to their taxing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom missions, the Mustangs deployed 2 aircraft, aircrews, and support personnel to Islamabad, Pakistan, to conduct humanitarian aid missions in October 2005. They were on site for 1 month and during that time moved over 750,000 pounds of supplies, evacuated 750 casualties, and transported 650 aid workers.

Executing deliberate combat operations to sustain all ongoing combat and combat support missions throughout the country, the Mustangs of Delta 113 gained the reputation throughout CJTF-76 as a highly dependable, professional organization able to execute a wide range of aviation missions.