

fell to Japanese forces, Mr. Hackmeier was taken prisoner by the Japanese. In the custody of the Japanese, Mr. Hackmeier was forced to partake in the infamous Bataan Death March, one of the darkest episodes of the war in the Pacific. It has been estimated that 600–650 American and 5,000–10,000 Filipino prisoners of war died during this horrific ordeal. After surviving the Bataan Death March, Mr. Hackmeier endured as a prisoner of war for three and a half years at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines and later in Niigata, Japan.

According to those who knew him well, while captive, Mr. Hackmeier and his fellow prisoners kept up their spirits by singing the American folk song “San Antonio Rose.” Upon his release from captivity in 1945, Mr. Hackmeier was transported back to the United States by the Air Corps. When asked what airbase he would like to be transported to, Mr. Hackmeier replied, “San Antonio.”

Upon arriving in San Antonio, Mr. Hackmeier met his own “San Antonio Rose,” his future wife, Betty. Betty and Daniel were married in September of 1948. Over the course of their lives, Betty and Daniel would have five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Hackmeier remained with the U.S. Air Force after World War II and he received numerous military decorations. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism in the Battle of Bataan. He also received the Combat Infantryman’s Badge as well as the Presidential Unit Citation with two oak clusters and commendation ribbons. In addition, he was given several theater and campaign ribbons. In 1960, he received the prestigious Airman of the Year Award.

Mr. Hackmeier became acquainted with Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (U.P.) while he was in the Air Force as he was assigned to teach ROTC at Michigan Technological University (MTU) in Houghton, Michigan. There, Mr. Hackmeier came to know and love Houghton and the U.P.

In 1961, Mr. Hackmeier was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant while serving at Maxwell Air Force Base in Texas. He retired later that year, having spent thirty years serving our Nation.

Upon retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Hackmeier returned to the Houghton area that he had become so fond of while teaching ROTC. Becoming an active member of the community, he joined Copper Country Ford dealership, a position he held for twenty-five years. His wife, Betty, also became active in the Houghton community, spending twenty-five years as a Food Supervisor at Michigan Technological University.

Madam Speaker, like most heroes, Mr. Hackmeier did not seek recognition for his valor. When those around him in the community referred to him as a hero, this humble man was known to simply respond, “The real heroes are the men that died there.”

Madam Speaker, inscribed on the monument to the Pacific War Dead, in Corregidor, Philippines are the words:

Sleep my Sons, Your Duty Done . . .  
For Freedom’s Light Has Come.  
Sleep in the Silent Depths of the Sea  
Or in Your Bed of Hallowed Sod.  
Until You Hear at Dawn  
The Clear Reveille of God

While Mr. Hackmeier’s final resting place may be Houghton and not the Pacific, like his

comrades who did not survive Bataan, his duty truly has been done. As the people of Houghton, Michigan come together to recognize this hero, I would ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mr. Hackmeier for his lifetime of service and in offering our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Betty, and his entire family.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD lists me as not voting on rollcall vote 115, Ms. FOXX’s amendment to H.R. 800.

I had intended to vote “aye.”

#### EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support H.R. 995, to amend Public Law 106–348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand here today to support a bill that will honor the service of veterans who have become disabled while serving in the Armed Forces. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world. Establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia for these valiant warriors is only a small step towards repaying the insurmountable debt that all of us owe to all veterans. For, what is the price of freedom?

As President Kennedy once said, “The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it.” And no one has paid a higher price than the brave men and women through the years who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude.

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington, DC to the Battle of New Orleans, from Bull Run to Gettysburg and Antietam to Appamattox, brave Americans gave their lives so that the nation might live. And from Alsace Lorain to Verdun, and Normandy to Berlin and Pearl Harbor to Okinawa, from Inchon and Corregidor to Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, Americans have nobly sacrificed their lives so that the world may live in freedom.

The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation’s call and made supreme

sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln’s admonition to “care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family].” Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so hard to pass legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve.

Because I realize that our veterans deserve our very best, I have recently introduced H.R. 1240, the Vision Impairment Specialist Training Act (VISTA). VISTA is a means to help our nation’s blind and low-vision veterans by establishing a scholarship program for students seeking training in blind rehabilitation. There are 160,000 legally blind veterans in the United States, but only 35,000 are currently enrolled in the Veterans’ Health Administration. Members of the Armed Forces are important to our Nation and we show them our appreciation by taking care of them when they no longer can serve.

Caring for our veterans also means giving them our time. I have had the honor of visiting with some of our wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. Many of these soldiers were recovering from some of the most horrific wounds imaginable. But what made the most indelible impression on me was that to a man and woman, there was no self-pity or anger at their fate. Instead of anger or sorrow there was only concern for their fellow soldiers and pride in the certain knowledge that they had fought valiantly on behalf of a country they loved. There is no reason that any of our veterans should not receive the highest care from all of us in this country. I hope all Americans take the time to visit their local VA hospital and thank the wounded for their service to our country. We must do everything possible to let our veterans know how much we value their service.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 995.

#### COLUMBIA SPACE SHUTTLE MEMORIAL STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 807, the “Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act,” which directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing a memorial to the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in the State of Texas and for its inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because the seven astronauts whose lives were lost aboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* were extraordinary people. To the world those astronauts were valiant heroes; to us in Texas they were also friends, neighbors, and family.

They made the ultimate sacrifice on a mission that benefited all of humanity. They deserve the highest level of honor, and their sacrifice and dedication must be commemorated