

deploy on short notice to support more than 10,000 guardsmen, reservists, and civilians at the world's largest joint air reserve base.

With our military engaged in two wars, this chamber must take the opportunity to express thanks to all of our military aviators and other troops abroad who have defended our homeland and the values and ideals we espouse as a nation. I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing 100 years of military aviation is just one reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE OFFICE OF PARKS
AND RECREATION, CITY OF OAKLAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Year Anniversary of the City of Oakland's Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR). On July 25th, at an Old Fashion Community Celebration at deFremery Park, local families, sports enthusiasts and nature lovers celebrated what has been accomplished in one century: 100 parks, 2,500 acres of open space, 26 recreation and community centers, and the innumerable rewarding activities Oakland residents enjoy because of them.

In 1909 both the Playground and Park Commissions were formed. During the Playground Commission's first meeting, they allocated \$600 for a vacation program at two school grounds and established a Playground Division under the Department of Public Works. One year later, the first municipal playgrounds opened at the deFremery, Bushrod and Bayview sites. The City also issued a million-dollar bond to purchase lands around Lake Merritt.

Today, we recognize the true worth of those initial investments. In addition to offering recreation services in athletics, science, art, aquatics, boating, gardening, music, and culture, Oakland's parks help foster a sense of community ownership. One OPR motto, "Play with a Purpose," illustrates an important point. It reminds us that healthy, outdoor play is an essential part of our wellbeing and personal growth.

Over the last 100 years, Oakland Parks have transformed, mirroring the rich culture and history of the surrounding community: In 1932, Oakland's first Municipal Rose Garden opened its doors; the deFremery recreation center housed servicemen in December of 1941, nine days after the Pearl Harbor attacks; a camp for children with disabilities and

a Senior Citizen program were created in 1948, and ten years later, the award-winning Arroyo Viejo Children's Theater opened, but succumbed to fire in 1970.

There have been Japanese Gardens, golf courses, children's folk dance festivals and choruses. Children's Fairyland, visited by Walt Disney while he developed his Disneyland concept, was the first theme park in the nation designed for small children. But, during inevitable change, one constant has remained: Oakland Parks' steadfast accessibility to people of all ages, abilities and interests.

The variety and scope of Oakland Parks' community participation is vast. For example, OPR recreation centers host Radical Roving Recreation programs that provide social, health and life skills development for underserved young people. The Golden State Warriors basketball team Makin' Hoops Program helps to renovate basketball courts and provides athletic services. On a national scale, the U.S. Olympic Trials for canoe and kayak flatwater sprint were held at Lake Merritt in 2004.

This year, Lakeside Gardens also celebrates its 50th anniversary and OPC intends to return the gardens to their original splendor. Oakland has much to look forward to as the Office of Parks and Recreation continues its commitment to beautify the city and engage park visitors in a shared civic pride.

I am confident that exciting partnerships and programs such as these will continue to thrive under the guidance of OPR's excellent leadership. In the next 100 years, the City of Oakland, partnering with the Office of Parks and Recreation, will continue to encourage community values, physical activity and personal development through the beauty of its open spaces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, and 779, I was not present due to a family commitment in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 775, "yea" on 776, "yea" on 777, "yea" on 778, and "yea" on 779.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GARLAND
HOWARD

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor FORMER Daviess Circuit Judge Garland Howard, a true Kentuckian. Mr. Howard is well-known in the Owensboro community as a valued leader, visionary and hard-worker.

Mr. Howard, who had been Daviess County Master Commissioner since 1985, was appointed to the circuit judgeship by Governor Paul Patton in 1995.

His passion and love for the Ohio River was expressed through his development projects, which inspired and led the way for growth and expansion in Owensboro.

Even though Mr. Howard gave so much of himself to his community, the love he gave to his wife Mary Ann and to his children was unparalleled. Mr. Howard passed away on October 7, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Howard family.

Garland Howard will forever be remembered by the amazing legacy he leaves behind through the lives he touched, the projects he created and the children who he taught by example to be community leaders in their own right.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM
WAR VETERANS EVENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

[Sept. 12, 2009]

TRUMAN LIBRARY SPEECH

(By MG (Ret.) Robert H. Scales)

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the

minds of soldiers for as long as wars have been fought.

From Marathon to Mosul young men and now women have marched off to war to learn that the cold fear of violent death and the prospects of killing another human being heighten the senses and sear these experiences deeply and irrevocably into our souls and linger in the back recesses of our minds.

After Vietnam we may have gone on to thrilling lives or dull; we might have found love or loneliness, success or failure. But our experiences have stayed with us in brilliant Technicolor and with a clarity undiminished by time. For what ever primal reason war heightens the senses. When in combat we see sharper, hear more clearly and develop a sixth sense about everything around us.

Remember the sights? I recall sitting in the jungle one bright moonlit night marveling on the beauty of Vietnam. How lush and green it was; how attractive and gentle the people, how stoic and unmoved they were amid the chaos that surrounded them.

Do you remember the sounds? Where else could you stand outside a bunker and listen to the cacophonous mix of Jimi Hendrix, Merle Haggard and Jefferson Airplane? Or how about the sounds of incoming? Remember it wasn't a boom like in the movies but a horrifying noise like a passing train followed by a crack and the whistle of flying fragments. Remember the smells? The sharpness of cordite, the choking stench of rotting jungle and the tragic sweet smell of enemy dead . . .

I remember the touch, the wet, sticky sensation when I touched one of my wounded soldiers one last time before the medevac rushed him forever from our presence but not from my memory, and the guilt I felt realizing that his pain was caused by my inattention and my lack of experience.

Even taste is a sense that brings back memories. Remember the end of the day after the log bird flew away leaving mail, C rations and warm beer? Only the first sergeant had sufficient gravitas to be allowed to turn the C ration cases over so that all of us could reach in and pull out a box on the unlabeled side hoping that it wasn't going to be ham and lima beans again.

Look, forty years on I can forgive the guy who put powder in our ammunition so foul that it caused our M-16s to jam. I'm OK with helicopters that arrived late. I'm over artillery landing too close and the occasional canceled air strike. But I will never forgive the Pentagon bureaucrat who in an incredibly lame moment thought that a soldier would open a can of that green, greasy, gelatinous goo called ham and lima beans and actually eat it.

But to paraphrase that iconic war hero of our generation, Forrest Gump, "Life is like a case of C Rations, you never know what you're going to get." Because for every box of ham and lima beans there was that rapturous moment when you would turn over the box and discover the bacchanalian joy of peaches and pound cake. It's all a metaphor for the surreal nature of that war and its small pleasures . . . those who have never known war cannot believe that anyone can find joy in hot beer and cold pound cake. But we can . . .

Another reason why Vietnam remains in our consciousness is that the experience has made us better. Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing for war as a self improvement course. And I realize that war's trauma has damaged many of our fellow veterans physically, psychologically and morally. But recent research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by behavioral scientists has unearthed a phenomenon familiar to most veterans: that the trauma of war strengthens rather than weakens us (They call it Post Trau-

matic Growth). We know that a near death experience makes us better leaders by increasing our self reliance, resilience, self image, confidence and ability to deal with adversity. Combat veterans tend to approach the future wiser, more spiritual and content with an amplified appreciation for life. We know this is true. It's nice to see that the human scientists now agree.

I'm proud that our service left a legacy that has made today's military better. Sadly Americans too often prefer to fight wars with technology. Our experience in Vietnam taught the nation the lesson that war is inherently a human not a technological endeavor. Our experience is a distant whisper in the ear of today's technology wizards that firepower is not sufficient to win, that the enemy has a vote, that the object of war should not be to kill the enemy but to win the trust and allegiance of the people and that the ultimate weapon in this kind of war is a superbly trained, motivated, and equipped soldier who is tightly bonded to his buddies and who trusts his leaders.

I've visited our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan several times. On each visit I've seen first hand the strong connection between our war and theirs. These are worthy warriors who operate in a manner remarkably reminiscent of the way we fought so many years ago.

The similarities are surreal. Close your eyes for a moment and it all comes rushing back . . . In Afghanistan I watched soldiers from my old unit, the 101st Airborne Division, as they conducted daily patrols from firebases constructed and manned in a manner virtually the same as those we occupied and fought from so many years ago. Every day these sky soldiers trudge outside the wire and climb across impossible terrain with the purpose as one sergeant put it "to kill the bad guys, protect the good guys and bring home as many of my soldiers as I can." Your legacy is alive and well. You should be proud.

The timeless connection between our generation and theirs can be seen in the unity and fighting spirit of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, I get asked the same old question from folks who watch soldiers in action on television: why is their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are getting fed up with these wars? Don't they know Afghanistan is going badly? Often they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what every one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On those lonely firebases as we dug through C ration boxes and drank hot beer we didn't argue the righteousness of our cause or ponder the latest pronouncements from McNamara or Nixon or Ho Chi Minh for that matter. Some of us might have trusted our leaders or maybe not. We might have been well informed and passionate about the protests at home or maybe not. We might have groused about the rich and privileged who found a way to avoid service but we probably didn't. We might have volunteered for the war to stop the spread of global communism or maybe we just had a failing semester and got swept up in the draft.

In war young soldiers think about their buddies. They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. For the most part the military we served with in Vietnam did not come from the social elite. We didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of po-

litical bluebloods. We were in large measure volunteers and draftees from middle and lower class America. Just as in Iraq today we came from every corner of our country to meet in a beautiful yet harsh and forbidding place, a place that we've seen and experienced but can never explain adequately to those who were never there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought us to fight in the jungle was no different than the motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the military but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

What makes a person successful in America today is a far cry from what would have made him a success in the minds of those assembled here today. Big bucks gained in law or real estate, or big deals closed on the stock market made some of our countrymen rich. But as they have grown older they now realize that they have no buddies. There is no one who they are willing to die for or who is willing to die for them. William Manchester served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and put the sentiment precisely right when he wrote: "Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die is not a man at all. He is truly damned."

The Anglo Saxon heritage of buddy loyalty is long and frightfully won. Almost six hundred years ago the English king, Henry V, waited on a cold and muddy battlefield to face a French army many times his size. Shakespeare captured the ethos of that moment in his play Henry V. To be sure Shakespeare wasn't there but he was there in spirit because he understood the emotions that gripped and the bonds that brought together both king and soldier. Henry didn't talk about national strategy. He didn't try to justify faulty intelligence or ill formed command decisions that put his soldiers at such a terrible disadvantage. Instead, he talked about what made English soldiers fight and what in all probably would allow them to prevail the next day against terrible odds. Remember this is a monarch talking to his men:

This story shall the good man teach his son;
From this day ending to the ending of the world,

But we in it shall be remembered;

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother;

And gentlemen in England (or America) now a-bed

Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,

And hold their manhood's cheap whiles any speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

You all here assembled inherit the spirit of St. Crispin's day. You know and understand the strength of comfort that those whom you protect, those in America now abed, will never know. You have lived a life of self awareness and personal satisfaction that those who watched you from afar in this country who "hold their manhood cheap" can only envy.

I don't care whether America honors or even remembers the good service we performed in Vietnam. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to

talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a firebase to open a case of C rations with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves. I believe in my very soul that the almightily reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual lager where some day we can meet and embrace . . . all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, God bless you all and God bless this great nation. . . .

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES DEALING WITH TROPICAL STORM KATSANA AND TYPHOON PARMA

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution. Tropical Storm Katsana caused horrible suffering to the people of the Philippines and wreaked havoc on their communities. Just six days later, Typhoon Parma brought additional death and destruction to the region.

I extend my deepest sympathies to those who have lost friends and loved ones in these natural disasters. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

On October 2nd I sent a letter to President Obama regarding the devastation in the Philippines caused by Katsana. I urged swift action to provide aid to the already devastated region especially in light of the proximity of Typhoon Parma.

I would like to submit this letter for the record, as well as a letter from the UN General Assembly in response to my request.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2009.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to request your immediate assistance and intervention in speeding humanitarian aid to the people of the Philippines who are suffering from the effects of Tropical Storm Katsana. As you know, Tropical Storm Katsana hit Manila and rest of the Philippines on September 26, 2009, causing a disaster.

I have just spoken by teleconference with an Akron, Ohio businessman, Mathew Freeman, who is currently in Manila. Mr. Freeman, through the cooperation of Channel 5 in Cleveland, has shared with me a gripping personal account of the situation on the ground in Manila: there is no evidence of any aid reaching the people. Survivors are without shelter, food and water as another series of storms are quickly approaching.

I understand that the Department of Defense is providing assistance with logistics in the region and that today a relief flight delivered aid for 20,000 affected individuals. I further understand that the U.S. has committed an additional \$1 million of aid money to the region, which I applaud. Nevertheless, first hand accounts indicate that additional efforts to expedite humanitarian aid must be made and made immediately. The situation is desperate and countless lives are at risk. As such, I urge you to accelerate delivery of additional humanitarian aid to the region.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
October 12, 2009.

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: I am writing to thank you for showing urgent concern for the victims of the tropical storm Katsana in the Philippines. I value your efforts to alleviate the suffering of the two and a half million people affected by the storm and to raise awareness of the situation in the Philippines.

As you know, the United Nations has launched a flash appeal to support the Government of the Philippines in responding to the effects of the storm. The flash appeal is seeking \$74,021,809 and involves the international humanitarian community, including NGOs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations agencies. So far the flash appeal has received \$11 million in funding and an additional \$433,119 in pledges.

I am pleased to note that the United States have contributed \$650,000 to the United Nations flash appeal, in addition to other funding for relief operations. I am convinced that your valuable efforts on behalf of the victims of Katsana, have contributed to the timely and generous support from the United States.

Sincerely,

ALI ABDUSSALAM TREKI.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNHEIM FOREST

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bernheim Forest and their recent recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Bernheim Forest Arboretum Visitors Center in Clermont, Kentucky won two of EPA's Lifecycle Building Challenge awards for a professional building and for a building with the best greenhouse gas reduction.

EPA's Lifecycle Building Challenge recognizes innovative green building ideas that reduce environmental and energy impacts. Reusing building materials assists the building industry in reducing more than 88 million tons of building-related construction and demolition debris that are typically sent to landfills in the United States each year.

The Bernheim Forest Arboretum Visitors Center incorporates the surrounding forest into the building's design. The staff and board at

the Bernheim Forest are committed to our natural environment and this visitor's center is a solid example of that commitment.

Construction of the center emphasized safe materials made of biological nutrients, which break down to safely return to forest soil, as well as technical nutrients, which can be re-manufactured into new objects.

I congratulate the work of the individuals who made this building a reality and honor the staff and board at Bernheim Forest, whose passion for the environment make it possible for Kentuckians to connect with nature.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BURKE

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Brian Burke, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Anaheim Ducks Professional Hockey Team from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Burke is one of Orange County's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, and raised in Edina, Minnesota, Brian resides with his wife Jennifer and has six children: Katie, Patrick, Brendan, Molly, Mairin and Gracie.

In 2007, Mr. Burke guided the Anaheim Ducks to the first Stanley Cup Championship in California history, and in 2008 he received two outstanding honors: On June 6th, he was chosen by USA Hockey as General Manager of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team, and on August 7th he was named a recipient of the 2008 Lester Patrick Award for outstanding service to hockey in the United States. Burke is also the General Manager of the 2009 USA World Championships Team.

Madam Speaker, Brian Burke is an American citizen with a passion for supporting the United States military. Mr. Burke organized a first-of-its-kind two-day event to support the families of active duty military personnel at the Honda Center in 2008. The event, which included Ducks' players and their families, welcomed "Operation Homefront"—a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, the families they leave behind, and injured soldiers upon their return home. Brian also supported the "Wounded Warriors Project," a non-profit organization that assists severely wounded soldiers to transition back into life when they suffer from serious and traumatic injuries. To recognize our Wounded Warriors and the United States Marines, Brian Burke and the Anaheim Ducks delivered the Stanley Cup for its first ever visit to Camp Pendleton in 2007.

Mr. Burke has also been very involved in Orange County charities. He has served as a Board Member on the Board of Directors for the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) as well as supported and donated to the Orangewood Children's Foundation, Share Ourselves and the Children's Bureau. Brian also promoted cancer awareness in the Orange County community by launching "Hockey Fights Cancer" nights at Ducks' games.

I know Mr. Burke's family is extremely proud of his accomplishments, as am I. He has worked tirelessly to improve his community and his efforts should be emulated by future community leaders.