

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. S. L. ROBERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2010*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend S. L. Roberson of Ypsilanti, Michigan and to pay tribute to him on the occasion of his upcoming 90th birthday on Saturday, March 14th, 2010.

The Reverend Dr. S. L. Roberson is a pillar of the Ypsilanti-area community, a servant for his fellow man and a dear friend of mine; one whose wisdom and counsel I have been lucky to receive.

S. L. Roberson was born in Alabama to Estella and Reverend Gaither Roberson, Sr., on March 14th, 1920. As a child he moved to Michigan and received his education in the Ypsilanti Public Schools. The church has always been central to S. L.'s life, and he was baptized at an early age while attending Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti where his father served as pastor. It was at this time that S. L. received his calling, preached his trial sermon and was ordained in his ministry. He was later called to pastor the now Metropolitan Memorial Full Gospel Baptist Church and has led that congregation for over 50 years. S. L. has undergraduate degrees from Eastern Michigan University, has studied at Detroit Bible College and has a doctorate of divinity from Urban Bible College. Reverend Roberson has also served his country with great pride and distinction as a member of the United States Marine Corps. He is quick to tell you that once a Marine, always a Marine.

My friend S. L. is a devoted husband to Elder Hollie Roberson, who is not only his wife, but his "right hand." He is also the loving father of five children, but he serves as a fatherly figure to many more individuals throughout our community.

Reverend Roberson's service has not gone unnoticed. He has received many distinctions, including the Liberty Bell from the Lawyers Association, the Ypsilanti Police Department Honor Award, and the Washtenaw Community College Service Award. December 14th has even been recognized as Reverend S. L. Roberson Day in the City of Ypsilanti. In addition to these achievements, I had the pleasure of hosting Reverend Roberson when he gave the opening prayer for the United States House of Representatives on September 5, 2007.

As he celebrates his 90th birthday on March 14th, 2010, I hope that S. L. Roberson will know how beloved he is by his community, myself included. S. L. has lived a life of service, dedicating himself to his fellow human beings and the great cause of justice. I ask that the House join me in paying tribute to a fine and decent man as he comes to this remarkable milestone in a life so well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2010*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 95 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

**KRISTINA SEVY**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kristina Sevy. Kristina is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Kristina's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Kristina has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Kristina can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kristina Sevy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES F. RECORD

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2010*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am here to honor a fellow Hoosier, Lieutenant General James F. Record, who passed away on December 22, 2009. He is being interred today at his final resting place, a short distance from here, at Arlington National Cemetery. Born and raised in Indiana, General Record's distinguished career and service to our nation makes me especially proud to recognize the accomplishments of this Hoosier patriot.

General Record graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette in 1961 with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Shortly after graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force through Purdue's Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.

After graduating from pilot training, General Record served as an instructor pilot at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas. In 1967, he was deployed to combat in Vietnam where he served meritoriously for two years. Following his tour in Vietnam, he became commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing stationed in South Korea, the 58th Tactical Training Wing, and the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing. In 1985, he was promoted to Brigadier General and took command of the 833rd Air Division.

Following his command tour with the 833rd, he served as deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Middle East in the Persian Gulf. General Record also served as the chief of staff for the United Nations Command and the Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea. While serving as vice commander of the 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, he took command of the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. In 1995, he was named commander of the 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces and promoted to Lieutenant General. General Record retired from the Air Force in 1997.

Throughout his career, General Record accumulated over 6,000 flight hours and received numerous awards and decorations. Among his many medals for meritorious service, General Record received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air medal with 27 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with six service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

While General Record's passing brings great sadness to our beloved country, his family, and his friends, we as Americans should be thankful that people like him dedicate their lives to the cause of liberty and make countless sacrifices so that we may enjoy the blessings of freedom. Today, I salute this honorable and distinguished warrior, a role model for Hoosiers and all Americans, as the nation bids him farewell.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD 235TH ENGINEER COMPANY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the California National Guard 235th Engineer Company, SAPPER, who recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their mission in Afghanistan was to clear the routes of improvised explosive devices, IEDs, to allow the infantry freedom of movement. They were the front line for the front line! These brave soldiers risked their lives every day for their comrades and returned as the most decorated unit. They also received the Valorous Unit Award which is awarded to a unit that displays extraordinary heroism in actions against the enemy.

As part of their primary mission, 235th Engineer Company cleared more than 10,000 kilometers of road in 5 separate battle spaces and more than 208,000 square meters around Bagram Air Base, destroyed 4,800 pieces of unexploded ordnance and land mines, and found 54 IEDs.

In addition, they completed 220 combat missions (enduring 32 IED strikes and 25 other enemy engagements) as well as 2 FOB defense missions. They captured 604 persons of