

HONORING THE MARINES AND CORPSMEN OF THE 3RD BATTALION, 25TH MARINES INFANTRY REGIMENT ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have answered the call of duty for their country and made the ultimate sacrifice. I would like to call on everyone to reflect this Memorial Day on those service members who have sacrificed their lives for this country and the family members who were left behind.

I would like to honor my constituent, Nathan Huffman, USMC Sgt. Ret., and other Marine Reservists from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines Infantry Regiment and fellow Corpsmen, who served their country honorably from March 2005 to October 2005 in Al Anbar Province during Operation Iraqi Freedom. This Memorial Day, Sgt. Huffman has organized a Memorial Day Ultra Marathon in honor of their 48 fallen Marines and Corpsmen who perished during their service in Iraq, and the many other service members who have given their lives while serving our country.

Sgt. Huffman will depart the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia along with many of his fellow Marines, Corpsmen, friends, and supporters and run day and night to cover the over 100-mile journey which will end at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. The purpose of this ultra marathon from Richmond to Washington, D.C. is to commemorate the core values of Memorial Day and honor the fallen. In the words of Staff Sergeant Joseph Goodrich on his reflection of Memorial Day, "I started looking at all of the headstones with flags in front of them. I started thinking about who they were, how they lived, how they died and what they did for me . . . I swore to myself that I would not let them down. They sacrificed, and gave to me something I could never repay; freedom." Sgt. Goodrich was killed in Iraq on July 10, 2005.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the many courageous men and women who have given their lives in the service of our great Nation, and their widows, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters who are left behind. They have not given their lives in vain—rather they have offered their valor and dedication to a grateful Nation. Sgt. Huffman and his fellow runners have heard and answered a second call of duty to remind our Nation to never forget the fallen, the wounded, and loved ones who have lost their heroes. Please join me in recognizing their efforts and those of our brave troops and let us never forget their sacrifices.

HONORING COMMANDER DONALD GAITHER

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and tribute to the late

Commander Donald Gaither, a founder of the elite Navy SEALs, for his 27 years of service in the U.S. Navy.

Commander Gaither was a native Hoosier and one we are all proud of. Commander Gaither was born in Daviess County, Indiana and graduated from Washington High School in 1937. While serving on his first submarine, the USS Swordfish, the submarine engine room was damaged during battle. In performance of his duties as chief motor machinist, he was awarded the Silver Star medal for distinguished submarine service.

Commander Gaither's U.S. Navy career continued to be characterized by strong leadership and consistent work. As he rose through the ranks from apprentice seaman to commander, he was highly regarded by those who worked under him. During his time in the Navy, Commander Gaither served as an executive officer in Underwater Demolitions, a precursor to the Navy SEALs. After the Korean War, Congress considered eliminating the Underwater Demolitions Program. Commander Gaither came to Congress and persuaded Congress to keep the program. The Underwater Demolitions Program was later expanded into the Navy SEALs, making Commander Gaither one of the founding fathers of the Navy SEALs.

Commander Gaither's success in the Navy is a tribute to what hard work and determination can accomplish. Commander Gaither spent countless hours studying and preparing for each Navy promotion he received. His work ethic was only matched by his strong leadership skills. Although Commander Gaither died of natural causes post-retirement, his 27 years of service through three wars represent a lifetime commitment to serving our country.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Commander Donald Gaither of the U.S. Navy, an accomplished war veteran who courageously served to better the lives of all American citizens.

RECOGNIZING ROBIN ARRENDONDO-SAVAGE'S INDUCTION AS A MEMBER OF THE TEMPE CITY COUNCIL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robin Arrendondo-Savage on her recent induction as a member of the Tempe City Council.

Robin is a lifelong resident of my hometown of Tempe who has always been actively involved in our community. Previously the Chairman of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and a small business manager, she has shown a commitment to the development of jobs and the growth of the economy in Tempe. Through this and her position as the President of the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board, Robin has proven herself to be a strong and dedicated leader and public servant for her community and its youth.

Robin is also a U.S. Army veteran who served our nation with distinction. She has shown that same commitment and dedication in the many community boards, commissions

and youth sports activities where she has volunteered her time. I am honored to call Robin a friend and I look forward to seeing what her future in public service brings to our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Robin Arrendondo-Savage's induction as a member of the Tempe City Council.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ROCKET AND MISSILE DEFENSE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support of H.R. 5327, a bill authorizing critical funding to ensure Israel's security. Ever since President Kennedy first approved the sale of Hawk missiles to Israel in 1962, U.S.-Israel cooperation on defensive missile systems has developed into a productive strategic partnership that safeguards the security of our ally Israel while advancing our own military edge.

Iron Dome, the program supported by this bill, is a system of anti-missile batteries capable of intercepting the short- and medium-range Qassam, Katyusha, and Grad rockets that have been used by Hamas and Hezbollah to terrorize Northern and Southern Israel.

The successful testing of the first two operational batteries earlier this year demonstrated the system's ability to revolutionize Israel's ability to defend against these attacks. The bill before us authorizes \$205 million for Israel to build and deploy 10 more mobile batteries that will be available for rapid deployment wherever and whenever needed. And it is important to note that our own military stands to benefit from the advanced radar and other technologies that are components of this system.

During its 34-day war with Israel in 2006, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement unleashed nearly 4,000 rockets against Northern Israel. In the 5 years following Israel's complete withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has unleashed 6,000 rockets on Southern Israel. Until now, Israel has had no defenses against such weapons.

The Obama administration deserves tremendous credit for this initiative and its hands-on efforts to advance Israel's defensive capability at a critical time.

It is no secret that Hezbollah and Hamas are rebuilding their arsenals. Hezbollah is believed to have rearmed with some 45,000 rockets and missiles, including Scud missiles and other weapons that can hit Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. Iran continues smuggling weapons material to Hamas via Egypt.

It is also no secret that Iran has in the past used its terrorist proxies in Lebanon and Gaza to provoke Israel and divert international attention from its nuclear program and its defiance of international law. The 2006 Lebanon war, which was precipitated by Hezbollah's kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers, happened just as the IAEA was recommending that the United Nations demand that Iran suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.