

Wynonna's successes are vast: holding multiple gold, platinum, and multi-platinum certificates from RIAA, took her place on the New York Times bestseller list, written with John Rich, covered Elvis, sang for Lilo and Stich, and having seen her notes executed with perfection by figure skating champion Brian Boitano. Awards and causes too many to mention, but championed all with great strength, this Top Female Vocalist of the Year crafts her art with the grace of a prophet and the resilience of a saint. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating Wynonna Judd on receiving the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award as she continues to bring the best of hope to all who listen and dream.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
DOUGLAS BURNETT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Florida Air National Guard Major General Douglas Burnett. General Burnett's hard work helped rise through the ranks over the years earning a number of awards over his illustrious career.

Retiring from the Air Force, General Burnett capped his 47 years and 4 month long career as Florida's Adjutant General. Taking the position in November 3, 2001, General Burnett was the first Air Guard officer to preside over Florida's 12,000 member National Guard.

In his opening remarks that November, General Burnett stated, "Let us, as we respond to the national crisis before our nation, seize this opportunity to re-calibrate our priorities and realize that freedom is the common bond among America's diverse culture . . . something that must always be protected . . . something that those who come to America's shores value highest."

General Burnett presided over the Florida National Guard's response to some of region's most severe natural disasters. A record four hurricanes in one year hit Florida in 2004, including Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne. The following year, General Burnett led the response to Hurricanes Dennis, Wilma, and Katrina. More recently, he set in motion the Florida National Guard's part of bringing aid to earthquake stricken Haiti. After his long years of service, General Burnett earned the respect and admiration from the military and civilian side in efforts to make Florida the best National Guard state in the nation.

The leadership General Burnett demonstrated in these responses was forged over a long career of impressive accomplishments. General Burnett has received the Legion of Merit award with one oak leaf cluster. General Burnett has also received the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters. The Air Force began commending this award in 1958. Locally, he has received the Florida Cross, the Florida Distinguished Service Medal and the Florida Commendation Medal.

Such a noteworthy career began in his hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. After spending some time in military service, he

then went on to graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration. After many years in the service, General Burnett later capped off his education by completing work at the Command and General Staff College and the Air War College.

After high school, General Burnett began his military career at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi under the Florida Air National Guard. He then started what became a lifelong flying career in 1969 by enrolling in the Undergraduate Pilot Training program at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Earning dual qualifications in military and transport aircraft, he took his first assignment as an Alert Pilot in the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

General Burnett also flew commercially for Pan America World Airways and United Airlines until 1996. During his extensive time as a military and commercial pilot, he logged over 20,000 flying hours over 22 years in the F-102, F-106, C-26, C-131, C-13011, Boeing 727, and McDonnell-Douglas DC-10.

General Burnett served on a number of posts. He was the Chairman of the National Guard Bureau's Domestic Operations Advisory Board. He sat on the Reserve Forces Policy Board and is actively involved with the National Guard Association of the United States where he previously served two terms on the Executive Council. He was elected the President of the National Guard Officers Association of Florida in 1993. Finally, General Burnett also served on the Florida Council of 100.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District and all of Florida, I want to thank General Burnett for his long years of service as a proud member of the Florida Air National Guard. I congratulate him on his successful completion of a 47 years career with the Florida Air National Guard and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVIST ADAM TOREM AS THE 2010 HOWARD O. SCOTT CITIZEN-SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Air Force Reservist Adam Torem, whom the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce has honored as the 2010 Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Torem for this commendable recognition.

Madam Speaker, the Air Force Reserves of the United States Armed Forces have long played an important role in the defense of our country. Originally conceived as a standby force for emergencies, the U.S. Air Force Reserves has been a Major Command of the United States Air Force since 1997. The 67,000-member force has evolved into the Air Force's Wingman, performing the same missions as the Air Force and working side-by-side on the same equipment.

Currently, thousands of reservists are risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

their service should be acknowledged with gratitude and immense respect. In many instances, Air Force Reservists maintain full-time professional positions while serving their country as active citizen-soldiers. It is laudable when reservists' contribute to their communities further through additional volunteerism and public service. Unfortunately, reservists' contributions to their communities are often overlooked.

Adam Torem, a U.S. Air Force reservist from University Place, Washington, has successfully balanced his career, his commitment to the Air Force Reserves, and considerable community service. His admirable community involvements have included mentoring young people at his synagogue and coaching young, future engineers in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge.

In addition to his work in shaping future generations, Mr. Torem advocates for service men and women in his community. As a former Chair to the Washington State Bar Association's Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section, Mr. Torem volunteers for programs that provide free legal advice and counseling on housing and other issues to other members of the Reserve and National Guard. Mr. Torem also uses his experience as an attorney to assist in state legislation, advocating for Washington State's active duty service members. When not on military duty, Mr. Torem serves as an Administrative Law Judge for the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission.

The 2010 Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year award was presented in partnership by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Tacoma.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Adam Torem on his many remarkable achievements, his venerable service to his country and community, and the recognition of his many efforts as the 2010 Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5850) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the Latham Amendment to the Transportation, Housing & Urban Development Appropriations bill. I support this amendment in lieu of the very similar amendment I sponsored to cut unnecessary and duplicative programs in an effort to save taxpayer dollars.

As the economy begins its recovery, it is critical that we begin to get our fiscal house in order. Our nation's deficit grows larger every day; our national debt now tops \$13 trillion.