

From there, Briley went through amphibious training and was assigned to LCI Flotilla 28 staff. The flotilla consisted of 28 ships, with Briley stationed on one of the smallest. At 150 feet long and only 25 feet wide, it was the smallest seagoing vessel that could cross the ocean by itself.

"I had never actually seen the ocean until then," Briley said. "It only drew four feet of water, it had a flat bottom and it was like a cork out there."

The small ship sailed from Norfolk, Va. to Bizerte, Tunisia in a 150-ship convoy. The trip took 21 days, after detouring for three days to avoid German submarines.

Once the ship arrived on land, Briley said they couldn't have liberty in Bizerte since it was quarantined with black plague, so the men were given a two-day pass to go to Tunis.

"We met up with a soldier that knew a family there and he would give them some rations that included bacon," he said. "We stayed the night with them and had bacon and eggs for breakfast. That was a treat."

Briley spent 1½ years in the Mediterranean Sea area, with much of the time spent in port. The day-to-day tasks for him included primarily making a news sheet for the men.

He recalls one particular time, while he was in Palermo, that he had a chance to see the catacombs.

"We went down in the catacombs," he said. There were bodies laying right out on shelves and stuff. I don't think they show those anymore."

Meanwhile, Briley had no communication with his brothers. In fact, while he was headed overseas, one of his brothers was headed back to the United States with an injury—one that could have been much worse.

"He was in a foxhole when a bomb hit alongside him and buried him, but his head went into his helmet and then after they took care of the wounded up above, they dug him out and he ended up with just some back injury," he said. "They were in on the front line for I think it was over 300 days."

One interesting event for Briley also came after he and a friend borrowed a Jeep while in Naples and ventured to Rome. Although the two didn't do much inside the city, they did go to the Vatican and managed to be in the right place at the right time for a chance meeting with Pope Pius XII. He walked up to Briley, said "Hello American sailor," and blessed the religious items that Briley had been holding. Briley also kissed his ring.

"It was just luck," he said. "It was a big room. Then he comes out, just being friendly."

When Briley returned from Europe, he was on leave before returning to Norfolk, Va. To meet a ship to go through the Panama Canal to the Pacific when the bombs were dropped on Japan.

The news that the war had ended shortly after brought a different feeling than excitement for Briley.

"It was more relief," he said. "Actually, it's more for the family than anything."

I commend Dean Briley for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

CONDEMNING BURMESE REGIME'S UNDEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the following is an exchange of letters that I would like to submit:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2010.

Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing you concerning H. Res. 1677 ("Resolution"), "Condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic upcoming elections on November 7, 2010". As you know, the Resolution was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means based on the Committee's jurisdiction over international trade.

I appreciate the productive discussions that we have had on this issue, resulting in our agreement to revise paragraph 9 of the Resolution, which I believe helps to clarify the intent and scope of the Resolution. I appreciate your commitment to reflect this agreement in the final Resolution.

In order to expedite this Resolution for floor consideration, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on this Resolution and will not oppose its consideration on the suspension calendar, based on our understanding that you will reflect our agreement in the final Resolution. This is done with the understanding between our Committees that the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the Resolution.

This letter also confirms my understanding that you will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the Resolution on the House floor.

Sincerely,

SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2010.

Hon. SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H. Res. 1677, "Condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic upcoming elections on November 7, 2010." As you know, the Resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has certain valid jurisdictional claims to this resolution, and I appreciate your decision to waive further consideration of H. Res. 1677 in the interest of expediting consideration of this important measure. I understand that by agreeing to waive further consideration, the Committee on Ways and Means is not waiving its jurisdictional claims over similar measures in the future.

During consideration of this measure on the House floor, I will ask that this exchange

of letters be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAPITOL HILL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. I would like to submit the following article:

[From the Lexington News, Nov. 10, 2010]
EDITORIAL—HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAPITOL HILL
(By Joe Aull, State Representative 26th District)

An era in political history came to an end this past Tuesday when Congressman Skelton lost his bid for re-election to an 18th term in the United States Congress.

I believe that we all owe Congressman Skelton a huge thank you for exemplary service for the past 34 year. Ike has worked extremely hard and he has been responsible for so many good things that have happened in our area, our state and our country.

I could say many positive things about my good friend, Ike, but I can think of three issues that really jump out at me.

First of all, I was always so impressed with how well that Ike stayed in contact and in touch with the people in his district. I have never seen anyone work any harder and put in any more miles in traveling from city to city to meet and listen to the people who he represented.

I mentioned the word listen, and I continually saw Ike listening to what was on the minds of his constituents and I believe that he voted for what he thought was right for his people. I always believed that he truly cared about the welfare of the folks that he represented and he put that ahead of everything else.

Secondly, I was very impressed with the leadership that Ike provided as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. I don't know any Congressman that has been more committed to the well being of our service men and women, our veterans and military in general.

I know that Ike has spent much of his free time abroad visiting first hand with our troops and I always felt good knowing that a man of his military knowledge and total commitment was the head of one of the most important committees in Congress, especially in time of a difficult war.

The third and final thing that I would like to emphasize was the fact that Ike was always a true statesman and a positive role model as a Congressman. In a day when you hear of legislative scandals and the legislators who sell out to a particular interest group, I always believed that Ike was honest, trustworthy and a person with strong character, who always conducted himself admirably and in a very professional manner.

He always worked across the aisle with the other party, and he was a master of compromise and this helped him get many things accomplished for the good of his people. Ike was always the kind of person that I admired and trusted, and one who always tried to do things the right way.

I could go on and on, but let's suffice it to say thank you Ike for all that you have done for so many of us, for always going the extra mile and for truly caring for those of us whom you represented.

I will always be proud to say that you were my Congressman and I am deeply honored to call you my good friend.