

TRIBUTE TO DR. HARRY
COURNIOTES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and fellow educator, Dr. Harry Courniotes. Dr. Courniotes served as a visionary in the advancement of my alma mater, American International College, throughout his unprecedented fifty-eight years in academia and thirty-five years as AIC's President.

Attached is a copy of the eulogy of Dr. Courniotes delivered by Richard Sprinthall at a memorial service on March 15, 2011:

First, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here with us today to honor President Courniotes, and I know right now Harry is thanking you too. Over the years I have had the honor of introducing Harry Courniotes many times, but today we are not here to introduce Harry but bid him a farewell.

Harry was a member of what Tom Brokaw called the "Greatest Generation" who fought their way through the Great Depression and World War II. Harry served his country in WWII and for those of you who were at the cemetery, you know that he was buried with full military honors.

Several years ago, Sherriff Ashe introduced me to ex-Governor Michael Dukakis and when I told him I was from AIC he lit up and said "my father graduated from AIC" Then he told me had he been elected President, Harry Courniotes might have become Secretary of Education.

Harry was a superb teacher and academic administrator, he embodied that formula for success: a high IQ and a strong work ethic. Harry was a relentless worker, and totally dedicated to the college. He was there morning, noon, and night. Let me illustrate with a tad of hyperbole. Joe Ramah story.

Many of us have the ability to think critically, but very few of us have his astonishing memory and his ability to stay focused. And I know I speak for many of you when I tell you that he both encouraged me with support, and sometimes intimidated me with his unwavering sense of ethical certainty. And once committed to a goal, Harry could stay on task like no one I've ever known. He could hold a strategy in his memory, but then be flexible enough to revise it when he got new input. He told me what he was going to do, and equally important, he told me what he wouldn't do, clearly and with finality. Ask Harry a question and he gave you a straight answer . . . no bluntness, not without support . . . but honestly and directly. Not only did he ever tell me an untruth, he never misled me by omission. Unlike some leaders, Harry Courniotes never poured ambiguity over his intentions.

I have never been more flattered than to have Harry Courniotes asked me to assist him on some project, such as the athletic control board or to help him prepare for an accreditation visit.

And as you all know, he didn't hand out complements as part of some facile social pleasantries. When you received a complement from Harry, he meant it and you could luxuriate in it.

Ted Byrne, former Professor of economics here at AIC and now the editor of a major financial newspaper in Pennsylvania, wrote to me last week and said, "Harry Courniotes saved AIC. I watched him do it up close and personal." And those words have been echoed

by many of you sitting with us today—Congressman Richard Neal, former board member William A. Collins, and former board member Peter Novak to name a few.

Harry was a great man. Too often those words are banded about and are not really earned. In Harry's case they were earned. He was a great family man, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. And to us at college he was a great leader and to me a great friend.

For me life has suddenly become less full, knowing that his wise counsel is no longer possible.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD'S 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the highly capable and courageous men and women of the Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their third deployment overseas, and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their predecessor, the First Minnesota Infantry. This May, the Red Bulls will begin their deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, the draw-down phase of U.S. military operations in Iraq.

Since September 11, 2001, the Red Bulls have been called to duty three times to join U.S. military forces in Iraq. During their current mission, their responsibilities will include providing convoy security, route protection and base defense as other troops leave the war zone in Iraq. The Red Bulls have made tremendous contributions to our nation with their honorable military service.

The men and women of the Red Bulls comprise a highly skilled force which routinely accomplishes critical missions both on a federal and state level. During deployment from March 2006 to July 2007, they served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Minnesota Army National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division holds the record for the longest serving unit in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the spring of 2009, more than one thousand Red Bulls were again tapped for deployment to Iraq. On this mission, the Division and their leaders were in charge of 16,000 multinational forces. The Division's leadership abilities were proven as they commanded all the coalition military operations in nine of Iraq's 18 provinces and had a direct partnership with more than 40,000 Iraqi Security Forces. They continue to display their excellence with their readiness and preparation for new missions.

Each deployment of the 34th Infantry Division has provided an opportunity for the men and women to share their knowledge and leadership to other troops and help lead operational trainings. The Red Bulls have proven themselves again and again to be an essential part of the Total U.S. Army. Their dedication to United States is always evident through their selfless service and courage in undertaking each mission.

It is a fitting historical coincidence that the current deployment coincides with the 150th anniversary of their predecessors, the First Minnesota Infantry, which heroically supported

the Union Army at the battle of Gettysburg. The First Minnesota's great contributions and sacrifices during the Civil War were exemplary. They have helped to shape the men and women from our state and throughout the United States who choose to serve our great nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Red Bulls continue to carry on this sterling example of leadership and commitment to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the men and women of the 34th Infantry Division, the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their next deployment.

375TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appeared in The Reminder newspaper last week commemorating the 375 anniversary of the founding of the City of Springfield, Massachusetts.

This was truly a joyous occasion, and this article does an excellent job of recording what a wonderful event this was. Congratulations Springfield!

[From The Reminder, May 18, 2011]

CITY CELEBRATES 375 YEARS OF HISTORY,
INNOVATION

(By G. Michael Dobbs)

SPRINGFIELD.—For Congressman Richard Neal, Saturday's events to acknowledge the 375th anniversary of the founding of Springfield had a d j v u quality.

Speaking on the steps of City Hall, Neal recalled that he stood on the small spot 25 years ago as Springfield's mayor during the 350th celebrations.

Neal was part of the thousands of people who attended the day's activities, from the annual pancake breakfast, to the kick-off event at City Hall with the chorus comprised of Springfield school children to the parade that went through downtown to the fireworks that ended the day at Blunt Park.

Neal, whose fondness for history is well known, noted, "The city has given great moments to the country and to the world."

He read a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama that said in part, "You've written your own chapter in the narrative of the United States."

Mayor Domenic Sarno told the crowd, "You know, we are a good city."

He then said, "We need each and every one of you to be ambassadors for the city of Springfield." The children's chorus clearly moved the audience with its rendition of "The Springfield Song," written by Springfield School music teacher Diane Rodriguez.

Even after the ceremony at City Hall concluded, the pancake breakfast was still being served to hundreds of people.

Sarno and his family led the parade, which started at the Springfield Technical Community College campus and went down State Street to Main Street and concluded at Mill Street in the South End neighborhood. Organizations, businesses and representatives all marched in the parade, which was a little more than an hour in length.

Although the weather didn't give the giant Cat in the Hat balloon any difficulty, the new