

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY ROBERT LEE PARIS, JR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Deputy Robert Paris who was killed in the line of duty on April 12, 2012. Deputy Paris paid the ultimate price, sacrificing his life, while protecting and serving the citizens of Stanislaus County.

Deputy Paris was born in Tracy, California on January 23, 1959 to parents Robert Paris, Sr. and Elizabeth Paris. He graduated from Tracy Joint Union High School in 1977. He attended Delta Community College before entering paramedic school in 1979. He was certified as a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic in 1980 and worked for Tracy Ambulance and American Medical Response serving the Tracy community. Deputy Paris graduated from Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center in 1993.

Deputy Paris began his career with the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department in 1996 as a Level 1 Reserve Officer. He was sworn in full time in 1999. He served in Patrol Operations, Court Services, Contact Cities, the Special Vehicle Off Road Unit/Water Enforcement Team and the Civil Division. Deputy Paris served his community with pride and admiration.

Deputy Paris was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed spending spring and summer days camping and fishing in the Sierras with his friends and family. In the fall, he would travel to the Rockies to go hunting with his father and friends in Colorado before heading to Montana to serve as a hunting guide. He also enjoyed cycling and golfing in his spare time. He became a successful taxidermist for his own enjoyment as well as for others.

Deputy Paris is survived by his parents, Bob and Jane Paris; daughter, Jami Paris and her mother, Janelle Corso; son, Bobby Paris; brother, Eric Paris and his wife Kari; sister, Krista Torpey and her husband Richard; nephews Ryan and Colin Torpey and niece, Lauren Torpey.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Deputy Robert Paris is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being. My thoughts are with Deputy Paris' family, the community and the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department as they grieve the loss of this wonderful man.

HONORING ROBERT LEE SMITH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, we are saddened by the death of Mr. Robert Lee Smith because our lives have been touched by the life of this one man; and

Whereas, Mr. Robert Lee Smith's work is present in our community and his church, Hillcrest Church of Christ; being a deacon, Bible School instructor, bus driver and singer; and

Whereas, this highly effective motivator utilized his skills to aid in the growth and development of his church; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time and talent as he served his family, friends and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Robert Lee Smith was a husband, a son, a father, a friend and a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a special recognition on Mr. Robert Lee Smith for his leadership, friendship and service to all as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress of the United States that Mr. Robert Lee Smith of Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition" by declaring Mr. Robert Lee Smith U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of April, 2012.

HONORING SERGEANT STEPHEN M. STEWART

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Sergeant Stephen M. Stewart. Sergeant Stewart served the United States of America honorably with the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division in Somalia.

Sergeant Stewart was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on May 28, 1954. He later relocated to the United States and enlisted in the U.S. Army. During his service, he served a 12-month tour in Korea and was part of the advance forces in Operation Desert Storm, which culminated in the repelling of the Iraqi forces and the liberation of Kuwait.

In 1992, while serving with the 10th Mountain Division, the division was deployed to Somalia as part of Operation Restore Hope for the famished populace of Somalia. The divi-

sion's mission was to secure major cities and roads in order to provide safe passage of relief supplies to Somali citizens suffering the effects of the Somali Civil War. When Task Force Ranger and the SAR team were pinned down during a raid in what would later become known as the Battle of Mogadishu, Sergeant Stewart and elements of the 10th Mountain Division provided infantry to the United Nations force sent to rescue them. The ensuing firefight was the longest sustained by the U.S. Army since the Vietnam War.

In September 1994, Stephen and 8,600 troopers of the 10th Mountain Division formed the nucleus of the Multinational Force Haiti and Joint Task Force 190 in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. The division's mission was to create a secure and stable environment in which the government could reestablish and hold democratic elections.

During his service in the U.S. Army, Sergeant Stewart served in various roles. He was a troop leader in billets as a platoon sergeant, a drill sergeant, and held several administrative positions. He retired as a Sergeant First Class. For his service, Sergeant Stewart received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Korean Defense Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, United Nations Medal for Somalia, and the Army Sharpshooter Badge for the M-16 Rifle.

After his retirement from the U.S. Army, Sergeant Stewart earned a bachelor's degree and teaching credentials. He taught at Sierra Vista Elementary School and the former Mountain Vista Continuation School in Madera Unified School District. His hobbies included running and hiking, and he dreamt of someday climbing Pobeda Peak located near the border of China. He was an influential force in the Chowchilla area to honor WWII veterans through the "Honor Flight" program. He was also commemorated for his service to the California Troops to Teachers program.

Sergeant Stewart passed away in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Gwendolyn Stewart, daughters Stephanie Stewart, M.D., Sharon Stewart, and grandson Ernest "Jewell" Hall. Sergeant Stewart is a Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896, American Legion Post 148, Association of the U.S. Army, Young Men's Institute, and St. Columbia Catholic Church of Chowchilla.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sergeant Stephen M. Stewart for his honorable service to our great country.

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Earth Day, which has

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