

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES CHESTER MOHN

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Private First Class James Chester Mohn who went missing in action in the Himalayan Mountains on June 6, 1943. I am honored to share these brief remarks as part of his final farewell, today, August 4, 2013.

James Chester Mohn was a Tacoma area native. Growing up in the Fern Hill area, he graduated from Lincoln High School with the class of 1939. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted in the Army Air Corps and worked as a radioman on C47-A cargo transport planes. Loaded with munitions, Mohn and his crew left Lalmanirhat, India on the 25th of May, 1943 and they were reported missing in action on June 6, 1943.

In November of 2010, nearly 70 years after the cargo plane was last seen, remnants of the plane were discovered and the plane was identified. Now, we join Gladys Terry, the sister of James Mohn and Virgil James Holman, Mohn's nephew, in celebration of his life while paying respect for his ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to help VFW Post 91 and the greater Tacoma community in their acknowledgement of this local serviceman. In addition, I am grateful to the Lincoln High School R.O.T.C. and the Puyallup Tribe Veterans Committee for their participation on this occasion.

With the final farewell of James Mohn, we are reminded of the enormous sacrifices that the servicemen and women of our armed forces make each day for the safety of Americans at home and abroad. While it is with heavy hearts that we recognize this unfortunate loss of life, this occasion also gives us the opportunity to again thank the men and women who help protect and defend our nation and our way of life.

I am pleased to recognize James Chester Mohn and all of our servicemen and women today, who continue to honor our nation with their bravery, loyalty, and devotion.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. MARCINE AND NITA LOU WEBB

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Mr. and Mrs. Marcine and Nita Lou Webb of San Angelo, Texas. Over the past three decades, Mr. and Mrs. Webb have made it their mission to visit all 50 state capitol buildings throughout the United States. Their 35-year journey culminated in June when they traveled to Augusta, Maine.

Their adventure took them from the dusty West Texas plains to every corner of this nation. It has given them the opportunity to witness firsthand the vast beauty found through-

out our country and experience the people, traditions, and history that make America great.

The most endearing part of their story is that they made this journey together, side by side, with the help and support of their family and friends. The latest visit to Augusta was an early wedding anniversary gift from their loving children Becky, Penny, Dennis, and Marcie to help them celebrate their 65th anniversary together on August 28, an astonishing feat on its own.

Their devotion over the years is a testimony to their love of our country, to each other, and their family. As they gather with family and friends to celebrate this occasion, may they be blessed by their wisdom and learn from their experiences. I congratulate them on their accomplishing their long sought-after goal and their many years together. I wish them many more.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUGLAS H. OWENS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AFTER MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Lieutenant General Douglas H. Owens on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after more than 33 years of faithful service. Lieutenant General Owens will retire on October 1, 2013, concluding his duty as the Vice Commander of Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

General Owens is a command pilot with more than 3,100 hours in various aircraft, including the T-37, T-38, T-41, T-6 and A/OA-10. He flew combat missions in the first A-10 squadron deployed to operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels, and served in a variety of operational and staff positions. These include assignments in the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Checkmate Division and Operations Directorate on the Joint Staff, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other operations worldwide. He has also served as a numbered air force vice commander and as deputy commander of a joint task force for Pacific Command. General Owens has served five tours in the Pacific, including an assignment as the Vice Commander of Pacific Air Forces supporting combat readiness, theater security cooperation, enhanced force posture and presence throughout the theater.

General Owens is a 1980 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and obtained his Masters Degree from the University of Phoenix in 1988. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and National War College where he earned a second Masters degree in 1998. General and Mrs. Owens have two adult children: John and Michael, and four grandchildren. Both John and Michael have continued the family tradi-

tion of service and are also currently serving as officers in the Air Force.

Among his many military duties that spanned his career and included 18 Permanent Change of Station moves, General Owens served as the 36th Wing Commander at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. It is during this assignment that I had the opportunity to get to know both General Owens and his wife Teresa. During his tenure as the Wing Commander he was responsible for the conduct of the Pacific Command's Continuous Bomber Presence, Theater Security Packages, numerous exercises supporting the region, and contingency response operations from Andersen Air Force Base. General Owens was responsible for the well-being of more than 8,000 military and civilian personnel on Andersen AFB and also was tasked to ensure the successful employment, deployment, integration, and enabling of air and space forces from the most forward sovereign U.S. Air Force base in the Pacific. His leadership was critical during the stand-up of Joint Region Marianas and during the planning phases for the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. He also continued to ensure successful implementation of certain portions of the current Pacific Airpower Resiliency strategy. Additionally, his support of the local community on Guam was extraordinary, and I am very thankful for the lasting relationships he built between the military and civilian community which remain strong today.

I again congratulate Lieutenant General Owens on the occasion of his retirement. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his exceptional service to our great nation and thanking him for his contributions to our community. Although General Owens and Teresa will be greatly missed, I wish them both all the best as they transition to the next stage of their life and enjoy a long and happy retirement together.

IN HONOR OF THE APTOS HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS CLUB

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Aptos High School Robotics Club—winners of the 2013 International Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Underwater Robotics Competition. The club, which independently designed, built, operated, and competed with their remote operated vehicle (ROV) in this year's competition, has won the MATE competition for the second time in three years. This year's original design, "The Kracken", is a deep-water ROV engineered to maintain ocean observing systems. This fully functional submersible, a collaborative effort by fourteen bright and young scientific minds, demonstrates that people of all ages have much to contribute to the science and technology necessary to better understand our treasured oceans.

The MATE competition challenges K-12, community college, and university students from all over the world to design and build ROVs to tackle missions modeled after real world modern science scenarios. The competition requires students to think of themselves