

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2013, I travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa, as part of the Congressional Delegation appointed to attend the memorial service for Nelson Mandela, the first president of the new Republic of South Africa and one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. Because of my participation in this important event I was unable to return in time for Roll Call Votes 630 and 631.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 630 I would have voted "aye" (December 10) (H.R. 3521, The Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013, as amended (Rep. MILLER (FL)—Veterans' Affairs)
2. On rollcall No. 631, I would have voted "aye" (December 10) (H.R. 1402, VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013, as amended (Rep. COFFMAN—Veterans' Affairs))

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVE
WARDEN**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dave Warden for his twelve years of service on the Belmont City Council, including three years as mayor in 2002, 2005 and 2012. Dave was first elected in 1999 and served two terms until 2007. He returned in 2009 for his current term.

Dave has been a tireless advocate for open space and was a driving force behind voter-approved Measure F, the Hillside Preservation Ordinance, and the Slope Density Ordinance. He worked hard on the acquisition of 35 acres in the San Juan Canyon which are now permanent open space. He was also instrumental in getting the new library built and was the council's representative to the library JPA. He also made the seismic upgrade of city hall a reality. He supported the smoking ordinance and the creation of Semeria Park.

Dave's top priority has always been to spend Belmont taxpayers' money wisely. He was critical in negotiating with the city's bargaining units to rein in escalating pension costs. He is well-known for his bargaining skills and has helped keep Belmont's budget balanced with a minimal use of reserves even in a down economy.

Before joining the council, he served as the Planning Commissioner and Parks and Recreation Commissioner. He is also a former president of his neighborhood association and former member of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

Dave was born and raised in Belmont and graduated from Carlmont High School in 1979. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from UC Berkeley and is a medical software engineer. He worked for several Silicon Valley start-up firms and developed successful products for Sony, Zenith, Samsung,

RCA, Casio, Panasonic and the U.S. Navy. He is also a former school teacher at Ralston Middle School where he was named the PTA Teacher of the Year in 2002.

He and his wife of 17 years, Lisa, have always had an eye out for preserving Belmont's village-like charm and character.

As you can see from this long list of accomplishments, Dave has a love of Belmont that has been demonstrated over many years and in many forms. Working in local government is not always the easiest task. You often face your neighbors and friends whose expectations are sometimes difficult to meet. However, through his tireless efforts, Dave Warden has demonstrated that he truly wanted to meet the needs of residents as much as was possible given fiscal and other constraints.

Mr. Speaker, this dedication over time is rare, but his length of service and focus on the quality of life in Belmont is why Dave Warden's tenure on the council and in so many other capacities will be remembered. He will be missed on the council but his legacy will live on for many, many years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR
CONRAD J. JAKUBOW'S DEDICATED
SERVICE TO OUR NATION**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Conrad J. Jakubow, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Conrad has served for the last three years as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army and will soon depart for his next duty assignment.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Conrad earned his commission as an Officer in the United States Army at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in calendar year 2000. Major Jakubow's assignments have been diverse and include over twenty-eight months of combat experience. While assigned as a Lieutenant to the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, at Armstrong Barracks in Buding, Germany, Conrad served with Charlie Troop, Alpha Troop, and Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, as a tank and scout platoon leader, executive officer, and squadron motor officer and deployed his units twice to combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a Captain, Conrad attended the Civil Affairs Qualification Course and became a civil affairs officer serving in both the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion and the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade deploying again in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After returning from his third combat deployment, Major Jakubow began his professional studies as a United States Army Congressional Fellow, earning a Master's of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University. Conrad was then nominated and assigned as an Office of the Secretary of Defense Congressional Fellow in the office of the late Congressman C.W. Bill Young and served as his military advisor on defense and veteran matters, providing critical analysis and insight on defense appropriation matters and pending legislation. Major

Jakubow served one year in the Congressional Office and thereafter was subsequently assigned as a Congressional Budget Liaison Officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller in the Pentagon with responsibility for managing the Army's tactical wheeled vehicle program, military construction accounts, installations, energy, and special access program portfolios. Conrad has skillfully advised the Army's senior leaders, fostering and strengthening the relationship between the Congress and the United States Army. Major Jakubow's leadership as both a Company Grade and Field Grade Officer throughout his career has positively impacted his peers and superiors, Soldiers and civilians alike. As a Congressional Budget Liaison Officer he worked directly with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Representatives, Senators, and staff about the diverse and important tactical procurement initiatives of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my esteemed pleasure to work with Major Conrad Jakubow during his time as a fellow and legislative liaison. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major Conrad J. Jakubow for over a decade of active service to his country in the United States Army. We wish Conrad, his daughter Mara, all the best as they continue their journey of service to our great Nation.

HONORING ARMY CHAPLAIN
COLONEL ERIC OLSEN**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the honorable and distinguished career of Army Chaplain Colonel Eric Olsen. I have had the distinct privilege of knowing Colonel Olsen since serving in the United States Army.

Born in Staten Island, Chaplain Olsen entered the United States Army in December 1983 through the Pennsylvania National Guard. He completed the Chaplain Candidate Course in 1985 and was subsequently ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1988. From 1988 until 1992, he led the parish at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Saranac Lake before going on Active Duty and serving tours of duty in South Carolina, Germany, Egypt and Fort Drum. Finally, he transitioned to the New York National Guard in 1999 where he remained throughout his career.

Chaplain Olsen's long career has included assignments as Assistant Chaplain HHC 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Chaplain HHS 1-156 Field Artillery, Chaplain HHC 27th UEX, and the State Chaplain of the New York National Guard.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Chaplain Olsen deployed to Iraq, operating in the dangerous Sunni Triangle region. Serving as the Battalion Chaplain, his unit conducted combat and stability operations as a part of Task Force Hunter.

During his notable career, Chaplain Olsen earned various awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with bronze oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (with 3 bronze oak leaf