

RICHARD TEGLEY

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply saddened to have learned that Richard Tegley, a force in our community, passed away earlier this month.

Richard lived a remarkable life—first bravely serving his country in the Air Force for 22 years, then on to an illustrious career as a real estate broker in the Inland Empire, where he quickly became a leader in the community. For decades, Richard was an advocate for the people of Moreno Valley and Riverside, whom he cared so deeply for.

He was a trusted friend who helped ensure that I would be able to stand here in the House today. I always knew that I could turn to him to get a perspective on the issues facing our community, and I will miss his dedication and passion for others.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORLD  
WAR II MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the World War II Merrill's Marauders unit for their accomplishments in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. The 70th anniversary of the disbandment of this courageous and noble unit is on August 10, 2014.

In 1943, almost 3,000 U.S. Army volunteers from the jungles of Panama and Trinidad, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, New Georgia and the United States, landed in Bombay, India on October 31, 1943. On January 1, 1944, the unit was officially designated as the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, code-named "Galahad," and later nicknamed Merrill's Marauders by the press after their commander, Gen. Frank D. Merrill. They were the first American ground troops to fight the Japanese in Asia.

Merrill's Marauders trained with Britain's Major General Orde Wingate's Chindits before beginning their history-making march in the China-Burma-India Theater, the "forgotten" WWII Theater. With only what they could carry on their backs or pack on mules, Merrill's Marauders walked farther, almost 1,000 miles, than any other WWII fighting force.

Trudging behind enemy lines up the foothills of the Himalayas and into the jungles of northern Burma, Merrill's Marauders succeeded in capturing the only all-weather airstrip at Myitkyina on May 17, 1944. This feat obliterated Japan's control of the sky and enabled the Allies to begin flying supplies into Burma so the Ledo and Burma roads could be connected to open up a crucial pathway into China. Although vastly outnumbered, Merrill's Marauders then went on to defeat the Japanese 18th Imperial Division in five major battles and thirty minor engagements.

The volunteers of this short-lived mission were considered "expendable" since a plan existed to get them into, but not out of, Burma.

The unit was expected to have a casualty rate of more than 85 percent. Jungle diseases ravaged their numbers so only about 300 of the approximately 1,300 remaining Merrill's Marauders were still fit for combat when they reached their objective. They later went on to join replacements who continued to fight in Burma as the 475th Infantry, which became part of the Mars Task Force.

For their accomplishments in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations, the Merrill's Marauders unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. They also have the extremely rare distinction of every member of the unit receiving the Bronze Star Medal. There were also six Distinguished Service Crosses, four Legions of Merit and forty-four Silver Star Medals awarded. Twenty-five Merrill's Marauders have been inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

The legacy of the Merrill's Marauders continues to be honored today by members of the 75th Ranger Regiment, headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia, who wear the Marauder patch as their crest. Camp Frank D. Merrill, where the mountain phase of today's vigorous Army Ranger training takes place in north Georgia, is named in honor of the unit's commanding general.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Merrill's Marauders for their steadfast courage and commitment to serving our country during World War II. The Merrill's Marauders made significant contributions in safeguarding our liberties as Americans seventy years ago and we honor their outstanding valor and patriotic service that helped make America the great nation it is today.

CELEBRATING FLORENCE-FIRESTONE/WALNUT PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce (FFWPCC) on its seventy-fifth anniversary. Ever since its incorporation in 1939, the Chamber has provided a forum for local merchants, business and property owners, professionals, residents, lenders, and teachers to work together in making the Florence-Firestone community a better place to do business. Since 2006, the Chamber has served the Walnut Park business community as well.

The Chamber was severely shaken by the 1992 Los Angeles riots, but it was kept afloat by Community Development Commission (CDC) funding secured by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who was then the Supervisor for Los Angeles County's Second District. This CDC funding has continued under current Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The Chamber has also benefited from funding under a partnership with the County's First District and its Supervisor, Gloria Molina.

At present, the Chamber gets funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. With this funding, the Chamber supports business development through technical as-

sistance, workshops, seminars, and individual consultations.

The Chamber also uses its community newsletter to spread word about business assistance programs, and to advocate on behalf of the businesses in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Region. Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are two of the local communities that have faced the most challenges during the recent recession, with unemployment rates exceeding 20 percent. The FFWPCC has aggressively confronted these challenges by seeking and identifying opportunities to enable the creation of new employment opportunities.

To this day, the FFWPCC serves its members by promoting their businesses' products and services and by protecting their interests at all levels of government. This was particularly evident in the Chamber's recent collaboration with Los Angeles County Supervisors and business and property owners to beautify the streetscapes in the business corridor linking the Florence-Firestone area to Walnut Park. The streetscape improvements have made the shopping community much more inviting, and have helped community members and visitors take pride in their walkable and sustainable community.

After this streetscape project was finished last year, the Chamber continued to tackle new challenges. It is now working on another beautification project in Walnut Park, with the help of Los Angeles County Supervisors. The Chamber has also brought new business opportunities to Walnut Park by organizing an annual Summer Fest in the community. Last year's event attracted over 50,000 people, and this year's attendance is expected to be even higher.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its seventy-five years of faithful and diligent support of local businesses, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce for making Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park better places to work and live, and in wishing the Chamber many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAKE  
DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL FIGHTING  
FALCONS 50TH SEASON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lake Dallas High School who will be celebrating their 50th football season this year. The Fighting Falcons have played 494 games in their illustrious time with a winning record of 260–226–8. They have appeared in the playoffs 18 times throughout their victorious history.

I am proud to say that in 2002, Lake Dallas introduced a new football facility in Corinth that now holds 6,000 spectators. In 2008, Lake Dallas and Sherman scored 115 points in one game to tie a state record.

Impressively, the Fighting Falcons have also had notable college and NFL players. These include Dusty Dvoracek, James Franklin, Justin Hill, Graysen Schantz, Chase Baine, Daryl Williams, Dontonio Jordan, and Dalyn Williams.

On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Lake Dallas High School Fighting Falcons on their 50 years of teamwork, success and greatness. I wish them a bright future.

RECOGNIZING MILLER'S HEALTH SYSTEMS 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a local small business for 50 years of great service to Hoosiers all over Indiana. Miller's Health Systems is known throughout the state of Indiana for providing excellent services in: assisted living, rehabilitation, and nursing home care.

The business started by Wallace and Connie Miller in 1964 as Miller's Merry Manor nursing home on the outskirts of Warsaw. After the company was taken over by their son V. Richard Miller, the company has expanded to over 30 Miller's Merry Manors and 10 senior living facilities. With the multitude of facilities Miller's Health Systems has today, they have grown to over 3,000 employees. Their mission statement speaks to the importance of the Miller's Health Systems employees enjoying the work they do and helping them grow. The company has helped this happen by having Miller's Merry Manor 100 percent employee-owned. The Miller's commitment to service and their core principles of passion, integrity, stewardship, growth, and adaptation have helped Miller's Health Systems withstand the test of time.

As the Representative for the many employees and facilities for Miller's Health Systems it is with great honor I recognize the 50th anniversary of this great business. With the leadership of the Miller family and the passion of their employees, I have no doubt there will be many more celebrations to come. On behalf of Indiana's Second District, I am proud to recognize the last 50 years of Miller's Health Systems and wish them many more.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. DesJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 2014, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall No. 468 due to a personal health matter.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall No. 468, H. Res. 676, to provide for the authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States.

21ST CENTURY ENDANGERED SPECIES TRANSPARENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4315) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 4315, the so-called "Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act," which is an overt assault on the Endangered Species Act designed to weaken its protections and guarantee the likelihood of extinction for wildlife, plants, and fish.

The Endangered Species Act is one of the Nation's most important environmental laws. Signed into law by President Richard Nixon over forty years ago, the Endangered Species Act continues to serve as an effective tool for protecting our wildlife, plants, and fish from the brink of extinction.

To ensure enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, Congress empowered citizens to bring enforcement actions to hold parties accountable for violating the law or to compel the government to protect endangered species. Importantly, the law does not provide for rewards of damages for the citizen bringing the suit. Rather, the Endangered Species Act allows for courts to award reasonable attorneys' fees to parties that substantially prevail on the merits.

Congress has long recognized the importance of encouraging citizens to bring meritorious claims under the Endangered Species Act that they would otherwise abandon due to the financial costs of hiring competent counsel. Many other federal statutes contain similar enforcement mechanisms that encourage citizens to act as a private attorney general.

The Supreme Court has likewise observed in numerous contexts that if private citizens are to enforce laws against "those who violate the Nation's fundamental laws are not to proceed with impunity, then citizens must have the opportunity to recover what it costs them to vindicate these rights in court."

Contrary to the stated goal of H.R. 4315 to "standardize the awarding of attorneys' fees to prevailing parties against the federal government," this legislation is a thinly-disguised effort to prohibit litigation by citizens and public-interest groups.

By eliminating the possibility of reasonable attorneys' fees, this bill creates yet another hurdle that will make it more difficult to find competent legal representation to enforce complex environmental laws.

Reasonable attorneys' fees are particularly appropriate for complex and highly specialized adjudications involving environmental law. Environmental groups are almost uniformly non-profit organizations. Many file lawsuits for injunctive relief to enforce laws and protect the public health. But as a result of this bill, many of these organizations will be deterred from bringing such actions if they cannot recover attorneys' fees.

For these reasons, a broad coalition of interest groups—including Alliance for Justice, Public Citizen, American Association for Justice, Sierra Club, and dozens of other environmental, civil rights, and civil liberties organizations—oppose H.R. 4315.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE KEVIN BURNHAM OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, the Springfield, Massachusetts, Police Department said farewell to their longest serving officer when Kevin Burnham retired after 43 years and 2 months on the job. A highly respected professional, a popular colleague, and a dear friend to everyone on the force, Kevin relinquished his senior officer badge last week to Ruben Boerro following a time-honored tradition. For the first time since July of 1971, Detective Burnham would not be patrolling the streets of the city he loves.

Ask anyone in the department who their favorite co-worker was, and the reply would likely be Kevin Burnham. They admired his dedication, strength and courage. They enjoyed his sense of humor and the laughter that seemed to follow him everywhere. And his loyalty was unquestioned. At the end of the day, Kevin looked upon the Springfield Police Department as a band of brothers and sisters. To him, the force was a family working together to make our city a better place to live, work and raise our children.

From his early days as a rookie, it was obvious that Kevin was born to be a cop. He had the streets smarts necessary to be effective in law enforcement, but he also had compassion. Those two qualities were the reasons his career was so successful. Whether it was becoming one of the first detectives to work on the narcotics bureau, his service in both the uniform division and the crime prevention bureau, or the responsibility that came with the job of evidence officer, Kevin performed each task exceptionally. He was honest and trustworthy, and his fellow officers knew he had their back.

Being a police officer always comes with risks. And two years ago, one of his closest friends, Officer Kevin Ambrose, was killed in the line of duty. To Kevin Burnham, it was the lowest of low points. But with his trademark integrity and character, he led the funeral procession for his fallen friend along with nearly one thousand law enforcement officials from across the country. He helped turn a sad day into a touching tribute to a lost comrade. That's the kind of person he is.

Kevin and Barbara Burnham have been great friends of mine for many years. They are good people and great fun. As Kevin begins his long overdue retirement, I want to wish him nothing but the very best. And on behalf of the United States of America, it gives me personal satisfaction to congratulate him on an extraordinary career serving and protecting the citizens of Springfield. Well done Detective Burnham.