

from one of our most dedicated party members who also just happened to be the "Conscience" of the Party. Even though he seemed to breathe politics, he also had another passion which was gardening. His green thumb caused his family to always be able to have fresh vegetables and even fruits at times.

Lalie was also a family man, proud of his children; loved his grandchildren and was overjoyed being in the presence of his great-grandchildren. His and Cavelle's home was the center and heartbeat of the family.

As I bring my congressional tenure to closure and reflect on the beginning: the joy, happy memories, the sadness of losing him and appreciation of him and all that he brought to me, my life, family and campaigns; always contributed to making it extremely difficult to think and write about him. It is so easy to be sad in nostalgia but, he would not want us to feel anything but happiness for Life and Opportunity to move on and improve. May he rest in peace.

JOHN WILSON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career of John Wilson. His remarkable broadcasting accomplishments and his outstanding work in the Tampa Bay community is worthy of recognition by all.

Mr. Wilson grew up in a small coal-mining town in Virginia. When he was 15, Mr. Wilson started his work in broadcasting as a disc jockey and news reporter for his local television station. After graduating from the Virginia Commonwealth University, Mr. Wilson was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served with the Armed Forces Radio in Panama. He was honored with the Army Commendation Medal for Excellence in Broadcasting for his service.

Mr. Wilson's tremendous career has led him across the country and around the world. Before settling in the Tampa Bay area in 1981, he anchored primetime newscasts in Richmond, Norfolk, Charlotte, and St. Louis. His passion for reporting took him abroad several times to conduct special reports about hard-hitting issues in Normandy, Guantanamo Bay, Saudi Arabia, Haiti, and Moscow. Over his 50 years in broadcasting, Mr. Wilson has been recognized with three Emmy Awards, numerous Associated Press awards, and most recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Broadcasters Club of Florida in 2013.

Not only has Mr. Wilson impacted the Tampa Bay area with his excellent journalistic reporting, he has also strengthened our community through his support of nonprofit organizations. Mr. Wilson and his wife of 48 years, Mary K., regularly volunteer by singing and performing for many civic and charitable organizations including The Boys and Girls Clubs, the National Red Cross, St. Anthony's Hospital, and The Junior League of St. Petersburg. Mr. Wilson is also a gifted and popular emcee, narrator, and speaker.

As Mr. Wilson moves towards retirement, he must be particularly proud to have his son, Mark, continue his legacy as the evening

news anchor for WTVT. Mr. Wilson's innumerable achievements are a true reflection of his exceptional success in the broadcasting industry. His insight, professionalism, and support of our community have earned him an unprecedented level of respect that is well deserved. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community that has greatly benefited from his dedicated service, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Wilson on his remarkable career.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF U.S.
ARMY RESERVE FACILITY IN
AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the U.S. Army Reserve Facility in American Samoa.

[Press Release, July 20, 2000]

U.S. ARMY RESERVE GETS APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT \$20 MILLION FACILITY AT TAFUNA AIRPORT

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is ready to release to the American Samoa Government 6.5 acres of land at the Tafuna Airport so that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) can begin construction of its new \$20 million training facility.

There was considerable amount of time spent on discussions between my office, the FAA and the USAR to work out this deal, and I am just glad that we have resolved it, Faleomavaega said. With this agreement from the FAA, the ASG and USAR can now begin the process to secure the property and enter into detailed lease negotiations.

As it now stands, the FAA has agreed to release the land from Federal obligation and redesignate the property for non-aeronautical purposes. The FAA has also agreed to extend a 55-year lease to USAR. For its part, USAR has agreed to pay fair-market value for the property. Its a win-win for everybody, Faleomavaega said. Prior to this agreement, the airport stood to lose Federal funding if ASG leased the site to USAR at a nominal lease rate. Now that the military has agreed to pay fair-market value, the airport will retain its right to Federal funding and will still receive fair-market rates from USAR. In turn, the military will be able to construct its \$20 million facility on a site that is best-suited to meet the training needs of our troops.

All that's left is for ASG to submit a formal request to the FAA Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region to release the said property, Faleomavaega said. In fact, Mr. Herman C. Bliss, Manager of the FAA Western Division has already been notified to expedite the handling of this FAA request and to coordinate with ASG the preparation and submission of the release. Beyond the details of the lease agreement, Faleomavaega also noted Senator Inouye's involvement in securing funds for construction of the new military facility in American Samoa. Senator Inouye and I have worked on this project for the past five years, Faleomavaega said. I am confident this facility will be both a boon to our economy and a much-needed and welcome operation.

I thank Senator Inouye for his commitment and assistance and I also thank Governor Tauese and his staff for their support in getting this project underway,

Faleomavaega said. I think it's fair to say that we're all looking forward to groundbreaking and to renewed and strengthened relations with the United States Army Reserve.

[Press Release, Feb. 8, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA RECOMMENDS THAT NEW ARMY RESERVE CENTER BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE SFC KONELIO PELE

In response to recent inquiries from the press and public, Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that on January 25, 2006 and also on April 7, 2004 he wrote a letter to Brigadier General John Ma, Commanding General, 9th Regional Readiness Command, in Hawaii recommending that the newly built \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center in Tafuna, American Samoa be named in honor of the late Sergeant First Class (SFC) Konelio Pele. I am pleased that in the January 30, 2006 issue of Samoa News, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Mapu Jamias announced on behalf of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars that they were also recommending that the new Army Reserve Center be named in honor of SFC Konelio Pele. I was unaware that our veterans made the same recommendation but I am pleased by this outcome, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

SFC Konelio Pele was assigned to the Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division based in Hawaii and was deployed in Vietnam under the command of Major General Carpenter. On July 25, 1966, SFC Konelio Pele was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest medal for valor, for his gallant service in the field of battle during the Vietnam War. SFC Pele served in three wars and was awarded a Bronze medal, two Purple Hearts, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

On July 25, 1966, the Department of the Army issued General Orders: Number 4997 awarding SFC Konelio Pele the Silver Star for his actions on May 29, 1966. The citation states: Sergeant First Class Pele distinguished himself on 29 May 1966 while serving as a platoon sergeant securing a landing zone in the Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon moved out from the landing zone to render assistance to other elements of the company that were pinned down by a large Viet Cong force, Sergeant First Class Pele repeatedly exposed himself to the intense hostile fire as he maneuvered his platoon. During the course of action, he singlehandedly charged a Viet Cong machine gun emplacement, killed two of the crew members with his rifle, and caused the remaining insurgents to flee. After he covered the evacuation of the dead and wounded, he carried the hostile machine gun and ammunition through the bullet swept area to friendly positions. When he returned to the landing zone, he realized that a wounded member of his platoon had been left behind. Sergeant First Class Pele, with complete disregard for his safety, moved several hundred meters across open terrain, found his fallen comrade, and carried him back to be evacuated. Through his heroic efforts, the Viet Cong were defeated in that area. Sergeant First Class Pele's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

SFC Pele's action is a pure example of personal courage. His unit and the U.S. Army recognized his selfless actions and for this reason he was awarded the Silver Star. It is my understanding that SFC Pele was also recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions but there were problems in processing the paperwork