

HONORING VETERANS OF HELICOPTER ATTACK LIGHT SQUADRON THREE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce House Resolution 1228, Honoring the Veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and Their Families, to recognize the veterans' sacrifices in service to America during the Vietnam War.

I would especially like to mention Frank Hiles who currently lives in Ozark, Arkansas who served with HAL-3. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Frank served in the United States Navy for 20 years as aircrewman on many different types of aircraft. After retiring he moved to Arkansas to start a business and raise his three children as a single parent. Frank continued his service to his country as an intern in the Fort Smith Congressional office last year as he worked toward his bachelor's degree.

I want to thank Frank and all of our veterans who served with the HAL-3 Seawolves.

Despite the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War, most of the officers and enlisted men who served in HAL-3 were volunteers. Most of the pilots were fresh out of flight training in Pensacola and most of the juniors enlisted were recent graduates of Navy boot camp and technical training schools. Their leaders were also new to combat, coming mostly from ship-based helicopter squadrons normally assigned to track submarines and haul supplies.

HAL-3 fought from 1967 to 1972. In that time, they earned the respect of Army and Navy units throughout the Mekong Delta for their courage under fire and their dedication to supporting their comrades on the ground and in small boats patrolling the canals and rivers. They supported Army troop insertions and extractions. Navy SEALs counted on their support in tight situations.

Wounded sailors and soldiers benefitted from battlefield medivacs. In short, the Seawolves mastered every form of combat helicopter operations.

Here are some statistics from the Resolution:

The nine detachments and home guard of HAL-3 flew 130,000 flight hours in 5 years, they performed 1530 medical evacuations, inflicted thousands of casualties on enemy forces, transported 37,000 passengers and hauled a million pounds of cargo.

In accomplishing those milestones with a fleet of cast-off gunships and a few slicks, the veterans of HAL-3 were awarded 156 Purple Hearts, 5 Navy Crosses, 31 Silver Stars, 219 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 101 Bronze Stars, 142 Vietnam Gallantry Crosses, 16,000 Air Medals, and numerous other awards including six Presidential Unit Citations, the highest recognition given to military units.

Like any combat operation, there was a cost. Forty-four Seawolves lost their lives and are among the 58,000 immortalized on the Vietnam Memorial. Today, the children and grandchildren of those brave souls can be justifiably proud of the heritage of courage and sacrifice of their fathers and grandfathers.

It has been my honor to bring this resolution honoring the HAL-3 Seawolves to the House

and I strongly urge my colleagues to add their names to the roster of those recognizing these American sailors.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARDEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the recipients of the 2010 Best of Braddock Awards. The awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Va., who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community.

Residents of the 11th Congressional District enjoy an exceptional quality of life. Fairfax County schools are ranked as some of the best in the country, our communities are safe, and our employment rate is second highest in the nation. However, much of what defines a community cannot be found in statistics; it lies in the commitment and contributions of all who strive for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Recipients of the 2010 Best of Braddock Awards:

Citizen of the Year—Duane Murphy.

Club or Organization Making a Difference—Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls.

Most Can-Do Public Employees (Local)—Neighborhood College Team for the 2010 Sessions.

Most Can-Do Public Employees (Federal)—Mike McMahon, National Park Service.

Young Person of the Year—Kelsey Rose, West Springfield High School; Melissa Sbrocco, Robinson Secondary School.

Special Achievement Award—Tommy Salvi, Canterbury Woods Elementary School.

Outstanding Business Persons—Jules and Nicky Verster, previous owners Great Harvest Bread.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification, Homeowner—Fernando Restropo, Wakefield Chapel Road.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification, Civic Association—Mike Walsh, Woodwalk HOA Landscaping Committee Chair.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding residents and companies and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

REMEMBERING JOSHUA FUESTON

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, nearly one year ago Joshua Fueston, a 19-year-old Army soldier from Bellingham, Washington, committed suicide in Washington DC. Joshua was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center receiving treatment for physical wounds suffered in Iraq, but he was also suf-

fering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In honor of his life and service, I request that the following poem, penned by Bert Caswell, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE SCARS OF WAR

As when our fines sons and daughters go off to war. . . .
Much heartache, and such great burdens bore!
As some come home all encased in wood, all but for the greater good!
While, others come home without arms and legs. . . as do they!
Ones without eyes, and faces . . . with burns upon their bodies as placed this . . .
Touching all hearts, in so many ways . . . as it's for them we now so pray . . .
But, some scars are not so easily seen . . .
But found deep down inside most heroic hearts, convened!
Are but found Those Scars of War, not so easily seen!
The kind that, in the middle of the dark night make them so awake . . .
All in cold sweats, as upon all of their fine souls such heartache is placed . . .
All in their most sleepless sleeps, now carried in their souls so very deep . . .
As each day these scenes from hell they pray not repeat, as its for them we weep!
For War is Hell, and Hell is War!
For their battles do not end, when they reach their home shores again!
As from the outside, they look so strong and secure . . .
While, deep down inside . . . in all of them, the battle builds all the more . . .
Destroying even the bravest, and the strongest of all hearts for sure!
As upon their fine hearts and souls, but lie these most dreadful scars of war!
As P.T.S.D., is but the silent killer . . . that we all should so look for!
Because, while some die on battlefields of honor bright . . .
And then others, come home all in anguish . . . to fight this fight!
And sadly, without help . . . many will but live their last and final nights!
As they must fight their own private wars, never ending both day and night . . .
As this darkness upon them so lies, as they so try and try!
With tears in eyes!
As another Hero died this day!
Take a look around you, I say . . .
A Hero stands beside you, with tears of heartache upon their souls which lay!
All in their quiet suffering, we must somehow so hear their pain!
For some things are not so clearly seen!
But, lie so deep down so inside this pain . . .
Remember, under the surface but lie all of their most dreadful dreams . . .
Such things that Heroes dare not repeat!
Now, carried all in their fine hearts, so very deep!
For ever vigilant, as we must keep!
For all of our Sons and Daughters, who deep down inside their fine hearts!
The Scars of War, they so keep!
P.T.S.D. a silent enemy . . .

SERVAAS STOKVIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Servaas