

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CLYDE
LARSON

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of my constituent in Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District, Mr. Clyde Larson, of Hermantown. Mr. Larson was a pillar of the railroad labor community in Duluth, the Arrowhead, and throughout our state.

Across Northern Minnesota, we are all so very proud of the men and women who operate the BNSF, Canadian National, and Canadian Pacific and short-line railways. The railroad workers of America—epitomized by Clyde Larson and so many thousands of others like him—help form the foundation of our Nation's economy. Whether they are moving passengers, iron ore and steel, grain, chemicals, forest product or intermodal goods, railroad train crews work around the clock under all weather conditions. They are silent sentinels protecting the public while serving industries and operating their trains across the land.

Clyde was 62 years of age when he passed unexpectedly. Born to Dexter and Wanda Larson, master bakers and small business owners from Fridley, Minnesota, the Larson family later moved to Hermantown, where Clyde graduated from high school in 1972 and met his bride, Anne Tessier, in 1977.

After high school and vocational training, Clyde went to work for Burlington Northern Railroad (BN), and then the mighty Duluth Masabi and Iron Range Railway (DM&IR) where he worked as a conductor until being severely injured in the early 1990's. During his railroad career, Clyde was elected Local Chairman for the United Transportation Union and rose by democratic election to the position of UTU General Chairman for the DM&IR.

General Chairman Larson helped countless railroad workers and protected one of the most valuable and lucrative steel-road contracts in the United States. Brother Larson presided over the DM&IR's Carnage pension contributions to steel-road workers, in addition to ensuring each member's rights under the United States Railroad Retirement pension and disability system. Thanks to his work ethic and devotion to his UTU members, thousands of active and retired railroad workers across northern Minnesota have lived independent lives, supported our Main Street economies, and helped to make Minnesota a better place in which to live, work, and do business.

Upon the CN Railway's takeover of the DM&IR in 2009, Clyde went to work for the UTU Designated Legal Counsel firm of Hunegs, LeNeave, and Kvas, where he served and protected all railroad craft workers. Clyde worked as an expert investigator, consultant, and advocate for railroad families when they were most vulnerable. Through his work to improve safety in the railroad work place, Clyde, along with his Union Brothers and Sisters,

have made America's railroads a safer place to in which to work and prosper.

In true Minnesota tradition, Clyde honored justice, common decency, and maintained civility at all times. With a dry wit and cutting sense of humor, Clyde championed fair treatment for workers and railroad families. He was tremendously generous with his own time and resources to help all of those with less. Having known Clyde Larson as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, mentor, and member of the St. Lawrence Church of Duluth, Moose Lodge, United Transportation Union, and Railroad Retiree's Association, the greater Duluth and Arrowhead community moves forward as richer Americans.

Clyde Larson is survived by his loving wife Anne, sons Scott, Eric, and Corey, with their wives Jen, Lindsey and Jean, his grandchildren Dexter and Gustafson, parents Dexter and Joanne Larson, and siblings Joel, Mikkel, Karen, and Kathy, along with their spouses and extended families.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT
SCOTT "SMASH" STURTZ

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, after more than twenty-one years of exceptional service to our Nation, Master Sergeant Scott A. Sturtz, United States Air Force, will soon retire from his position as First Sergeant of the 461st Operations Support Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Master Sergeant Sturtz enlisted in 1997. After basic training, he learned to load weapons on F-15s and to perform maintenance on armament systems. He was initially assigned to the Chiefs of 335 Fighter Squadron and then the 4th Operations Support Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina. Career highlights during this period include being selected as a member of the premiere loading crew that performed nuclear load for evaluation by nuclear surety inspectors. Additionally, he was selected for promotion Below-the-Zone to Senior Airman. In 2002, he was transferred to the 51st Maintenance Operations Squadron in the Republic of Korea working with A-10C aircraft and he became one of the first airmen in the country certified to load the GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition on the F-16. He returned to Seymour Johnson and was assigned to the 4th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, where he served in units with the Chiefs, the World Famous Rocketeers, and the Eagles. His vast duties included end of runway operations, supervising weapons load crews on twenty-two aircraft munitions, weapons load crew chief, weapons expeditor, non-commissioned officer in charge, and unit deployment manager where he was responsible for directing mobility activities for 900 personnel in support of

contingency operations across the globe. In 2015, through a rigorous process he was selected as a First Sergeant and served in the 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Master Sergeant Sturtz has deployed around the world in his sworn duty to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. His deployments include Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, where his actions led to the delivery of 4,500 pounds of guided bombs during the Second Battle of Fallujah, and a Middle East deployment where his efforts resulted in the successful visit of President George W. Bush to the area of operation. Additionally, he has deployed for Operation ALIED FORCE, Operation NEW DAWN, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Currently Master Sergeant Sturtz is First Sergeant of the 461st Operation Support Squadron and is responsible for advising the group commander and two squadron commanders on health, welfare, and professional development for 249 Air Force personnel.

It is a pleasure to recognize Master Sergeant Sturtz's successful and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Master Sergeant Sturtz for his service, selfless dedication, and contributions to the security of the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Master Sergeant Sturtz's son, Jackson, his wife, Gina Sclafani, and her daughter, Sofia. His parents, Mrs. Delores K. Sturtz and United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Stuart A. Sturtz have supported their son throughout his twenty years of faithful service. We are a nation indebted to veterans, service members, and military families who give so much to defend our Constitution and way of life. I extend my best wishes to Master Sergeant Sturtz and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

RECOGNIZING LEN ALBRIGHT FOR
THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Len Albright of Bozeman, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Albright is a four-year veteran of the United States Air Force and served his country in the 55th Recon Squadron during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Albright became heavily involved in serving the veteran community following his time in the Air Force. He is Commander of American Legion Post 14, Vice President of Veterans Alliance of Southwest Montana, a Mentor Coordinator for the Veteran Eligible

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