

RECOGNIZING JUDY STANLEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, March 29, 1998, The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield will host their annual Molly Pitcher Awards Reception. The recipient of this year's Molly Pitcher Award is Judith Hurley Stanley, a lifelong resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey who has selflessly served the community in so many ways.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Stanley has been active in issues and causes at a local, county and state level for as long as I can remember. She has been involved in the health care profession and has held numerous positions in the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey of which she currently serves as chairman. The Monmouth Medical Center and the Mid-Atlantic Health Group have also been blessed with Judy's involvement. The Governor recognized Judy's expertise in this area when she was appointed to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Judy is also the founder and president of the Monmouth County Conservation Foundation. Generations of New Jersey residents will reap the benefits of Judy's efforts to preserve countless acres of beautiful open space in the Garden State through her activity in this organization and through her service on the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors.

Beyond the preservation of open space, Judy has helped preserve the history of Monmouth County through her association with the Monmouth County Historical Association. And it is noteworthy that beyond the efforts to preserve space and facts, Judy's numerous associations in the area of education have illustrated her desire to share the facts, ideas, and knowledge that she has sought to maintain.

Mr. Speaker, Molly Pitcher's fame stemmed from her heroic service to our nation's troops during the Revolutionary War. During the War, Molly tirelessly refreshed the troops with pitchers of water. Judy Stanley truly exemplifies the true spirit of Molly Pitcher through her countless efforts to replenish and maintain Monmouth County and the state of New Jersey.

I would like to add my name to the extensive list of organizations, association, and clubs that have recognized Judy's outstanding service and extend my congratulations to her on this award.

SALUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1998, I had the privilege of introducing a close friend of mine, Wayne Hitchcock, to the members of the House and Senate Committees on Veteran's Affairs. Wayne is the National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and was appearing to present his organization's legislative priorities to the Committees.

Throughout the history of the United States, in six major wars spanning 221 years, more than 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner. Each of these courageous men and women has experienced horrors unimaginable and undefinable in the annals of civilized existence. Most endured long-term deprivation of freedom and the loss of human dignity. Wayne was among those 500,000 Americans, and I wanted to take a moment to share his story with my colleagues.

Wayne was reared on a farm in Indiana and entered the military in 1942. He was assigned to the Army Air Corps and sent to Aerial Gunnery School at Buckingham Air Base. He remained there as an instructor and later joined a combat crew and trained for overseas duty in B-24s.

Upon arriving in Foggia, Italy, his crew was assigned to B-17s. Wayne, flying as tail gunner, was shot down on his 14th mission over Hungary. After a few infamous box car rides, he spent 13 months in Stalag 17B in Krems, Austria.

The camp was evacuated on April 8, 1945. The prisoners were marched across Austria and liberated on May 3, 1945 by Patton's Third Army.

Wayne was awarded, among others, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf, the European Campaign Medal with four stars and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Upon returning home, Wayne became a homebuilder, land developer and real estate broker. He later returned to government service and retired after 30 years, including 23 years as postmaster.

Upon his retirement, he and his wife, Jo, moved to Florida. Since then, they have donated their time to the American Ex-Prisoner of War. Wayne has held office and served on essential committees at the department and national level since 1982. He was also instrumental in obtaining funds for the National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville, Georgia.

This past year, he served as Senior Vice Commander for the American Ex-POWs and as their National Legislative Chairman and Legislative Reporter. He was elected and installed as National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War on September 27, 1997, at the 50th National Convention held in Tacoma, Washington.

Wayne is also a life member of the VFW, the American Legion and the DAV. His service to the community goes beyond his work for our nation's veterans. He also served as a Boy Scout master for 20 years and is a 40 year member of Lions International.

I have known Wayne and Jo since I became a member of Congress. Without question, they are among the finest people that I know.

Over the years, Wayne has served as a member of my veteran's advisory council. As a member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I have always valued his advice and support. He is a good friend and a great American.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH AIR BASE AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE RESERVES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the 43rd Congressional District has been fortunate to participate in the writing of United States military history. I take the floor today to praise and honor a military installation that is an important part of Riverside, California. For the past 80 years, March Air Reserve Base, as it is now called, has contributed to the defense of our country and made a lasting impression in the lives of many service men and women. The March community is currently celebrating a milestone—the 80th anniversary of the installation and the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Reserve.

As March Air Force Base, it witnessed many advances in aircraft technology, from the JN-4D "Jenny" which landed there in 1917, to the KC-10 which was housed at the base in the 1980's. On March 20, 1918, March Field was officially named in honor of Second Lieutenant Peyton C. March, who had been recently killed in a flying accident. From there, Captain William Carruthers took over as the field's first commander. Following World War I, March Field was forced to close its doors due to budget cuts. With the creation of the Army Air Corps in 1926, March Field soon reopened as a pilot training field, training such luminaries as Hoyt Vandenberg, Nathan Twining, Thomas Power and Curtis LeMay. March Field became an operational base in 1931 and in 1949 became a part of the relatively new Strategic Air Command. From 1949 through 1993, March Air Force Base served as an integral part of the Strategic Air Command and America's nuclear deterrent force, a logistical springboard for supplies and equipment during the conflict in Southeast Asia and an effective support for the United States' defensive posture. March Air Force Base received its first Reserve unit in 1960.

In 1993, March Air Force Base was selected for realignment. Knowing how important the base has been historically and realizing its significance for the future, I fought vigorously to insure that it remained open. From its inception as a dirt air strip to today, the base has been a key element in the advancement of aviation and the growth of the modern Air Force. The impact of March Air Reserve Base's contributions to the community and the nation will be appreciated for many years to come. As March Air Reserve Base restructures, I want to offer them my full support, encourage them to look to their future as a large and important Air Force Reserve Base and look forward to their continued contributions to the defense of the United States.