

which time he was elected to serve as India's Vice President. In July of 1997, Mr. Narayanan, I am proud to say, assumed the office of the President of India. He has also, over the course of his career, become an accomplished author of several books and articles on social, political and international theory.

During his tenure, President Narayanan has shown a great respect for human rights in general, the rights of minorities in particular, and the rule of law. As the leader of the largest democracy in the world, he has done a remarkable job in continuing to move India in the direction of economic liberalization and ever greater political freedom. India's most recent parliamentary elections demonstrate the stability of this nation and the leadership that President Narayanan has provided in stewarding the country through a fairly tumultuous year in domestic politics.

In international affairs, President Narayanan has shown an innate ability to get along with leaders of all stripes, and work for the common good, not merely for India's interests, as we continue to navigate through the uncertainties of the post-Cold War era. He is a diplomat, a public servant, an educator, and an author, but more importantly, he is a concerned human being and citizen of the world, who is dedicated to ensuring that those who can't care for themselves are cared for. Most of all he is unswerving in the notion that all people, no matter their origin, race or other

distinction, deserve peace, happiness and security in life. On the occasion of the nations of India and Israel celebrating their 50th year in existence, I think it is important to point out that these were the basic principles upon which they were both founded, and the same ones which my good friend President Narayanan sincerely and honestly espouses.

That is why the "Appeal of Conscience" Statesman of the Year award so befits President Narayanan.

BOB ETHERIDGE HONORING CAPT.
FULTON PERSHING LANIER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Captain Fulton Pershing Lanier of Buies Creek, North Carolina, for his service to the people of the United States of America. Captain Fulton served honorably in the United States Army Air Corps from 1941 to 1944.

United States service men and women place themselves in harms way to protect the freedoms we hold dear in America. Many of these brave individuals return home to build and lead their communities. Tragically, Fulton Lanier did not have such an opportunity.

On January 31, 1944, then 1st Lieutenant Lanier, along with 1st Lieutenant Frank M. Ramos, Corporal Joseph Petrella, Private First Class Eugene E. Beebe, and Private First Class Bartholomew R. Giacalone, boarded his C-87 Liberator and piloted what would be his final mission. These five men perished in service to humanity, supplying food, medical and other supplies to Allied forces of China.

Fulton Lanier's legacy may have been greater than even he could have imagined. His service and sacrifice for our country has been permanently instilled in the hearts and minds of his family and all who knew him. Fulton Pershing Lanier is an American hero.

Fifty-four years later, the Lanier family received notice that wreckage from this fateful flight was recovered. Upon notification, the Lanier family has embarked on a mission of studying and sharing the story and example of this young man from Buies Creek.

Fulton Lanier paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States of America, serving his family, community, state, and nation. His burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 23, 1998, was only a small way his nation can acknowledge the debt owed to Fulton Lanier and his family that can never be repaid.

I am honored to report to the House on the heroism of Captain Fulton Pershing Lanier. May God bless him in his place of resting.