

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR

#### HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to remember the anniversary of a very important, and yet somber event, which took place forty-eight years ago this month. An American soldier died fighting for his country. This American soldier was the assistant gunner on a machine gun. He and his fellow soldiers were fighting against Russian built T-34 tanks without adequate anti-armor weapons. No matter how bravely he and his fellow soldiers fought, they were unprepared for this combat.

Only twelve days before, this soldier had no idea he would be in combat. Although he was stationed in a foreign land, his mission was really a peacekeeping mission. Land and money to conduct tough, hard training were not available, and besides, very few of his military leaders thought there would be any combat in the foreseeable future. Certainly the politicians in Washington had no idea about any threat. The U.S. President and Congress had been cutting the size of the armed forces and defense spending.

The event I am talking about took place eleven days after the North Korean People's Army launched a massive surprise invasion of South Korea. This assistant machine gunner had been on occupation duty in Japan, now he was on a wet hillside north of Osan, Korea.

July 5, 1998 is the 48th anniversary of the first combat death of an American soldier in the Korean War. Very soon this soldier would be joined by many of his comrades. He was the first out of the approximately 54,000 Americans (34,000 killed in action and 20,000 from accidents/disease) who would give their lives for our country.

I want to use this anniversary not only to recognize the Korean War veterans, but also to bring attention to the similarity between our warfighting capabilities then and today.

My source for this information is "This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness" by T.R. Fehrenbach, first published in 1963. It is a great and disturbing book on the Korean War. This book points out the incredible sacrifices our fighting men had to endure, in part because of the unpreparedness of the armed forces. This unpreparedness was caused by political leaders and, in some cases, military leaders who had soldiers concentrating on missions other than preparing for war and an inadequately funded defense budget.

I believe that we must guard against a similar situation today. We hear much discussion in the press and even from this administration that the military needs to conform more with the cultural standards of today's civilian society. Also, with the end of the Cold War, many seem to believe that we should operate with a significantly smaller military budget and that the armed forces should focus on non-tradi-

tional missions such as foreign peacekeeping operations, civic actions, etc.

I quote Mr. Fehrenbach from his book, "The civilian liberal and the soldier unfortunately are eyeing two different things: the civilian sociologists are concerned with men living together in peace and amiability and justice; the soldier's task is to teach them to suffer and fight, kill and die. Ironically, even in the twentieth century, American society demands both of its citizenry." I believe many Americans, including political leaders, do not understand this simple fact whether or not they have had military service.

There are many similarities between the world situation prior to the Korean War and our situation today. In both cases, the United States was and is the undisputed greatest military power. Many believe now, as then, that we would never have to fight a "conventional type" war again, that the size of the defense budget can be cut and cut again, and that the military should play a major role outside of its warfighting responsibilities. I believe that thinking such as this is a recipe for disaster. Congress has a vital, constitutional responsibility to insure that some future assistant machine gunner does not have to die for America in a similar set of circumstances.

Finally, we must honor the sacrifice of the gallant soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors who fought and in many cases died in the Korean War. In many ways, the Korean War has become the forgotten war, and therefore, the Korean veterans have become the forgotten veterans. After the decisive victories of World War I and World War II, the American people were not sure what to think about this less than conclusive war.

The fact is that the Korean War was the first of numerous conflicts that were fought during the four decade long Cold War. What all Americans need to remember is that those who fought in Korea played a vital role in our final victory. As Ronald Reagan said, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

### HONORING BIG TIMBERS MUSEUM

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Big Timbers Museum located in Lamar, Colorado. Open since 1966, the museum houses a fine collection of memorabilia celebrating Western culture. Rare newspaper clips, turn of the century cowboy gear, and Indian relics serve to share the history of Southeastern Colorado with the museum's many visitors.

For the pioneers traveling on the Sante Fe Trail, the area known as the Big Timbers began at a point 20 miles east of present-day Lamar, flanking the Arkansas River with a ver-

dant primeval forest of giant cottonwood trees, lush prairie grasses and fresh water springs. For the next 40 miles westward, Big Timbers became a haven for Indians, Mountain Men, Traders and Settlers alike. It was a welcome site from the wide-open plains for the weary traveler.

Today, the Big Timbers Museum is also a place to stop, rest, relax, and reflect on the history and heritage of the Western High Plains. The museum, founded and operated by the Prowers County Historical Society, provides an intimate and in-depth look at the lifestyles of Colorado's first pioneers and settlers. An extensive photo collection, dating from the late 1800's of Prowers County's earliest homesteaders.

Big Timbers Museum houses the largest collection of Western History in Southeastern Colorado. Museum displays are both permanent and rotational, affording even the most frequent visitor something new and exciting to view and enjoy. The eclectic mass of artifacts, antiques and memorabilia cover almost 8000 square feet of display area and include everything from 1400 year old (carbon-dated) arrowheads to cowboy clothing, ladies fashions from the 1800's through the 1920's and 30's, Indian tools, early farm equipment, household fittings and furniture—all indigenous to Prowers County and donated by the area's families.

The Big Timbers Museum currently features exhibits detailing the events of the Fleagle Gang Robbery & Trial, showcasing gowns designed by Charles Worth, and remembering American wars beginning with the Revolutionary period and ending with the Gulf War. Until September 1998, visitors can view original court documents and proceedings, photographs of chained perpetrators, the Fleagle guns and escape car, original newspapers and headline stories, and furnishings from the old 1st National Bank where the Fleagle robbery occurred. Museum goers can also spend time enjoying the creations of Charles Frederick Worth, haute couturier of the mid and late 1800's. A wedding dress designed by Worth is made of hand-tatted Battenburg Lace and 100 years later continues to remain in excellent condition. Finally, an exhibit entitled Our Sacred Honor features Patriotic and Red Cross World War I posters, a Confederate regimental battle flag, uniforms, armaments, the original plans for the D-Day Invasion of 1944, trench art, and GI souvenirs.

I recently visited the Big Timbers Museum and found that it provided an educational and enjoyable experience. I found located amongst the treasures kept the museum interesting artifacts which gave me a new perspective on the history of the district I represent. I also found a treasure in the museum's curator, Ms. Jeanne Clark, who used to ice skate professionally and was known to America as "Jinx." As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth District, I would like to commend the men and women who have contributed to the Big Timbers Museum and thank these individuals for continuing to provide visitors with a taste of Southeastern Colorado.

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