

due to an illness in my family. I received an official leave of absence from the Majority Leader in this regard.

However, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner on the following legislation:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1998

H.R. 3494—Child Protection and Sexual Predator Punishment Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendments (Roll Call No. 521) Aye.

H. Con. Res. 350—Calling Upon the President to Respond to the Significant Increase in Steel Imports: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 522) Aye.

S. 2095—National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 523) Aye.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1998

H. Res. 494—Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that the U.S. has enjoyed the loyalty of the U.S. citizens of Guam: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 524) Aye.

S. 1364—Federal Reports Elimination Act of 1998: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 525) Aye.

H.R. 4756—The Year 2000 Preparedness Act of 1998: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 526) Aye.

S. 1754—The Health Professions Education Partnership Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 527) Aye.

S. 1260—The Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 528) Aye.

S. 1722—The Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendments: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 529) Aye.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1998

H.R. 3963—Sell Canyon Ferry Reservoir Cabins: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 530) Aye.

H.R. 559—Add Bronchiolo-Alveolar Carcinoma to Service-connected Diseases: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 531) Aye.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1998

H. Res. 598—Steel Imports: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 532) Aye.

S. 1733—To require the Commissioner of Social Security and Food Stamp Agencies to take certain actions to ensure that food stamp coupons are not issued for deceased individuals: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 533) Aye.

S. 2133—To preserve the cultural resources of Route 66 Corridor: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 534) Aye.

S. 1132—Bandelier National Monument Administrative Improvement and Watershed Protection Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 535) Aye.

HONORING REV. DR. RICHARD H. DIXON, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to tender my congratulations to a man of the cloth who has served his congregation at the Macedonia Baptist Church for forty years.

The Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. has accomplished much for his church in those

decades. He was one of four children born to the late Rev. Richard and Beulah Dixon. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree from the University of Detroit and is a candidate for a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary.

During his years at Macedonia Baptist, the church built a 75-unit Senior Citizen Complex, purchased the Macedonia Community Center, established the Collin Allen Day Care Center, and formed the church credit union which has helped congregants to buy homes and send their children to school.

He and his wife, Earnestine Wright Dixon, have three children and four grandchildren. Mrs. Dixon has also served her community faithfully and well. She has served as an officer of four separate PTAs, is currently president of the Church Women United, and is a member of the Board for Mount Vernon Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dixon is also someone I have had a close and growing relationship with over the past years. I consider him a friend and advisor. He has graciously invited me to his home and I was delighted to have attended family events.

The depth of the contribution these two wonderful people have made to their community can hardly be measured. I join the church and the city in congratulating Rev. Dr. Dixon for his forty years of giving.

HONORING HMONG AND LAO COMBAT VETERANS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, during this 105th Congress, I was honored to join many of my colleagues, as well as other distinguished U.S. officials, in participating in the first national recognition ceremony to honor the valor and sacrifice of Hmong and Lao combat veterans in the Vietnam War.

Many people from my home state of Minnesota, and from around the nation, organized and participated in the important events, which were held at the Vietnam War Memorial and the Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank a number of people from Minnesota and across the United States who made the national events honoring the Hmong veterans possible, including Major General Vang Pao, Colonel Wangyee Vang, Chertzong Vang, Chong Bee Vang, Ying Vang and Philip Smith.

Over a thousand Hmong veterans and their families traveled from Minnesota to Washington, DC, to participate in this historic ceremony.

I am proud that two of the largest Hmong non-profit organizations serving their communities in Minnesota, the Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Inc. and the Lao Veterans of America organization, played a leadership role in organizing and participating in this unprecedented event. They have helped bring long-overdue honor and recognition to the Hmong and Lao veterans and their families, as well as to educate policy makers and the American people about the critical wartime sacrifices of the Hmong and Lao combat veterans.

William Branigin from the Washington Post wrote an important article about the event that I would like to insert into the RECORD. (insert: Washington Post article Thursday, May 15, 1997).

Mr. Speaker, once again, I heartily applaud these distinguished Hmong and Lao combat veterans for their sacrifices.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ALLIES IN 'SECRET WAR'—'LONG OVERDUE' HONORS GO TO HMONG, LAO VETS

Twenty-two years ago this month, the predominantly Hmong recruits of America's "secret war" in Laos began a protracted and painful exodus from their homeland as communist forces seized power.

Yesterday, some 3,000 Hmong and Lao veterans and their families gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to receive congressional recognition for the first time, and then marched across the Potomac to commemorate their fateful crossing of the Mekong River into permanent exile.

Clad in jungle camouflage fatigues, flight suits and other uniforms, the veterans stood in formation on the Mall as speakers ranging from serving members of Congress to retired CIA station chiefs paid tribute to their courage and sacrifice in unsung service of the United States. Among those in attendance were former Special Forces officers, pilots of the top-secret Ravens unit and civilian officials from the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations.

It was a day of what a congressional commendation described as "long overdue recognition" of the CIA-funded army's role in protecting sensitive U.S. installations, rescuing downed American pilots and holding off tens of thousands of North Vietnamese troops who might otherwise have been thrown into combat against U.S. forces.

But it was also a day of atonement for the United States. For in honoring the ethnic Hmong tribal people and Laotians who made up the bulk of the 40,000-member clandestine force, participants in the ceremony acknowledged that America had betrayed them, breaking long-standing promises and abandoning them to bloody reprisals by Lao and Vietnamese communist forces in which untold thousands died.

"There is a real feeling among many people who served there that the Hmong were betrayed," said Philip Smith, the Washington director of Lao Veterans of America, which represents about 40,000 Hmong and Lao veterans and family members. "Many commitments were made to them in the field that were then forgotten in Washington."

Among those who received the Vietnam Veterans National Medal and a congressional citation yesterday was Nor Pao Lor, a disabled 61-year-old Hmong who served in the secret army for 13 years and then spent four more years fighting in the jungles of Laos until forced to flee across the Mekong River to Thailand on a bamboo raft. He then spent eight years in a Thai refugee camp before being accepted for resettlement in the United States. He now lives in Wisconsin.

"We felt very sorry that maybe America forgot us," he said as he stood with a crutch near dozens of his disabled comrades. "It was very painful for us."

As a lieutenant in the army led by Gen. Vang Pao, who was also present yesterday, Nor Pao Lor was wounded three times while defending Lima Site 85, a top-secret U.S. base that was used to direct airstrikes against targets in North Vietnam. Described by historians as perhaps the most critical intelligence-gathering site in South-east Asia during the Vietnam War, Lima Site 85 was linked directly to the White House under President Lyndon B. Johnson until the base fell to North Vietnamese troops in 1968.