

I still remember when JULIAN asked me to accompany him when he went to Chairman Hal Rogers to describe the problem and to ask for funding for the roll-out teams. That the chairman immediately agreed to include the funding for this critical program in the conference report is indicative of the respect with which JULIAN was held. I don't think JULIAN ever put out a press release about obtaining this important funding, but I know it has had a positive impact in helping us address one of the problems with our troubled police force.

This is just one example of JULIAN's hard work and commitment to his community, and his ability to produce results based on his stature and respect in the House. Whether it was fighting for emergency funding for Los Angeles after the riot in 1992 and the Northridge earthquake in 1994, or advocating on behalf of the Los Angeles public transportation system, JULIAN DIXON was a devoted and effective legislator.

While JULIAN DIXON will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come as an outstanding legislator, I will remember him as a cherished friend and trusted mentor. Whether providing guidance on the rules and procedures of the House, Los Angeles politics, or committee assignments, his advice was always welcome and sound.

In this time of extreme partisanship and legislative gridlock, it is my hope that we can all learn from the example of our friend and colleague, JULIAN DIXON.

While it is clear that JULIAN will be dearly missed, his hard work and dedication, dignity, and bipartisan manner will serve as an enduring model to all.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT  
ROBERT SMITH

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to bring to the attention of the House an article from *The Lexington Chronicle*, about Army Master Sergeant Robert Smith, which gives an account of his impressive military record. Sergeant Smith is truly a great American

[From the *Lexington County Living*,  
November 9, 2000]

A YOUNG WARRIOR'S TALE

ROBERT SMITH ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AT THE  
AGE OF 14

(By Robert Smith and Mike Rowell)

Early in 1950, the North Koreans invaded South Korea. I had just joined the 511th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky, in April. So I volunteered for duty in the Korea War.

I arrived in Korea in early September, 1950 and was assigned to the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of the 7th Infantry Division. Most of the time, we just went up the mountains and down the valleys of Korea. I was wounded for the first time while on patrol near Souwan.

Like many boys who grew up during World War II, my dream was to be a soldier. I was especially interested in the paratroopers and Darby's Rangers. I dreamed that the military was the life for me.

Just three months after my fourteenth birthday, I decided start living my lifelong

dream. I went and enlisted in the U.S. Army. I lied and gave my age as 17, which required parental consent.

The recruiter said that he would drive me to my house for my mother's signature. However, when we arrived at the end of the twisting road with my house still a mile hike up the mountain side, he stopped the car.

He said, "You go get your mother to sign here."

I had counted on that! My cousin signed it. I was in the Army now.

My basic training was at Camp Pickett, Va. During boot camp, I did something wrong and my platoon sergeant called me down and said, "You little SOB—I know you're not old enough to be in the Army. If I thought you could make a living on the outside, I would have your ass kicked out."

After basic training, I volunteered for the Airborne and completed jump school in March of 1949—it was one day after my fifteenth birthday. At this time the 11th Airborne Division was coming stateside from Japan, and the 82nd Airborne was at full strength. So I was assigned to Germany and flew security on aircraft involved in the Berlin Airlift.

Then came Korea. Just before New Year's Day 1951, the 2nd Airborne Ranger Company was assigned to my division. I volunteered and was assigned to this illustrious Ranger company.

Not long after that, I was wounded a second time and sent to a hospital in Japan. After recovery, I was returned to Korea for a time. But shortly thereafter I was rotated back to the United States at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Incidentally, I bumped into my old basic-training drill sergeant—the one who had threatened to kick me out of the Army. I don't know what he had done, but he had been busted from master sergeant to private first class. My rank was sergeant first class. Revenge is a dish best served cold!

In November 1952, I was assigned to the 32nd Infantry in my old division after I re-joined for duty in Korea. We saw action at Old Baldy, Pork Chop Hill, White Horse, and Jane Russell, names that will never be forgotten. I was assigned as a forward observer with the Ethiopian Battalion. I was wounded again during the final battle of Pork Chop Hill.

After the Korean War, I had to adjust to the peacetime Army. During this period, the Army decided to change the dress uniform from Khaki to green. The orders went out for a group of soldier to model the 'new look.'

The requirements were simple. You had to be at least six feet tall and a combat veteran. I was one of the four men, out of 258 from the 3rd Army who were selected. During the next three and a half years, I traveled throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, modeling the new uniform. What a change from Korea!

One morning in 1964, I was at the Pentagon at the enlisted branch records department. I signed in, stated my reason for being there, and sat down to wait my turn. A sharp looking sergeant picked up the sign-in sheet, left the room. When he returned he announced,

"There are 28 noncoms in here trying to get out of going to Vietnam. There is only one trying to go there. Sgt. Smith, come with me."

I had my Vietnam assignment within thirty minutes. I went back overseas as an advisor. I was wounded for the fourth time during that tour.

My second Vietnam tour was with the 11th Airborne Cavalry's Long Range Patrol. We were involved in typical Vietnam operations—patrol, search and destroy. On one of those patrols I was wounded for the fifth time.

I retired on December 30, 1969. There was a big ceremony for those who were retiring. I was supposed to be awarded my fifth Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

When the major general came to me he said, "Sergeant, how old are you? You look like you should be coming in, not going out."

Instead of pinning my medals on, he handed them to me and said, "You have more medals than I do. Put them on wherever you can!"

Robert "Smitty" Smith earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart at age 16. He earned the Silver Star, a second Bronze Star for heroism and two Purple Hearts by age 17, all while serving in Korea.

He also received the U.S. Navy Commendation Medal for leading a squad that assisted the return of a U.S. Marine patrol that had been surrounded by an enemy force.

During his two tours in Vietnam, he received two Purple Hearts, another Combat Infantryman Badge, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, his third Bronze Star for Valor, the Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He proudly wore a Master Parachutists Badge.

Smitty and his wife Ann live in Gilbert, South Carolina. They have three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. All three sons served in the Airborne infantry. One son, an underage veteran who joined the Army at age 15, was killed in an automobile accident in 1993.

Sgt. Robert Smith, Ret. is a proud member of the Veterans of Underage Military Service (VUMS). This organization is open to veterans of the Army, Navy, Marines Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marines.

VUMS is actively seeking eligible members. The National Commander is Edward E. Gilley, 4011 Tiger Point Blvd., Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32561-3515. He can be reached at 888-653-8867, FAX at 850-934-1315, or you can e-mail him at ed-bess-gulfbreeze@att.net.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2000*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Rep. Henry Gonzalez, who passed away on Tuesday, December 5th, at the age of 84.

Throughout his career, Henry Gonzalez was an unwavering champion for equal justice and civil rights and a powerful voice for the disenfranchised. Henry first entered public life in 1953, when he was elected to the San Antonio City Council. The son of Mexican immigrants, he came along when Texas was a black and white society and Hispanics were generally not considered to be a minority group. Nevertheless, he spoke forcefully against segregation of public facilities and helped to shepherd passage of desegregation ordinances. Later, after he became the first Mexican-American to serve in the Texas State Senate, he attracted national attention for successfully filibustering several racial segregation bills that were aimed at circumventing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case.