

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES FORCE MASTER CHIEF KAREN H. O'CONNOR

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPAS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Navy, we will honor Force Master Chief Karen H. O'Connor, who currently serves at the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet representing 40,000 enlisted sailors.

Force Master Chief O'Connor has served the Navy in a variety of duty station and capacities such as Command Master Chief in the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6), completing an accelerated deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in 2002 and then deploying 14 months early in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in January 2003. During this tour Bonhomme Richard received two Battle "E" awards and two consecutive Edward F. Ney awards for Food Service Excellence.

Force Master Chief O'Connor has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Navy as is evidenced by the numerous personal awards she has received such as the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and various campaign and service awards.

Force Master Chief O'Connor continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Navy, and it is a honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Force Master Chief O'Connor and all women in the military.

WINNER OF LABOR'S "COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD": BAKERS LOCAL 315

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Bakers Local 315—recognized with the "Outstanding Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Chartered on December 12, 1936, Bakers Local 315 is 500 members strong. Deborah Lacey Zuelsdorf has been Secretary-Treasurer for ten years. Under her leadership and that of the Executive Board, the Bakers have been honored for their work with union companies and have received countless outstanding community service awards. The Bakers work with Bimbo USA, Interstate Brands Corporation, Vons In Store Bakeries, and the San Diego Bread Company.

During the holidays, members work an extra shift and then the union bakeries donate what they have prepared directly to the Holiday Food Distribution. These breads and baked goods, made by the caring hands of the Bakers, help make the holidays a little better for union families experiencing lean financial times.

That is why we also honor and recognize Bakers Local 315, for their hard dedication to the community and for earning this year's "Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

### RECOGNIZING SHELBY COUNTY VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY 2005

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day all of us should take time to recognize the service of those who've fought and died for this country.

I want to take a moment to recognize the veterans of Shelby County, Tennessee who served our country so well over the past century.

More than 1,500 Shelby County residents gave their lives for this country from World War II to the Iraq War, and we should never forget their sacrifice.

I would like to specifically recognize Mr. Vernon McGarity of Bartlett, Tennessee. Mr. McGarity is a World War II veteran who earned our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. McGarity exemplifies the dedication and sacrifice of all of our Shelby County veterans.

It is because they fought that we are free. God Bless America's veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, soon we will all return to our Congressional districts for the Memorial Day weekend. So I'd like to take a moment today to recognize the heroes of wars past and the heroes of our current military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Just two days ago, Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment honored four more of its dead—Sgt. Stephen Saxton, Spec. Ricky Rockholt, Pfc. Joseph Knott, and Pfc. Robert Murray, Jr. Fort Carson has lost 120 soldiers since the war began.

And Colorado lost another son in Baghdad earlier this month. Former Marine and Louisville firefighter Todd James Venette was remembered at a memorial service last weekend. He died after his security company convoy was hit by two cars carrying explosives.

The loved ones of these brave soldiers and others who have died serving in Iraq and Afghanistan must live with their losses every minute of every day. We share their grief and remember this Memorial Day and every day the sacrifices of these young soldiers who have volunteered in service to their country.

These points were well made in today's editorial in the Denver Post, which I am attaching for the benefit of my colleagues.

[From the Denver Post, May 26, 2005]

#### RESPECT FOR HEROES IN IRAQ

In recent months, much attention has been drawn to accusations of misconduct in Iraq, and Fort Carson has seen its share of legal proceedings.

But on Tuesday a tearful ceremony reminded us of the sacrifices of so many soldiers who were doing things right.

More than 700 mourners attended a memorial service for four "brave rifles" killed in Iraq, while others stood outside in a thunderstorm to pay their respects. Sgt. Stephen Saxton, 24; Spec. Ricky Rockholt, 29; Pfc. Joseph Knott, 21; and Pfc. Robert Murray Jr., 21. All were members of Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Comrades and loved ones shared thoughts about the young soldiers. "I thought it was very fitting that it was raining during the service," said Pamela Knott of Yuma, Ariz., whose son was killed in April. "It sounds silly, but at times you think, 'Oh, those are the angels crying, not just for Joseph but for all the lost soldiers.'"

In all, 120 soldiers from Fort Carson units have died since the war began. Since troops returned to Iraq in the winter and spring, eight soldiers have been lost to the 3rd ACR and two from the 43rd Area Support Group.

All told, about a dozen current or former Fort Carson soldiers have been accused of wrongdoing in Iraq. One court-martial has been held, with a conviction for assault against three Iraqi detainees, and others may be coming up.

For now, as Memorial Day approaches, upcoming proceedings are being drowned out by solemn rifle volleys for those who died too young, doing their duty.

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