

HONORING COLONEL JOHN D. GUMBEL, USMC, ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the fine service of a good friend and outstanding American, Colonel John D. Gumbel, Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Depot located aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

A native of California, Colonel Gumbel received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from UCLA in 1977 and his Master of Science degree in Defense Systems Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA in 1987. He is also a 1998 distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy and a graduate of the Program Managers Course at Defense Systems Management College, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Commissioned through Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), Colonel Gumbel then followed The Basic School in Quantico, VA with Aviation Supply Officer training in Athens, GA. In April 1978, Colonel Gumbel transferred to the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) for a year where he worked as an aviation supply officer with Marine Air Groups 12 and 15 and as the embark officer for the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit. Colonel Gumbel next transferred to Pensacola for Naval Flight Officer training and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in March 1980. Following Electronic Warfare training at Mather Air Force Base and EA-6B training at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA, Colonel Gumbel was designated an Electronic Countermeasures Officer (ECMO). He reported to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2 (VMAQ-2) in June 1981 where he served as an ECMO and a maintenance officer. He deployed twice to WESTPAC and aboard the USS *Saratoga* in the Mediterranean before transferring to the Naval Postgraduate School in 1985. He served his postgraduate payback tour as the Reserve Enlisted Manpower Analyst at Headquarters Marine Corps from 1987 to 1990. Following Aviation Maintenance Officer School and refresher training in the EA-6B, Colonel Gumbel reported to VMAQ-2 in January 1991 in Shaik Isa, Bahrain, for service during the Gulf War. He served as the maintenance officer for VMAQ-2 after their return to the U.S. and as the Executive Officer of VMAQ-2 (Det. X) and later as the Executive Officer of VMAQ-1 following VMAQ-2's split into VMAQ-1, 2, and 3 in June 1992. He deployed to WESTPAC with VMAQ-1.

Colonel Gumbel transferred to Naval Air Systems Command in June 1994, where he served as the EA-6B Class Desk until July 1997. He attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces during the 1997-98 class year and reported to the Joint Staff in June 1998. During his two-year joint tour, Colonel Gumbel worked in J-39, Information Operations, where he focused on Electronic Warfare and special access program issues. From June 2000 to June 2001, Colonel Gumbel was the Military Assistant to the Assistant Sec-

retary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. In July 2001, Colonel Gumbel reported for duty to Naval Aviation Depot Cherry Point, NC.

Naval Air Depot Cherry Point is responsible for providing maintenance, engineering and logistics support on a variety of military aircraft, engines and components. Employing over 4,000 personnel, the facility is North Carolina's largest industrial employer east of 1-95 and is a valuable asset to our nation's military. In 2004, under his command, the depot rebuilt 462 engines for our Navy and Marine Corps helicopters that are currently relied upon to transport our troops in the global war on terror.

Colonel Gumbel's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal Strike/Flight numeral 1, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the end of Colonel Gumbel's 27 year career in the United States Marine Corps, but although he no longer wears the uniform, he will forever be a Marine. I would like to wish Colonel John Gumbel the best success as he enters a new chapter in life and to thank not only him, but also his wife Stacy and their three children Evan, Andrew, and Cameron for their loyal service to this Nation.

SALUTING JUDGE GARY L. TAYLOR FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS A FEDERAL JUDGE IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Gary L. Taylor, who is retiring today as a United States District Court judge after a remarkable 19-year judicial career.

Judge Taylor, an Orange County native, graduated from Santa Ana High School in 1956 before going on to earn both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of California-Los Angeles. Following law school, Judge Taylor served his country as a lawyer for the U.S. Army in Missouri before moving back to Orange County, where he enjoyed a tremendously successful 20-year career as a business litigator.

Judge Taylor was appointed as a Superior Court Judge by Governor George Deukmejian in 1986. Just 4 years later, President George H.W. Bush nominated Judge Taylor to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. He was confirmed by the Senate without opposition before being sworn into office on October 1, 1990.

In his nearly 20 years on the bench, Judge Taylor has demonstrated the best qualities of a trial judge: he is a first-rate legal thinker who is fair-minded, courteous, and unfailingly ethical. He is uniformly respected by the parties and attorneys who appear before him. The president of the Federal Bar Association of Orange County has aptly called him "an outstanding jurist"—and to those of us in Orange County who know him as a friend, he is indeed that and more.

Having had the pleasure of knowing Judge Taylor for many years, I can attest to his quick, agile mind, his kind and generous manner, and his infectious enthusiasm. In the early 1990s, I worked closely with Judge Taylor to win congressional approval of a desperately needed federal courthouse in Orange County. Before the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse was built, Judge Taylor and the other Orange County federal judges were housed in trailers in Santa Ana, and the lack of adequate facilities in Orange County severely impeded the ability of the court to serve the taxpayers. Judge Taylor was a tireless advocate for building a federal courthouse in Orange County, and his hard work was instrumental in convincing the Congress to authorize construction of the world-class facility we now enjoy in Santa Ana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the people of Orange County whom it is my privilege to represent, congratulations to Judge Gary L. Taylor on an exemplary judicial career and an unflinching commitment to public service and the welfare of his fellow citizens.

FREEDOM FOR HÉCTOR RAÚL VALLE HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Héctor Raúl Valle Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Valle Hernández is a pro-democracy leader, the vice president of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba and an activist in the Pro Human Rights Party. According to Amnesty International, on November 16, 2002, he was interrogated by Castor's thugs and told to stop his activities against the totalitarian regime. Despite the constant harassment, violence, and repression directed at him by the tyrant, Mr. Valle Hernández continued to advocate for human rights and democracy.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, he was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 12 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Valle Hernández is currently languishing in the abhorrent gulag because of his belief in liberty for the Cuban people. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Valle Hernández' family has been harassed and his wife has been "summoned" for taking part in opposition activities. Let me be very clear, Mr. Valle Hernández is locked in a totalitarian dungeon that the U.S. State Department describes as, "harsh and life threatening." His wife and family are harassed and threatened, yet Mr. Valle Hernández and his family have not stopped demanding human rights, labor rights, and freedom for the people of Cuba.

Mr. Valle Hernández is a wonderful example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, no matter how often their families are harassed and threatened, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women