

of working families daily in his work. Through his efforts, legislation to expedite the naturalization process for legal immigrants serving in the U.S. military and members of the selected reserves, coupled with immigration protections for immediate family members of fallen soldiers, was enacted into law.

From a union family, Don's work on labor issues demonstrated his strong commitment to working families. He was constantly working to improve workplace conditions and grow jobs for working families. Don always worked to protect and increase worker's rights, not only on a national level, but by keeping close watch on the issues facing workers throughout Los Angeles.

His passion for telecommunications and internet matters was always seen through the perspective of the need to protect and expand affordable access for all consumers, which is especially important in California's 32nd Congressional District.

As my Chief of Staff, Don has played an integral role in helping advance my priorities on the Energy and Commerce Committee and as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment. I am grateful to have had him with me to assist in my role on the Steering and Policy Committee. Don has used his knowledge of telecommunications matters to help expand outreach in the Congressional District I represent through the use of new technologies. Through his words and actions, Don has trained, mentored and inspired my staff to constantly challenge themselves to meet new goals while helping them along the way.

Don's passion for life and love of his family will be sorely missed in my office. I join my staff in Washington, DC, and district offices in El Monte and East Los Angeles in wishing Don the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM
H. GOURLEY, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Maj. Gen. William H. Gourley, who passed away on August 25 this year. He will be greatly missed.

It is hard to condense the life of such a big man into mere words. His spirit and energy were indefatigable and inspired soldiers, family and friends alike.

I had the honor and pleasure to interview General Gourley shortly before he died in a retrospective look at his life. I did this as one way to pay tribute to General Gourley but also as part of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Now General Gourley's story will be there for the generations to hear.

I got to know General Gourley when he retired to the Monterey Peninsula right about the time of the 1991 BRAC action which ended up closing Fort Ord in my district.

At the time I was serving in the State Assembly and was unaware that General Gourley, even then, was working behind the scenes to make sure the rank-and-file military was taken care of. General Gourley was fond of championing his own special command-

ments—his own 10 Golden Rules. When Fort Ord appeared on the BRAC list General Gourley worked his network in the Pentagon to make sure a portion of the base was dedicated to a VA clinic to serve the thousands of veterans living in the area. As his 10th Golden Rule says: "Make a better Army and Corps for your subordinates to inherit." In working to make sure the former Fort Ord held a VA clinic—even a small one—he was leaving something better behind.

But that was typical of Bill Gourley. He was a get-it-done kind of guy. He recalled a time from when he was stationed in Korea and was ordered to evacuate all civilian Americans from a town. One person refused to go unless the Army Chief of Staff wrote the order personally. Gourley wrote the order, forged then Army Chief-of-Staff Maxwell Taylor's signature and the recalcitrant civilian up and moved.

Now, 50+ years later, that almost sounds comical. But it was serious business at the time and Bill Gourley was a man determined to follow through. As important as getting the job done, however, was his commitment to the chain of command. He once told a story about working at the National Military Command Center as a part of the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he monitored cables from Asia. One evening then-Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara requested to see a particular FLASH cable, "FLASH" being a message relating to ground operations in Vietnam and of the utmost top secret nature and extremely urgent. Gourley searched the files for the communiqué and noted that it said "For the Chairman's Eyes Only." He stalwartly told the Secretary of Defense he could not pass on the file to read because only the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs had the necessary clearance.

General Gourley was always all about the men and women of the Army. He tried to do right by them in every posting he had. When he was in command at the War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, he insisted soldiers couldn't come to class unless they brought their wives. This was so spouses would come to understand the Army mindset and form a greater bond within the family around shared duty and sacrifice.

Not every task he undertook played out the way he thought. He was in charge of a task force assigned to approach Mrs. Julia Abrams, the widow of General Creighton Abrams, to discuss the possibility of naming a new Army tank after the late General. Gourley related how he and his staff gave a command briefing on the tank to Mrs. Abrams spending excruciating detail on the vehicle and praising its abilities. When they were exhausted from effort and turned to look to Mrs. Abrams for a reaction, she simply said, "But General, is it a good tank?" When Bill assured her it was, she said it was fine to name it the Abrams tank.

In relating all of this to you, Madam Speaker, I hope to portray the man behind the medals, for General Gourley was a "soldier's soldier" and loved the Army. He took up the military life early by joining ROTC in college. He flourished in ROTC and moved on to additional training over the years at the Infantry School, the Adjutant General School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States War College. He served in Germany, where he shared MREs with Elvis Presley, Korea and Vietnam. When he returned from Vietnam he was assigned to the Pentagon and rose to serve on

the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he served for a time with Colin Powell. General Gourley retired from the Army on December 31, 1989 after 36 years of service.

Even in his retirement General Gourley did not leave behind the needs of the military. He was active in the community and worked hard on a number of issues relevant to the military, their families and veterans, like improving TRICARE service on the Monterey Peninsula; helping fashion a veterans cemetery on the old Fort Ord; establishing a health care consortium to provide more accessible and affordable health care to military retirees; and laying the groundwork for a joint DOD-VA health care clinic.

Earlier this year, General Gourley's beloved wife, Molly, passed away and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Bill, too, will be interred there on November 6. They leave behind a loving family: Michael their son, daughters Cecily, Carolyn and Mary Jane, and nine grandchildren, Lindsey, Scott, Allison, Michael, Andrew, Kathryn, Sean, Cole and Carlyanne.

Like General Gourley's last Golden Rule, he has left the place better than when he found it. I will miss his energy and his passion and his friendship. But short though our acquaintance may have been, I am proud to have known him and commend him for his service to the Army and to his fellow man.

HONORING TOBY SOLOMON, AN
ANGEL IN ADOPTION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, before this session of Congress adjourns, I would like to take a moment to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Ms. Toby Solomon, who was recently selected as an Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Over two decades ago, Ms. Solomon formed and chaired an adoption subcommittee in order to address amendments to the New Jersey Adoption Statute and other adoption issues. Based on her prior personal and professional experience, she had become aware that adoption was an area which needed both reform and advocacy. The committee she chaired accomplished the task of writing amendments to the existing adoption legislation and getting the amendments passed by the legislature. The amendments to the Statute brought forth a wide range of new and much-needed concepts to the adoption process. Ms. Solomon also founded and chaired the Children's Rights Committee.

Ms. Solomon has been tireless in her efforts to educate other attorneys and clients about the adoption process. Her many contributions include lecturing on the topic and composing articles on adoption in order to educate both professionals and prospective adoptive parents.

Please join me in congratulating one of our unsung heroines from my home state of New Jersey, Ms. Toby Solomon, on being named an Angel in Adoption for 2008.