

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SEVEN AMERICANS
KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN ON DE-
CEMBER 30, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1009 and to honor the seven Americans who died in the bombing that took place in Khost, Afghanistan, on December 30, 2009. One of the heroes murdered on that day was Harold E. Brown, Jr., a native of Bolton, Massachusetts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the seven brave individuals who lost their lives. I extend my condolences to Harold's wife of 16 years, Janet, his three young children, and his parents, Harold and Barbara Brown, who are active and beloved members of the Bolton community.

As the tragic events of December 30, the failed terrorist attack on Christmas Day, and the shootings at Ft. Hood illustrate, there are radicals who wish to do us harm any way and anywhere they can. In this war against extremism, intelligence is our most important asset to prevent future attacks and to keep our country, our freedoms and our ideals secure.

It is the men and women of the intelligence community who sacrifice much to obtain this valuable resource. They are frequently separated from their families and risk life and limb to keep us safe, but they carry out their responsibilities with quiet determination and professionalism.

Rarely do they receive the recognition and thanks that they deserve, and too frequently it only comes in instances of tragedy.

Across the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, is the message, freedom is not free. The freedom we enjoy is the result of the sacrifices of those who serve. We are the beneficiaries of their courage, their sacrifice, and their vigilance; and so are countless people around the world. The seven brave Americans who were murdered on December 30 made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is a debt that we can never repay.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we pass this resolution today to recognize and express our gratitude to the brave men and women of our intelligence community; to remember the tragic loss of the seven Americans who died on December 30 and to honor their lives; and to express our condolences to their families and loved ones.

HONORING ROGER L. JOHNSON
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 22, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with both great pleasure and appreciation that I rise today on behalf of the entire Connecticut Congressional Delegation to pay tribute to an exceptional public servant, Roger L. Johnson. Appointed in 2002 as the Director of the Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System, Roger has recently decided to take a position with the Northampton Veterans Administration to be closer to his home and family. To say that he will be missed understates the sentiment by all of those gathered this evening to wish him well.

Roger has dedicated a lifetime to public service. Upon graduating from George Washington University's Hospital Administration Masters Degree program, he began his career with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Over the course of his career he has held positions at the Veterans Administration offices in Bronx, New York, Sheridan, Wyoming, as well as Boston and Northampton, Massachusetts. His commitment to ensuring the best quality care for our nations' veterans has been the driving force behind his many years with the Department.

Appointed Director in 2002, it is not an overstatement to say that Roger has been one of the strongest leaders the Connecticut VA Healthcare System has had. I can speak for the entire Connecticut Congressional Delegation when I say that Roger has been an invaluable resource for both Members and their staffs. He has been both responsive to our inquiries on behalf of our constituents as well as proactive in ensuring that our offices were aware of any issues the VA Connecticut Healthcare System was facing. It has been that kind of open communication that has allowed us to provide unique services and outstanding quality care to Connecticut's veterans.

In addition to his work at the VA, Roger has long been involved with the Federal Executive Boards and Associations—established by Presidential Directive in 1961, this organization is a forum for communication and collaboration among Federal agencies outside of Washington, DC. For nearly five years, Roger has led the Connecticut Federal Executive Association. Upon his election as Chair, Roger immediately took steps to raise the bar on accomplishments and to increase involvement. During his tenure he made the Annual Federal Awards Luncheon/Breakfast a stellar event with ever increasing attendance which necessitated venue changes to accommodate more participants. He also initiated educational events/agency tours to help broaden the awareness of Connecticut's federal employees as to what federal agencies are in Connecticut

and what they do, retirement seminars to assist employees with what they needed to know and do as they neared retirement, as well as the development of a Connecticut federal agencies communications list in the event of a federal emergency.

Throughout the course of his career, Roger has been recognized with numerous awards and commendations. Given his dedication not only to civil service but to community service has left an indelible mark wherever he has served. I am proud to stand today on behalf of the entire Connecticut Congressional Delegation to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to Roger L. Johnson for his lifetime of outstanding public service. We wish him all the best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN
K. HALL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 22, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly exceptional man whose life, passions and labors exemplify the meaning of true servant leadership. On January 19, 2010, Stephen K. Hall, a well respected water leader who played a central role in some of the biggest achievements in recent California water policy history, passed away after bravely battling Lou Gehrig's disease. He was only 58.

For years, I had the good fortune of working closely with Steve in Sacramento, California, and more recently in Washington, DC, seeking to address and solve the complicated water problems besetting the people of California. During his 30-year career in water, Steve worked diligently to bring diverse interests together and advance rational policies to address the State's water supply challenges. I can say without reservation that Steve was listened to and respected by all policy makers and stakeholders that he interacted with.

Steve Hall served as executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, ACWA, from 1993 until his retirement in 2007 due to Gehrig's disease. Steve brought a unique brand of leadership to water discussions when it was needed most. He forged relationships that transcended political and ideological circles. Known as a consensus builder, Steve's ability to bring people together was a determining factor in some of the key water successes of our time. Tim Quinn, current head of ACWA recently credited Steve's contributions with helping set the stage for the historic water legislation enacted last fall.

Steve Hall fought for solutions that work for farms, cities and the environment. He is credited with breaking a long-running gridlock and helping forge agreements that laid the groundwork for the landmark Bay-Delta Accord signed in 2004. He played a primary role in the so-called "three-way" negotiations that led

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.