

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE  
LIFE OF RALPH CALCATERRA

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 7, 2011*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2011, surrounded by his family, my friend Ralph Calcaterra of Atherton, California, passed away. He leaves his wife Ferne, two children, Melissa Freeman and Richard Calcaterra, and three grandchildren.

For almost forty years, my family was blessed with the friendship of Ralph Calcaterra.

He made us laugh across the decades and generations.

He rode his bike to our house on Saturdays for almost twenty years—smiling and calling out, “anybody home?” and “what’s going on?” We learned more about Iron Mountain, Michigan, and Las Vegas, than anybody else in Atherton.

We saw how much a man can love his wife, his children, and his grandchildren.

We learned the latest prices of real estate in Atherton—including who had bought what, and at what price.

Most of all, we saw close up and personal, what loyal friendship was. Ralph embodied it.

Today, heaven is a better place. Saints and sinners alike are laughing and learning as we did because Ralph is there.

Thank you Ralph, for being our loving, smiling and loyal friend.

You enriched our lives just by being wonderful you, and we are already missing you.

Happy bike riding across heaven, and know we will love you across eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our condolences to the family of Ralph Calcaterra, a proud citizen and a true patriot of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 7, 2011*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 495 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

THE AVIATION HALL OF FAME

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 7, 2011*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the Aviation Hall of Fame was established in Dayton, Ohio, on October 5, 1961, with five Daytonians as its founding fathers.

The founders of the Hall of Fame were tasked with preserving the history of aviation heroes, fostering a better appreciation of the origins and growth of aviation and cataloging the role aviation has played in changing the economic, social and scientific trajectory of our nation.

Through the tireless efforts of its founders in establishing the Hall of Fame, aviation pioneers and achievers have been suitably honored for the last half-century.

Located within the NMUSAF with over 200 inductees, the Hall will induct 4 new honorees this month.

From pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright of Ohio, to astronauts, such as Neil Armstrong, pilots, such as Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart, inventors, such as Alexander Graham Bell, and entrepreneurs, such as William Boeing, among countless others whose contributions to aviation have made the U.S. aerospace industry the most advanced in the world.

Since 1981 the Hall of Fame has annually bestowed its prestigious “Spirit of Flight” Award upon a group or organization in recognition of its achievement in advancing aviation. The 2011 Milton Caniff “Spirit of Flight” Award recipient will be the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team, in recognition of the group’s 65-year history of serving as positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. More than 460 million fans have witnessed the teams’ spectacularly choreographed aerial performances since the group was formed in 1946.

The Hall of Fame Learning Center exhibit hall features interactive exhibits and displays serving nearly one million learners of all ages a year. Visitors can experience landing an aircraft on a Navy carrier, controlling the movement of a helicopter, docking in space with the Hubble Space Telescope, and taking the controls of an historic aircraft on one of four flight simulators.

On behalf of all the Americans who have been inspired by the history of flight and the accomplishments of our aviation pioneers, I congratulate the Aviation Hall of Fame, its board of trustees, and dedicated staff on their many accomplishments.

This month marks the Hall of Fame’s fiftieth enshrinement ceremony, celebrating an historic milestone in the integral role it has served in honoring pioneers of aviation.

I join Ohioans and fans of aviation everywhere to recognize those founders and the National Aviation Hall of Fame: James W. Jacobs, Gregory C. Karas, John A. Lombard, Larry E. O’Neil, and Gerald E. Weller.

Their vision, leadership, and dedication have helped to preserve the rich history of aviation for all Americans over the past fifty years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 7, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 25, I was delayed in leaving the Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony for Staff Sergeant Salvatore Guinta and was unable to reach the floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed.

Had I been present, I would have voted, “yes”.

HONORING THEOLA MARIE  
STARKS

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 7, 2011*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Theola Marie Starks was born on June 2nd, 1928 in Grant, Oklahoma, the fourth of ten children of Reverend John B. and Marie C. Dawson. She and her husband, Burnes O. (Chief) Starks, Sr., moved to Phoenix in 1949 and started a family with the first of their ten children, Burnes O. (Burney) Starks, Jr. Mr. Starks was a chemist and soil tester for Arizona Testing Laboratories, and both Mr. and Mrs. Starks supplemented their income by picking cotton across the state.

The family moved to Tucson in 1966 and continued to raise their ten children on the south side of town in the Western Hills and Las Vistas neighborhoods. Mrs. Starks was very involved in community service, working as a teacher’s aide and volunteering at a number of schools including Utterback, Cavett and Townsend. She always made friends easily and turned them into family. She believed in the Village raising children—she felt strongly that “your kids are mine and mine are yours.”

Mrs. Starks also frequently volunteered with respected neighborhood matriarch Mrs. Tommie Thomas. Even though she only had a tenth grade education, she made sure her children understood the value and importance of education, integrity and hard work. All ten children—Burnes O., Gary E., Daryl D., Terry L., Charles G., Donna R., Harry J., Jacqueline B., Larry D., and Timothy B.—finished high school and entered college. Seven of the ten children earned college degrees.

Dr. Kevin Leman, noted psychologist and birth order doctor, has often commented on this woman and the remarkable way she raised ten children. Beyond her immediate family, nearly 100 children knew her as “mom” or “grandma.”

Theola Starks’ life was defined by miracles, as those who know her can testify, but the greatest miracle was her—the ability to smile, touch, befriend, forgive, mother and love anyone who came into her life. She was the ultimate prayer warrior. Today, we mark her passing and commend her as a role model and a wonderful person.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO  
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF  
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I will vote yes on this resolution because I oppose a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood in the U.N.

We all know the status quo in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank is unsustainable. It’s bad for Israelis, it’s bad for Palestinians, and it’s bad for the United States.

I believe that a negotiated agreement between both the Israelis and Palestinians is the

only way to reach a just and lasting peace in the region. But peace will never be achieved with senseless terrorism or soaring speeches or military might. Only through direct, honest, and earnest negotiations will the dream of peace be realized.

That is why I believe that both sides must put aside their preconditions and come to the table immediately.

As former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert recently wrote, peace will only be achieved “with the courage to take decisions that will change a reality which is increasingly creating a substantive threat on the State of Israel’s stature, on the international support it receives, and on its future as a Jewish democratic state.”

Yet, I’m concerned this resolution—instead of rising to Olmert’s noble challenge—is yet another missed opportunity for the U.S. to advance peace in the region.

Just last December this House passed unanimously a substantially similar resolution opposing the unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood. What are we accomplishing by restating our opposition?

Mr. Speaker, I worry that we have become too engrossed in the rhetorical debate of peace and are neglecting to fully pursue it. We could easily fill this Chamber with the words spoken over the years debating this conflict, but the room filled with actions taken to end it would sadly be much, much smaller.

This is a pivotal moment—a moment that demands bold, courageous leadership from Prime Minister Netanyahu, from President Abbas, and from President Obama. It is a moment that requires everyone—Israeli and Palestinian, friend and foe—to come together and resolve this crisis once and for all.

Congress can and should play a constructive role in this debate. But I’m concerned that repeatedly criticizing the Palestinians—and only the Palestinians—risks pushing Israelis and Palestinians further apart rather than bringing them closer together. Unfortunately, both Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in activities that are undermining peace efforts, and we must not ignore this mutual responsibility for the conflict.

And I’m also concerned that this resolution further isolates the United States and Israel and undermines our credibility as a serious broker for peace. There is no denying that both Israel and the United States are growing increasingly isolated in the international community. As President Obama said, “the international community is tired of an endless process that never procures an outcome.” This resolution does nothing to change that.

Rather than spending our time reiterating the already established position against a unilateral declaration of statehood, we should be focusing on concrete measures that advance peace.

We should be looking for ways to help Israel adapt to the new realities of the Arab Spring rather than simply reinforcing the status quo.

And we should be encouraging both the Palestinians and Israelis to negotiate rather than just criticizing the Palestinians for not doing so.

At this critical juncture, with so much uncertainty and unrest throughout the Middle East, the U.S. needs to engage in constructive dialogue with all parties and help them bring this tragic conflict to an end. The U.S. cannot make peace in the region, only the parties can. But the U.S. has always been an indispensable agent in brokering peace.

That is why it is imperative that we reclaim that constructive role and foster a negotiated settlement that ensures the security of Israel, recognizes the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, and promotes U.S. national security interests.

IN SUPPORT OF HOLDING THE 2016  
DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN  
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to propose that the 2016 Democratic Convention be held in Northern New Jersey. With easy access to a wide variety of transportation options, many local tourist attractions, and a proven record of successfully hosting large-scale events, Northern New Jersey is an ideal location and I urge my Democratic colleagues to join me in support of our bid to host the 2016 Convention.

Northern New Jersey has everything that a large-scale, high-profile event requires in order to go off without a hitch. Multiple airports provide access for visitors arriving from all across the country, while those traveling along the Eastern Seaboard have the option of taking Amtrak or one of several bus lines—all of which are particularly convenient to visitors from Washington, DC. Whether hosted in my district at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, at the Prudential Center in Newark, or both: our convention facilities are brand new, state-of-the-art, and well-equipped to host large events. Northern New Jersey boasts many hotels and tourist attractions for visitors, as well as proximity to other exciting locations; convention-goers would be just across the river from New York City and just up the Jersey shore from Atlantic City. Even as our national economy struggles to bounce back, tourism in Northern New Jersey has continued to flourish over the past few years, due in no small part to the infrastructure and facilities that our region has to offer visitors from across the Nation.

Most recently, the city of Newark hosted the 2011 NCAA East Regional Championship at the Prudential Center. Visitors, players, and league administrators alike were impressed and pleased with their newly chosen host city, with top NCAA officials noting that they are definitely on board with a future hosting bid. Looking toward the future, Super Bowl XLVII will be held at the New Meadowlands Stadium in 2014, and over 100,000 visitors from across the country are expected to travel to Northern New Jersey for this historic game. Both of these important events of national importance were brought to Northern New Jersey because of everything we have to offer, and I am confident that delegates and Convention participants alike would be pleased with the choice to hold our party’s most important meeting here as well. A highly diverse region, Northern New Jersey is emblematic of the many cultures, ideas, and priorities that make up our great Nation, and I believe this is a fitting backdrop for the selection of our party’s nominee for the 2016 Presidential race.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to consider Northern New Jersey as the site for

the 2016 Democratic Convention. I know that we would host a memorable and well-executed Convention and I urge the Democratic Party to explore this option for 2016.

INTRODUCTION ON RESOLUTION  
TO GRANT THE CONGRESSIONAL  
GOLD MEDAL TO THE  
MONTFORD POINT MARINES

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with many of my colleagues to introduce a resolution to grant the Montford Point Marines a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed for an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States.

On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission and opening the doors for the very first African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

These African Americans, from all states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina, and San Diego, California. Instead, African American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Camp Montford Point near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

On August 26, 1942, Howard P. Perry of Charlotte, North Carolina, was the first Black private to set foot on Montford Point.

During April 1943 the first African American Marine Drill Instructors took over as the senior Drill Instructors of the eight platoons then in training: the 16th Platoon (Edgar R. Huff), 17th (Thomas Brokaw), 18th (Charles E. Allen), 19th (Gilbert H. Johnson), 20th (Arnold R. Bostic), 21st (Mortimer A. Cox), 22nd (Edgar R. Davis, Jr.), and 23rd (George A. Jackson).

The initial intent was to discharge these African American Marines after the War, returning them to civilian life. Attitudes changed as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact that African American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or National origin.

Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Company and the 36th Depot Company landed on the island of Iwo Jima on D-day, February 19, 1945. The largest number of Black Marines to serve in combat during World War II took part in the seizure of Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands with some 2,000 Black Marines seeing action during the campaign. Overall 19,168 Blacks served in the Marine Corps in World War II.

On November 10, 1945, Frederick C. Branch was the first African American Marine to be commissioned as a second lieutenant, at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 ending segregation in the military. In September of 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated—ending seven years of segregation.