

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SHARON SWERDFEGER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Sharon Swerdfeger of Pueblo, Colorado and her lifelong commitment and work for Pueblo, Colorado and the business KR Swerdfeger Construction, Inc. she started with her husband, Keith.

In 1968, Sharon and Keith went into business for themselves at the age of 21 after learning the construction trade from Keith's father. They had a loan co-signed by Sharon's father for \$5,000 to purchase a backhoe and have some operating capital and began an excavation company specializing in water and sewer lines. From there, the company quickly expanded into natural gas distribution pipeline and telephone lines and has grown to a multi-million dollar business that has expanded throughout the Southwest United States. KR Swerdfeger Construction, Inc. will be celebrating 50 years in business in 2018.

Ms. Swerdfeger is also very active in the Pueblo community with civic service and activism. She is the founder of the Pueblo chapter of The National Association of Women in Construction and is President, charter and emeritus member of the Pueblo South High School Alumni Foundation. Her involvement with other organizations includes the Pueblo YMCA, Pueblo Community College Foundation, Colorado Business Education Coalition, Parkview Hospital Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County, St. Mary-Corwin Healthcare Foundation, the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center, Friends of the Library, Kiwanis Club and the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Swerdfeger has been a tireless business leader and advocate for her hometown of Pueblo, Colorado. She is a dedicated mother, wife, business owner and a valued member of the Pueblo Community. It is my honor and privilege to recognize and honor her today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN
MISSISSIPPI MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL (LCPL) ROGER
WAYNE DEEDS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl) Roger Wayne Deeds who died while defending our great nation on November 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. LCpl Deeds was killed by enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during

Operation Steel Curtain in Ubaydi, Iraq. Also killed were Lance Corporal (LCpl) John A. Lucente of Grass Valley, California, Corporal (CPL) Jeffrey A. Rogers of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Corporal (CPL) Joshua J. Ware of Apache, Oklahoma. During the attack, LCpl Deeds moved forward under enemy fire and suppressed the enemy with machine gun fire. He then launched a recovery effort of his wounded comrades. He was providing first aid and security for the wounded when he was mortally wounded. This act of courage and selflessness earned him the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. LCpl Deeds was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Camp Pendleton, California.

LCpl Deeds was born into a military family and lived on a number of U.S. Air Force bases including Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, Mather Air Force Base in California, Rhein Main Air Force Base in Germany, Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. LCpl Deeds graduated from Biloxi High School in 2000. It was there he met his future wife, Sarah French. They were married in February 2004. "He's been my best friend for years. My everything," Sarah stated in an Associated Press news article.

Joyce Deeds, LCpl Deeds' mother, said her son exemplified the Marine Corps motto which is "Semper Fidelis," meaning always faithful. "They have a saying that no one is left behind," Mrs. Deeds said. "And that's how my son died. He was faithful to God, country, and family." Scott Deeds, LCpl Deeds' father, recently said that his son never saw a mountain he was not going to conquer and never backed down from a challenge, no matter how big. "Roger followed a very long line of family members from his father, to uncles, cousins, grandfathers and great grandfathers, who served in every battle or conflict since the Civil War," Mr. Deeds said. "Roger saw a calling in serving this great nation and he chose the Marines as he felt it was the best fit for himself and as he said, 'I want to be on the front line to provide protection for my brothers and freedom for those denied freedoms.' He will always be my mini-me. He was and will always be my son, my friend, my hero, and our Marine."

He was buried with full military honors at the Biloxi National Cemetery.

LCpl Deeds is survived by his father, Scott Deeds; his mother, Joyce Deeds; his sister, Gina McKnight; his wife, Sarah Deeds; his son, Alaric Deeds; and his daughter, Mikaleigh Deeds.

John 15:13 says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". LCpl Deeds distinguished himself on the battlefield and in life. His service will always be remembered.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2810, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018 (Roll no. 631). This bill is far from fiscally responsible.

We've yet to reach a bipartisan budget agreement, thus, this NDAA's base budget authority is \$77.4 billion above the cap set in the Budget Control Act. The GOP has demonstrated no concern for what this continued policy of budget-busting will do to our country's deficit. It will inhibit our ability to respond to future threats and will hollow out benefits for military personnel and veterans.

Of deep concern to me is the bill's full funding of nuclear weapons modernization and maintenance programs. The Congressional Budget Office released a report just last month highlighting that the true cost of these programs over the next 30 years will be \$1.2 trillion dollars. That's more than 20 percent higher than earlier estimates. This bill fails to make the tough decisions it needs to about our defense spending.

The legislation does take several steps in the right direction. It expresses a sense of Congress that climate change is a direct threat to national security, raises military pay by 2.4 percent and includes measures to counter Russian aggression. The bill also authorizes 3,500 visas to the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program—a program I worked to establish to help our Afghan allies seek refuge in the United States after they become the target of threats because of their assistance to U.S. personnel.

However, the fiscal reality of enacting this legislation is deeply troubling. On balance, the costs of this bill outweigh its benefits and I cannot support it.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern with the constant attacks on women's access to reproductive health care.

The women and girls currently under U.S. government custody in shelters, jails, and detention centers across this country who have had to relinquish their right to reproductive health care deserve our immediate attention.

I was disheartened to see the mistreatment of women in detention and children at the Office of Refugee Resettlement who are being

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