

Alabama. The Bulldogs finished the season with a record of 13–2.

Piedmont High School is located in northern Calhoun County, and their Bulldogs are coached by Steve Smith. The principal is Jerry Snow.

Congratulations to the Piedmont County High School Bulldogs football team, coaches, staff, and high school. All of us across Calhoun County and east Alabama are proud of these young people for their outstanding achievement.

HONORING ROBERT FOX, MAJOR
(RET.)

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague JIM COSTA, to commend and congratulate Robert Fox upon being honored the "Citizen Soldier Award" by Fresno City College. Major Fox was recognized on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the annual Veterans Peace Memorial event held at Fresno City College in Fresno, California.

Major Robert Fox enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in 1962, and became the first African American to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant by the Officer Candidate School at the Indiana Military Academy. He served with National Guard units in Indiana and Iowa prior to fulfilling his service obligations. In 1980 Major Fox received a direct commission as a Captain (03) and was assigned to the 49th Military Police Brigade of the California Army National Guard.

Shortly after Major Fox assumed the Dean's position at Fresno City College, he was transferred to the 195th Transportation Battalion in Fresno, where he served as a staff officer. He was later selected to command the 2668th Transportation Company. During his tenure as Commander, the 2668th was selected on short notice to participate in Operation Team Spirit in the Republic of Korea. The unit was required to prepare assigned equipment, personnel and supplies to sustain the unit for forty days under combat conditions. The unit exceeded all time requirements in its preparation and performed in a meritorious manner during the exercise.

After assignment to the 115th Support Group in Roseville, California, Major Fox returned to the 185th Transportation Battalion with the rank of Major (04) as Battalion S–2/3 with the responsibility of training and operations. In 1994, Major Fox retired from the California National Guard after serving as Battalion Executive Director.

Major Fox's commitment to the welfare, professional development and career advancement of the non-commissioned officers and junior commissioned officers under his leadership were hallmarks of his service. His military education includes the completion of the Adjunct General Corps, Military Police Corps and Transportation Corps Basic Officer Courses; the Military Police Corps and Transportation Corps Advanced Officer Courses and attendance at the Command and General Staff School. For his service, Major Fox has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Cluster and the Army Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, Mr. COSTA and I rise today to commend and congratulate Major Robert Fox upon being recognized as a "Citizen Soldier." I invite my colleagues to join us in wishing Major Fox many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAILORS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 1,000 DETERRENT PATROLS ON "OHIO" CLASS SUBMARINES

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 129. To congratulate the accomplishment of Submarine Sailors completing 1,000 *Ohio*-class deterrent patrols. The people of coastal Georgia have great pride in their Submarine Sailors. It started back in July 1978 when Kings Bay, Georgia was chosen to be home for the Trident missile submarines of the Atlantic Fleet. In November 1981 the USS *Ohio* was commissioned and became the first submarine to carry Trident Missiles. *Ohio* made her first patrol 27 years ago this month in December 1982. Over 20 years ago in January 1989 the USS *Tennessee* became the first *Ohio*-class submarine to be stationed in Kings Bay. In Spring 2008 USS *Georgia* returned to Kings Bay to start a new type of mission as an SSGN.

Ohio-class submarines are modern marvels as the sea-based leg of the strategic deterrence triad. SSBNs (or Boomers) have a wide range of capabilities and when directed by the President can rapidly target their missiles. Each Boomer can carry 24 Trident missiles with up to 8 warheads per missile. These missiles have a range of over 7,000 miles and can reach their target within 30 minutes. The warhead is accurate enough to hit the area the size of a baseball diamond with the destructive force of 475 kilotons of TNT. As impressive as these ships are, they are operated by the even more impressive Sailors of the submarine force. Our Sailors have faithfully safeguarded the Boomers without incident for 50 years. Our submarine Sailors have set the gold standard for nuclear surety in the world.

These Sailors are screened for physical, mental and psychological fitness to serve on submarines. They spend up to two years in school to know how to work on a submarine including cooking, plumbing, electrical repair, underwater maintenance, operating a nuclear powered propulsion plant and maintaining 100% reliability of the strategic missile system all of the time. Most of the crew is between 20 to 25 years old but some already have college degrees and all are volunteers. Within one year of first stepping onboard a submarine these Sailors earn their "Dolphins," a pin that signifies they are fully knowledgeable of the submarine's many technical systems and fully reliable during any casualty to be able to save the ship and their shipmates. They join the proud history and tradition of the submarine force with World War II submarine heroes like Mush Morton, Dick O'Kane and Admiral Eugene Fluckey. Because of the sacrifice and hard work of these Trident Sailors they have kept the 18 *Ohio*-class submarines in outstanding condition. These ships will last close

to ten years longer than their design life despite operating in the harsh conditions of the oceans.

For over 1,000 patrols the Sailors serving on *Ohio*-class submarines have moved on and off the ship during crew turnover. They bring their sea bag full of gear, photos of family and friends, some snacks, and nowadays their favorite DVDs and I-Tunes. During a two-month patrol they make the boat their home. Maybe once a week they get an email from home called Sailor Mail. They routinely do not actually talk to their wives, kids, family or friends for many weeks. This is a unique sacrifice especially during this age of global telecommunication.

During those 1,000 patrols while these Sailors were at sea, the rest of us could go to work everyday, worship on Sunday, take our kids to baseball practice after school, shop at the grocery store and fish in our lakes and streams without fear because these Sailors stood the watch and defended our homes. For this we are thankful every day.

I rise today to congratulate our nation's Submarine Sailors who completed 1,000 patrols on *Ohio*-class submarines on this day December 2, 2009.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY CENTRAL RURAL SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chazy Central's boys' soccer team for their victory in the 2009 New York state soccer championship.

On Sunday the 22nd of November, high school soccer fans were treated to a great soccer match between some of the most skilled players in the state. The Chazy boys entered the state championship ranked as the number one team in their class and they carried that honor to the state championship, defeating Northville Central School in the final match.

I also want to extend my congratulations to Coach Rob McAuliffe, who built upon an impressive legacy to take our team to victory. I understand that since 1953, the Chazy boys' soccer team has had only four regular seasons without a winning record, and the elite status of these athletic young men could not have been reached without the 14 years of dedication from Coach McAuliffe.

I want to congratulate the boys' team of Kyle McCarthy, Brandon Laurin, Kaleb Snide, Tyler Bulriss, Shea Howley, Jordan Berriere, Andrew Rabideau, Nathan Reynolds, Andrew Duprey, Marc Oshier, Nolan Rogers, Dyllan Hack, Ian Anderson, Michael Santor, Matt Gravelle, and Austin Santor for all they have accomplished. Their teamwork sets a strong example for the community and reminds us all what is possible when we come together.

Once again, congratulations to Coach McAuliffe for his continuing efforts and to the Chazy Eagles on their success.

INTRODUCING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACQUISITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Improvement Act of 2009. This legislation addresses serious long-term procurement problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and would provide the VA with greater oversight of its contracting and asset management processes.

VA has annual expenditures of more than \$14.1 billion for supplies, services, and construction. The Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 is a first step to provide a centralized oversight and policy for contracting and acquisition within the Department by streamlining business operations under an Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Construction and Asset Management. This bill will improve procurement processes by:

Establishing the position of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition, Construction and Asset Management who would serve as the Chief Acquisition Officer for the VA.

Providing an appropriate structure for acquisition policy and oversight over contracts and purchases.

Requiring the Secretary to establish and maintain a comprehensive centralized Department-wide acquisition program, and to develop a streamlined approach to purchasing goods and services.

Providing VA the authority to use personal services contracts to ensure patients at VA medical facilities are provided quality contract care without unnecessary expenses.

Authorizing the VA to have complete responsibility and auditing authority for the two Federal Supply Schedules delegated to the VA by the General Services Administration.

Providing a clear definition for small business concerns to be listed in the database of veteran-owned businesses maintained by the VA.

I am pleased to be joined by a number of members in introducing this much needed legislation, and urge my colleagues to support the bill.

COMMENDING THE SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL STATIONED AT FORT GORDON

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 206, a resolution commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their families for their service and dedication to the United States and recognizing the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and its role as a pivotal communications training installation.

Fort Gordon dates to 1940, when the United States Army recognized a need for a military installation near Augusta, Georgia that could aid in combat during the ensuing Second World War. The groundbreaking actually took place in 1941, and the base was originally named Camp Gordon after John B. Gordon, a general during the Civil War and former Governor of Georgia. During World War II, Camp Gordon was home to the 4th Infantry Division, 26th Infantry Division, and 10th Armored Division of the Army until they were deployed to Europe. However, in 1948, Camp Gordon became the home of the Signal Corps Training Center—for which it is most commonly known today.

Throughout the Korean war the need for signalmen grew, and the Signal Corps Training Center became the largest single source for Army communications specialists. Camp Gordon was also made a permanent installation in 1956 and was renamed Fort Gordon. Further, during the Vietnam war era and after, communications specialists became an absolutely necessary component of highly technological and modernized warfare, and Fort Gordon was recognized as an exemplary institution for these soldiers as the Signal Corps Training Center came to be known as the United States Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon.

Fort Gordon and the troops and families stationed there were instrumental in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and during the 1990s the installation was responsible for training most of the DoD personnel who operate and maintain satellites, as well as training signal troops of allied and former nations.

Currently, approximately 19,000 soldiers are stationed at Fort Gordon, and Augusta has been a welcome home to all of them. To this day, the base continues its tradition of success in the Signal Corps, as it trains soldiers for deployment into theater in Iraq and Afghanistan. On behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I am proud of the continued dedication to the safety and security of the United States of the men and women at Fort Gordon and thank them for their nearly 60 years of service to this Nation. Georgia has been blessed with an abundance of willing men and women who are committed to ensuring freedom and liberty for America, and I thank each of them for their service.

I believe that the brave men and women at Fort Gordon and every military installation who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our Nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Commending the accomplishments and service of our troops at Fort Gordon is just one small example of the gratitude that every American should express to our troops at home and abroad.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF JODIE MAHONY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Joseph "Jodie" Mahony II of El Dorado, Arkansas, who passed away on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at the age of 70. Having served 36 years in the Arkansas state legislature, Jodie was a legend in Arkansas government and politics and his presence will be deeply missed.

Jodie committed his life to making Arkansas a better place to get an education, to live and to work. He was first elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1970 and served 24 years before winning a Senate seat in 1994. In 2002, after two 4-year terms, when newly adopted term limits kept him from seeking re-election as senator, he ran for the House again, where he was still eligible to serve two more 2-year terms.

Jodie retired officially from elected office in 2006, but his presence remained at the State Capitol where he served as a part-time aide to the House Speaker during the 2007 legislative session. Throughout his career, Jodie filed 1,429 bills, with much of his efforts focused on public and higher education, the developmentally disabled, child support enforcement and natural resources conservation.

In addition to Jodie's public service, he and his family have played an influential role in the state's legal history. The grandson and son of lawyers, Jodie followed in his family's footsteps to become a lawyer, and today, in its 113th year, the Mahony law firm is the oldest operating law firm in the State of Arkansas. Jodie also served in the U.S. Marine Corps in active duty and the reserves.

Our State is better for Jodie's service to it and its people. I never thought of Jodie as a politician, but rather as a statesman. He had the respect of every legislator for his knowledge, fairness and commitment to our great State. I had the privilege of serving with Jodie during my time in the Arkansas state legislature from 1991 through 2000 and he was a friend, a role model and someone I trusted for sincere advice and counsel.

My thoughts and prayers and those of every Arkansan are with Jodie's family during this difficult time, especially to his wife, Bettie Anne; his two sons, Joseph K. Mahony III and Michael Emon Mahony; and three grandchildren, Jordan, Alexandra and Joseph K. Mahony IV.

Jodie will be deeply missed, but never forgotten. Although he is no longer with us, Jodie's many contributions to improving our state will continue on forever, serving as a reminder of his hard work and many good deeds throughout an accomplished legislative career and life.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EDITH ARMSTEAD GRAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of