

We are grateful to share this moment with the maternal grandparents Craig and Julie Houston of West Columbia, South Carolina, her paternal great grandmother Martha Dusenbury of Florence, South Carolina and the maternal great grandparents Ray and Ruth Hoover of West Columbia and Chester and Thelma Houston of Blakely, Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE ROGGERO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the long and selfless career of Bobbie Roggero. Mrs. Roggero has spent over 30 years as a dedicated educator.

Bobbie Roggero received a BA degree in Education before beginning her extensive career as a public school teacher. She has earned the reputation of being an exceptional instructor who fosters the potential she sees in every student. Mrs. Roggero regularly spends her nights and weekends developing teaching strategies and planning for class, proving her commitment to the success of her pupils.

Mrs. Roggero was recently named the 2007 Educator of the Year for the Camdenton, Missouri, school district. This prestigious distinction comes with a stipend which Mrs. Roggero will use to offer her students additional opportunities not afforded in the standard curriculum.

Currently, Mrs. Roggero teaches Kindergarten at Osage Beach Elementary. She has been tirelessly serving the Camdenton District since 1995. I trust that Members of the House will join me in thanking Bobbie Roggero for her devotion to the youth of our Nation.

COMMENDING THE 1ST BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM/34TH INFANTRY
DIVISION OF THE MINNESOTA
NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today, with the passage of H. Con. Res. 185, we honor the brave young men and women from the Minnesota National Guard who returned home this past summer from a 22-month deployment, the longest of any combat unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I want to recognize these citizen-soldiers, because that is what they truly are—citizens first, soldiers second. They have full time jobs, families to take care of and daily commitments that regular army soldiers don't have.

When these men and women were initially deployed, no one imagined they would be gone for so long and so often. Some of them spent close to a year in Bosnia before being deployed to Iraq.

The soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard performed their duties admirably. They knew their mission and I know from my personal experience with these men and women that they would always do more than what was asked of them.

Today I also would also like to recognize the families of the Minnesota National Guard. They were not in harm's way, but they woke up every day worrying, not knowing what that day would bring for their loved ones. They didn't enlist, but they shared the daily effects of this war.

I also want to thank the families of the fallen soldiers. These families have sacrificed more than anyone could have imagined. We thank you for giving us one of your own to defend this great Nation from its enemies and we honor all who believe that doing your duty is a noble act.

I would like to enter for the RECORD the names of the Minnesota National Guard soldiers who lost their lives: Staff Sergeant David Day of Saint Louis Park, MN; First Lieutenant Jason Timmerman of Tracy, MN; Sergeant Jesse Lhotka of Alexandria, MN; Specialist Brent Koch of Morton, MN; Specialist Kyle Miller of Willmar, MN; Sergeant Joshua Hanson of Dent, MN; Specialist Bryan McDonough of Maplewood, MN; Specialist Corey Rystad of Red Lake Falls, MN; Sergeant James Wosika of Saint Paul, MN; Sergeant Greg Reiwer of Frazee, MN; and Sergeant Joshua Schmit of Willmar, MN.

I ask my colleagues to remember these brave soldiers, their sacrifice on behalf of all of us, and the family they leave behind in Minnesota. You all will be missed but not forgotten.

Once again, I congratulate the Minnesota National Guard and the first Brigade Combat team on a job well done and thank all the men and women who have served the State of Minnesota and the Nation as members of the Minnesota National Guard. We are thankful you are home.

OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 356

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with grave concern over H. Res. 356. This resolution is based on unfounded allegations and misinformation about the Republic of Macedonia, and I urge my colleagues to consider the whole story as they review this bill.

For example, the name "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)" is used throughout this resolution. It is a controversial name that Macedonia rejects in favor of its constitutional name, "The Republic of Macedonia." This is a position shared by 118 other nations, including the United States, which officially recognized Macedonia by its constitutional name in 2004.

It is important to note that Macedonia has always emphasized that the Republic of Macedonia does not hold exclusive rights over the name "Macedonia" in geographic, cultural, historic, or commercial terms. Although Greece objects to Macedonia's constitutional name, the Macedonian government rightly believes that one country does not have the right to dictate to another country what it can call itself. The Republic of Macedonia earned the right to self-determination when it declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, and it intends to continue to exercise that right.

H. Res. 356 also states that Macedonia produces and distributes propaganda asserting a

right to territory in Greece, which is also untrue. This is based on the fact that Greece and Macedonia both include areas of the historic region of Macedonia, and Greece is concerned that Macedonia has irredentist ambitions against their Macedonian region.

However, in 1995 Macedonia reinforced the "no-change" of borders provision of their Constitution, adding that they "have no territorial claim against neighboring states." Of course, a small, developing democracy with only 2 million people could not and will not take over land that belongs to Greece, a large, established country of over 10 million people. Macedonia wants only peace with its neighbor, and has repeatedly stated this fact.

In addition, the resolution claims that a Macedonian Military Academy textbook contains maps showing that a Greater Macedonia extends many miles south into Greece to Mount Olympus and miles east to Mount Pirin in Bulgaria.

Not only is the book in question no longer in use in the academy, the maps the resolution refers to were originally drawn in the 1800s by non-Macedonians. They are presented in a historical light. Furthermore, the textbooks used in the general educational system in the Republic of Macedonia do not contain any maps of this kind.

H. Res. 356 also mentions that Macedonia's Skopje airport was recently renamed "Alexander the Great" airport, and implies that Macedonia is asserting "patrimony" over the historical figure. Alexander the Great is a significant figure in human history and part of the universal consciousness, over which no country has ownership. Another Macedonian airport, in Ohrid, was recently named after "Apostle Paul," a universally known historic figure, and Macedonia has heard little protest.

Contrary to the allegations made in this bill, the Republic of Macedonia has actively sought to positively engage in international affairs and to negotiate in good faith with its Greek neighbors.

Macedonia has consistently sought to improve relations with Greece, even changing its national flag due to Greek concerns in 1995. Although political relations between Greece and Macedonia are frozen, Greece is the top investor in Macedonia, and bilateral trade is strong.

The Republic of Macedonia is also a committed ally of the United States. Macedonia has provided troops to serve alongside our brave men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, and continues to seek full membership in NATO and the European Union.

As a Member of Congress with both Macedonian and Greek constituents, I follow both Greek and Macedonian issues closely. Given this, it is my opinion that H. Res. 356 is confrontational and unnecessary. As negotiations between Greece and Macedonia continue on issues including the latter country's name, I believe it is important for Members of Congress to support the process so that the two countries can resolve their differences bilaterally. Inflammatory rhetoric by uninvolved parties has the potential to be detrimental to this complex process.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to air my concerns about this bill. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider all the facts about H. Res. 356.