



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011

House of Representatives

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THREE VETERAN MONUMENTS

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three Veteran monuments in my hometown of Palm Springs, California—the “Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor,” “On A Wing and A Prayer Missing Man Monument,” and “Freedom.”

The “Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor” was dedicated on November 11, 2004, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The Desert Fliers Command is a group of airmen who now live in the Coachella Valley and have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in air combat. This stunning black marble monument stands nearly seventeen feet and has two wings engraved with the name and rank of the Desert Fliers Command members, branch of service and rank. It sits in the center of a twelve-foot round platform named the “Walk of Honor” in which there are bricks etched with names of fallen airmen.

The “On a Wing and a Prayer Missing Man Monument” was dedicated on November 11, 2006, and is located at the entrance of Gate 1 at the Palm Springs International Airport. This beautiful monument, which is an actual wing of a Navy Aircraft, stands straight up with one side of the wing listing the names of the members of the Desert Fliers Command. The

wing tip light is lit at all times and is named the “Eternal Light.” It is intended to serve as a beacon for all missing airmen to find their way home.

The “Freedom” monument was dedicated on November 11, 2010, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. It is the actual propeller of a World War II B-24 Aircraft standing atop a twenty-four inch base that recognizes each branch of service, as well as Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Joseph Foster, Lieutenant Colonel United States Air Force Retired.

The artists who inspired and created these important monuments are Lee Stanley—Lieutenant Commander United States Naval Reserve Retired, recipient of two Distinguished Flying Crosses and nine Air Medals—and his loving wife Pita.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope these memorials serve as powerful reminders of how our nation’s liberty and justice has been preserved by the dedication of our armed forces. May their patriotic spirit and devotion to our nation continue to inspire Americans for generations to come. While no single tribute can fully honor their sacrifice, these memorials offer a chance for our community to stand together in honoring the men and women who have fought under the Stars and Stripes. It is with great pride that I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these important Veteran memorials.