

BRAVO ZULU TO COMMANDER
DANIEL F. VERHEUL, USN

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander Daniel F. Verheul, United States Navy. CDR Verheul has distinguished himself by exceptional service as the Defense Intelligence Agency's Liaison Officer to the House and Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees from February 2000 to December 2002. Commander Verheul brought his wealth of tactical through strategic-level operations and operational experiences to bear in supporting the various defense committee's requirements for intelligence briefings and hearings.

Some of these briefing and hearings involved intelligence support for the Iraqi resolution authorizing U.S. forces into combat, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, inquiries into the attack on the USS *Cole*, operations in the Balkans, Plan Colombia, "Desert Fox" attacks on Iraq, joint targeting and battle damage assessments for Operation Northern and Southern Watch, and organizing and coordinating a series of weekly classified intelligence briefs.

Commander Verheul is an outstanding action officer whose promotion of intelligence capabilities at all levels gained support in the Congress for increased intelligence capabilities and resources. Through his initiative, he organized a myriad of one-on-one briefs to inform key Congressional Members and Staff, enabling them to gain a better understanding of world crises, global threats, weapons and technology proliferation, foreign military capabilities, and support for administration policies and objectives.

Commander Verheul made numerous significant contributions to national-level military and civilian policymakers in support of funding and policy for intelligence operations and support activities. His contributions to the Congress, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Defense Intelligence Community are extensive and invaluable. His willingness to take on any task, and succeed, promoting camaraderie and purpose in every endeavor, reflects great credit upon himself, the Navy, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, and the United States Congress.

In closing, I am proud to recognize CDR Verheul and his wife, LDCDR Karen Verheul, U.S. Navy, Nurse Corps for their honorable service to our Nation. I join my colleagues in the House today in wishing them and their children Daniel and Jenny continued success and the traditional naval wish of "Fair winds and Following seas" as they transfer to their next assignments on the West Coast.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, when this Chamber considered predecessor legislation,

H.R. 5005, last July, I voted against its passage. As I have looked over the conference agreement reached with the other body, I do not see where this bill represents a significant difference over the original product. Therefore, I voted against the conference agreement for similar reasons that justified my vote on the bill.

Let me say to my colleagues that I support the concept of a Department of Homeland Security. But the concept as transformed into H.R. 5005 is a good idea turned into a really bad legislation.

This bill divides the government from those who serve it—government employees. The 170,000 employees who will be incorporated into this new Department will be denied job protections that cover most all federal employees, even those under the Department of Defense. Under this bill, the President can strip employees of their union representation if the agency's mission or division they work for material changes, or if a majority of the employees within that unit work primarily with intelligence, counterintelligence or investigations related to terrorism. The Department would also be free to totally ignore employee or bargaining representative grievances of proposed changes in pay systems and personnel rules.

The personnel rules do not promote good management; they do not promote good government practices. In Election 2000, President Bush campaigned on the promise that he was a "uniter, not a divider." Now we see what an empty promise he has made of that campaign pledge. This bill will do much to divide government from its own federal workforce.

Another shortcoming of the bill is that it exempts manufacturers of anti-terrorism technology from liability. Proponents of this provision say it will make America safer. I say it only rewards corporate irresponsibility—a policy that our President and the loyal opposition seems to embrace.

Mr. Speaker, this is seriously flawed legislation, and that is why I cast my vote against the bill's passage.

HONORING HENRY LEE PLAGÉ

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues a story of heroism and to honor the bravery of Lt. Commander Henry Lee Plage who lives in my hometown of Ocala, FL. During World War II, he and his crew saved dozens of men from the water of the Pacific after a raging typhoon sunk three ships.

Henry Lee Plage started his military career as a member of ROTC at Georgia Tech and he joined the Navy in 1937 after his graduation. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lt. Commander Plage immediately requested sea duty. His first assignment was commanding a submarine chaser. With only 4 days to get ready, he assumed command of a crew of 55.

On February 18, 1944, the USS *Tabberer* (DE-418) was launched. She was commissioned on May 23, 1944, with Plage in command. By October the ship had joined Admiral Halsey's 3rd Fleet, helping to supply crucial air cover for General MacArthur's Land troops.

On December 17m 1944, the USS *Tabberer* was east of the Phillipine Islands along with the 3rd Fleet, scheduled to refuel, when the weather began to deteriorate rapidly. The reason, Typhoon Cobra was heading directly toward them.

The high winds and choppy seas prevented the USS *Tabberer* from refueling and by the evening of December 17th, the full force of the typhoon was upon them. The *Tabberer* had to fight extremely rough seas—and by the 18th sustained winds had reached about 145 miles per hour, with wind gusts up to 185 miles an hour. Before the Typhoon had moved through, the USS *Tabberer* had lost its mast and radio antenna. Three destroyers from the fleet, the USS *Hull* (DD-350), the USS *Spence* (DD-512) and the USS *Monaghan* (DD-354), had gone down.

About 9:30 p.m. on December 18th, the *Tabberer* rescued its first survivor from the water. It was then that Lt. Commander Plage learned that the USS *Hull* had capsized. Plage and the *Tabberer* immediately began an intensive search and rescue effort. These efforts continued for 3 days and nights. In all, the USS *Tabberer* pulled 55 men from the Pacific Ocean. All were from the USS *Hull* and the USS *Spence*.

Typhoon Cobra claimed nearly 800 lives. Only 92 survived, 55 of these rescued by the crew of the USS *Tabberer*. Lt. Commander Plage remained on sea duty after the war and gave the Navy 14 years of service before retiring in 1954.

It is an honor for me to share this story of heroism and survival and I ask you all to join me in commending Lt. Commander Henry Lee Plage and the crew of the USS *Tabberer* for their dedication in saving the lives of 55 men from that terrible storm.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD
H. FINAN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Richard Finan served the people of Ohio as a member of the Ohio State Senate for 30 years; and

Whereas, Richard Finan has served as President of the Ohio State Senate; and

Whereas, Richard Finan worked to restore and preserve the Statehouse and its annex; and

Whereas, Richard Finan has used his position within the Ohio Senate to help better the lives of thousands of people; and

Whereas, Richard Finan must be commended for his professionalism and his ability to motivate those around him by establishing a superb example; and

Whereas, Richard Finan's dedication and service will be missed by the entire state of Ohio.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating Richard Finan's years of service and retirement from the Ohio State Senate.