CONGRATULATING AHN MIRA AND SEAN RYAN HALPIN ON THEIR WEDDING IN SEOUL, KOREA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wedding ceremony of Ms. Ahn Mira and Mr. Sean Ryan Halpin held earlier this fall, on September 14, 2013, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The couple met during Sean Halpin’s current service as a first lieutenant with the Special Operations Command—Korea (SOCKOR), United States Forces Korea.

Ms. Ahn is from the distinguished Ahn family of Haeju City, South Hwanghae-do Province, currently in North Korea. The Ahn clan of Hwanghae-do is remembered historically for their several family members who took leading roles in the independence movement during Korea’s colonial occupation.

Ms. Ahn’s paternal grandfather came to the port of Pusan, in South Korea as a refugee during the Korean War. Her family currently resides in the port city of Incheon where her father, Ahn Jaeman, is the principal of the top-rated East Incheon Middle School and her mother, Kim Kyunghee, is the devoted mother of two daughters.

Sean Halpin is from a family that has served the United States for more than a century. His paternal great-great-grandfather, Captain Patrick Foley, an immigrant from County Kerry, Ireland, served in the 23rd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry ("the Irish Brigade"), fought under General Philip Sheridan in the last major Civil War battle, the siege of Petersburg, and was present at Appomattox Court House for the final surrender.

His paternal great-grandfather, Dr. Thomas P. Foley, of Chicago, Illinois, served as a medical officer with the United States Army during the First World War. His great-uncle, Thomas J. Halpin, was a captain serving with the 88th Infantry during the liberation of Rome in the Second World War. His father, Dennis P. Halpin, served with the United States Peace Corps in Korea, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. House of Representatives as a professional staff member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Sean’s loving mother, Mira Chuo (née Pak) Halpin, is originally from Pusan, Korea.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of the union of Ahn Mira and Sean Ryan Halpin, and of the distinguished service provided by their families to their respective countries.

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR. OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support and deepest thanks for a fine young man and outstanding soldier from my congressional district—Corporal Donny Daughenbaugh, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.).

Corporal Daughenbaugh was hit with a bullet to the face, and miraculously survived the injury. After a long and grueling rehabilitation, he has made it his life’s mission to give back to veterans facing similar situations. He is now the Assistant Vice President and National Spokesperson for the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, it was established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, with emergency financial assistance and other support services to help them re-cove their lives. The Coalition has also provided several grants to various programs benefiting veterans in Texas, which is home to approximately 1.7 million veterans.

On December 9–13, the Coalition will host “The 7th Annual Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute” in Orlando, Florida to help hundreds of military veterans and their families adjust to civilian life. Although he may never fully recover from his injury, Corporal Daughenbaugh has been able to inspire others through his story of resilience. The bullet lodged in his head is a constant reminder of his service to our nation as a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Together with Coalition CEO David Walker, Corporal Daughenbaugh is rebuilding an organization that rebuilds lives. In just one year, they have transformed an organization with a righteous mission into a leading national organization that gives hope to veterans.

Their mission: ensuring our war-weary nation does not lose sight of its obligations to those protecting our freedoms. The Coalition is addressing a serious challenge facing our nation: helping thousands of returning veterans reintegrate into American society by creating a safety net that would help returning veterans avoid the high rates of unemployment (averaging 17.9 percent nationwide), suicide (24 per day, doubling 60 percent), etc. Unfortunately, these true American heroes often receive little or no support from the nation for which they sacrificed so much. Because of a shortage of funding and an interna- tional bureaucratic backlog at the Veterans Administration, they wait for roughly a year, on average, injuries and rebuild benefits. Thousands never receive the proper care for PTSD, because it still remains a largely misunderstood condition.

The Coalition is an organization standing in the gap—and their work is already producing impressive results through public and private partnerships across the nation. One of these successful endeavors is with a Dallas-based international restaurant chain, Bennigan’s, and their Wall of Heroes initiative. Through the promotion, Bennigan’s customers are invited to purchase a drink, write a note, and upload a picture in honor of anyone currently serving or those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Corporal Daughenbaugh also has been a guest of honor at multiple “Happy Hour with a Hero” events sponsored by Bennigan’s—and his story has also been featured on their Wall of Heroes site.

America has been a nation at war for the longest period of time in our history—bringing a new set of challenges, not only our military fighting force, but to a generation of young veterans. Many are facing unprecedented physical and psychological trauma while transitioning back to civilian careers. Over 1 million veterans are expected to make that transition this year. Through his work with the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, Corporal Daughenbaugh is inspiring thousands of young veterans who are on a road to recovery from their injuries. I applaud his work and dedication. He is indeed a true American hero.

RECOGNIZING PMI WASHINGTON, D.C. ON ITS 2013 LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to con gratulate and recognize the Project Management Institution’s Washington, D.C., Chapter for its commitment to leadership and advocacy on behalf of the project management profession. PMI Washington, D.C., is the recipient of the 2013 PMI Chapter Award for Leadership, Planning & Operations. This award is given in recognition of PMI.WDC’s focus on business continuity through changing leadership. PMI.WDC has nearly 11,000 members and remains the fastest-growing and largest PMI chapter in the world.

PMI is the world’s largest nonprofit member ship association for project management professionals. PMI’s resources and research empower more than 265 chapters worldwide and 700,000 members, credential holders, and volunteers to further enhance and develop their careers. PMI’s worldwide advocacy for project management is reinforced by its recognition of PMI.WDC’s focus on business continuity through changing leadership. PMIWDC has been praised for providing expanded management development and providing a path for volunteer members to advance into roles with greater responsibility.