

victimized by consumer fraud. Veterans denied benefits, and small farmers facing foreclosure.

These are the people who will be hurt if this amendment is not adopted today. If LSC is forced to absorb the huge cuts made in committee, half of the 1,100 neighborhood legal services offices will have to be closed. This will leave a single lawyer to serve every 23,600 poor Americans. Over 700,000 people in need of legal services will have to be turned away.

We cannot—we must not—allow this to happen. I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment. It's the decent thing to do.

REMARKS OF ERIC W. BENKEN,
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF
THE AIR FORCE

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Eric W. Benken, who recently made some very insightful remarks regarding national security on August 22, 1998, at the Noncommissioned Officers Association 1998 Annual Awards Banquet, that I believe would be of interest to all the members of the House of Representatives:

CHALLENGING TIMES—BRIGHT FUTURE—
STRENGTH IN UNITY

It's always tough to follow the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team—outstanding individuals—anytime someone says there is something wrong with America's young people—I point to them as an example of what's right with America. And the Air Force Singing Sergeants—a magnificent group and I might add, the product of successful gender integrated training—they are no longer an all male chorus group like they were in the beginning!

Congressman Montgomery, sir, it's great to have you with us here tonight—a recipient of the Air Force Order of the Sword—the highest tribute that can be bestowed upon anyone by the enlisted force—a great patriot and ardent supporter of our military.

President and Mrs. Putnam, my service counterparts, members of the foreign joints, Vanguard Award Recipients and distinguished members of the Noncommissioned Officers Association. It's a tremendous pleasure for my wife Johnne and I to be here tonight as I address this distinguished audience of patriots and great Americans.

Tonight I want to talk to you a little bit about the challenges we face—and a little bit about our future.

First of all, it's important to recognize that this snapshot in history in which we live is like no other. There has never been another decade like the '90s. And the reason is simple—the cold war is over. For about 45 years it was NATO and the Warsaw Pact going toe to toe. We had the Berlin Wall that represented a visual distinction between democracy and communism—the separation of good and evil, if you will. Our tanks and artillery faced off in the Fulda Gap. We had large numbers of forward based installations with a policy of containment.

We lived under the umbrella of nuclear annihilation. Remember the drills we had in high school? An alarm would sound indicating a nuclear missile was inbound from the Soviet Union—and we would dive under our desk. Like that would do any good! And we

always had that fanatic next door who was building an underground fallout shelter. You remember vividly the Cuban Missile Crisis—when President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev did political battle over the placement of missiles in Cuba.

In the early 1980s, President Reagan responded to the hollow force of the late '70s and the continuing cold war threat and began to rebuild our armed forces to take on the "Evil Empire." We had plenty of money for defense and plenty of people to do the mission. The '80s presented few problems for us in terms of manpower and resources, and deployments were few. Life was bliss.

In November of 1989, one of the most dynamic events of this century took place in Berlin. We watched on CNN as the wall was torn down. I was assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium. We were knee deep in containment war plans. We couldn't believe our eyes at what was happening. What were we going to do next? As the wall fell and Germany was reunited, we got a sneak peek behind the iron curtain and found that communism had collapsed and the cold war was over—and we were the winners.

It was like going forward in your car for 45 years and suddenly throwing it into reverse. The world stage changed drastically. Many thought that NATO should be disbanded. Nations demanded money spent for defense be returned to the people for domestic programs. The world wanted a "peace dividend." And the United States was no different. And we began to reduce our military establishment—both in terms of personnel and installations.

New terms showed up in our vocabulary. Terms like BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). Our overseas presence was tremendously reduced and we brought forces and equipment home.

And while many thought our job might be over, our missions actually began to increase. We found ourselves embroiled in "hot spots." We began doing humanitarian and disaster relief missions. Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia, Haiti and Bosnia came up on the scope. Bare base operations like Prince Sultan, El Jabber, Ali Asalem, Doha, Qatar, Baharain; Rhijad, San Vito and others. Places where Americans in uniform must deploy, live and fight. And we continue to deal with Saddam—a millstone around our neck. Our Air Force people alone began to deploy at 4 times the rate they did in the "blissful" '80s.

The '90s present a whole new set of challenges. More new terms like Op Tempo and Pers Tempo. We didn't get enough relief from the first round of BRAC—and we are spread too thin across too much real estate. That is why you hear us persistently ask Congress for more BRAC.

The drawdown meant the loss of skill levels in the ranks as we carved out the middle of the force. We have training shortfalls. We had to find a new way to deliver health care to 9 million eligibles—and Tricare popped up on the scope. We have aging weapons systems—we cannibalize parts from two weapon systems to get one functioning. We have a monotonous desert rotation—slipping readiness posture—outsourcing and privatization are being thrust upon us.

We deal with all of this against the backdrop of the Balanced Budget Amendment and a flatlined defense budget. It forces us to make tough decisions on whether to modernize, sustain readiness or improve quality of life.

For the Army and the Air Force—we must make the transformation to become more expeditionary. Lighter and leaner—not reliant on forward based locations and assets. This presents a cultural change for our peo-

ple who must change how they do business—and old habits die hard.

Add into all of this retention challenges presented by an overheating economy and low unemployment across the country. The private sector competes for our highly trained and highly disciplined technicians and lure them away with more pay and in many cases better compensation. There is plenty of money for young people to go to college and the propensity to serve has diminished. Recruiters are having a very difficult time making quotas while maintaining quality. There are frustrations with op tempo and pers tempo—the changed retirement system is seen as a breach of faith and Tricare has had some tough times with implementation.

For myself and my service counterparts, we have increased congressional contact on a variety of subjects like gender integrated training—trying to convince them each service knows how to train their people the right way. We've discussed fraternization rules, readiness and quality of life and their impact on our troops.

As General Mike Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff says, "This is not my father's Air Force." And I would submit that this saying applies to all of our armed forces as they relate to the decade of the '90s.

This scenario has certainly produced its share of "prophets of doom and gloom." Newspapers have editorials from naysayers attacking senior leadership and publicly displaying their disgruntlement over current situations. Some among our own ranks would counsel our troops against making the military a career because "it isn't as good as it used to be." Whatever that means!

The reality is this—the armed forces still offer a great way of life for young Americans. We still offer tremendous opportunity—skills training—and we do it in an environment of equal opportunity. We still offer an exciting way of life. And this nation still needs patriotic Americans who are willing to sacrifice for their nation and win her wars.

As Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps Lee said in a meeting today, "it's time to accentuate the positive things about our armed forces and our special way of life—and stop listening to the negative."

The fact is, we have inherited a new world order. The world stage has changed—it's more complicated and our roles and missions have been modified. We must make adjustments—and we will—we will attack these challenges like we have always done in the past—with hard work and innovation!

I believe our future is extremely bright. Despite all our challenges, we still have a tremendous corps of young people who are nothing short of fantastic—they exceed all expectations. Their technical skills are something to marvel. When I entered the Air Force back in 1970, our top of the line equipment in the orderly room was the Underwood Five manual typewriter. Today, that same recruit is involved in LAN administration—with advanced computer skills—some even work in the Information Superiority Battle Lab at the Air Intelligence Agency in San Antonio. And as our troops become more and more technically qualified in a variety of skills—we'll have to be competitive if we want to secure their skills for the long run—that's just a fact of life.

And we need to help our young troops keep focus on the vision of our armed forces of the future. We must instill in them enthusiasm and optimism. As General Colin Powell said, "Never take counsel of our fears or naysayers." He also said, "Optimism is a force multiplier."

We need to remind our troops that the military gave them all they ever needed to

know to be successful during their indoctrination into the service at basic training. We taught them how to salute, dress for success, customs and courtesies. We taught them how to follow instructions and to be on time. We taught them how to work as a team through drill and ceremonies. We taught them to have dignity and respect for each other. We also taught them to have high personal standards and to demand high standards for their units. We also taught them followership.

As we become more expeditionary our roles and missions in joint operations will become increasingly intertwined. We must teach our troops the importance of "Strength in Unity" as it relates to the armed "armed forces" team.

We must make them aware of the importance of the legislative process and its impact on the military way of life—we aren't doing a very good job of that right now. As the congress shifts and becomes less attuned to the military and the mood of the country becomes more and more complacent about defense—we will continue to rely on the superb representation of organizations like the Noncommissioned Officers Association. They help preserve entitlements and benefits and work issues on our behalf. And they do a superb job at it.

We have so very much to be proud of. We wear the uniforms of the greatest armed forces in the world. We are members of an honorable profession—the profession of arms. We walk in the shadows of heroes—men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. We need to remind ourselves of that once in awhile.

So, I would say to you here tonight—yes, we have challenges—but we will overcome them and return to level flight and steady seas.

And, we rely on "Strength in Unity"—a super motto for the NCOA because it captures the essence of who we are.

Thank you for having me here tonight—and a special congratulations to our Vanguard Award recipients—who represent the best of the best—and represent the thousands in uniform who serve our great nation around the globe. Good night and God Bless America.

BIOGRAPHY

Chief Master Sergeant Eric W. Benken entered the Air Force in March 1970. He became the 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in November 1996. His background is in information management, and he has served for more than 25 years in operational, maintenance and support units at every level of command from squadron through major air command. He served in maintenance administration in Taiwan and Vietnam, and served as executive noncommissioned officer to the commander in Korea. His stateside assignments include Bergstrom AFB, Texas, Eglin AFB, Florida, Ellington AFB, Texas, and Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He also served in a joint service/NATO assignment at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Before becoming Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, he serviced as the senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. Air Force in Europe (USAFE) at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, a position he assumed in October 1994. While at USAFE, the command was involved in operations such as Provide Promise, Provide Comfort, Deliberate Force and Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. Chief Master Sergeant Benken is committed to transitioning the enlisted corps into an Air Expeditionary Force and, in the process, helps shape what the Air Force will look like in the next century and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY LONDON

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Johnny London as he marks his Thirtieth Anniversary as the morning host on WICH in Norwich, Connecticut. Over the past three decades, Johnny has become an "institution" in Norwich through his show and, more importantly, his work on behalf of the community.

Johnny came to Norwich from Maine thirty years ago to take a job as the "morning man" at WICH. WICH is the major AM station serving Norwich and surrounding communities. Over the years, Johnny has developed a format which combines news, political commentary, history lessons, sports and discussion about community events. When it comes to politics, Johnny calls it like he sees it. He doesn't mince words and he isn't afraid to criticize someone in office or a proposal if he believes issues need to be raised. His show gives him an opportunity to highlight issues and question actions. However, in the very best tradition of American broadcasting, Johnny has never done so for personal aggrandizement. He has always acted in the public interest and been motivated by doing what is best for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny London is much, much more than the host of a morning radio show. He is a tireless friend to countless organizations, charities and special events to whom he lends his time and support. Johnny's show has perhaps the most extensive "community calendar" of any in Connecticut. Moreover, he has supported hundreds of charitable functions over the years. To generate awareness about issues and raise funds to assist those in need, Johnny has gone into the boxing ring with Willie Pep and played basketball with teams from across the country and around the world.

To some, these actions might not sound uncommon—every radio personality does publicity stunts. But this is where Johnny is different. He is out there every day, every week and year after year working on behalf of the community. He is there when it's ninety-five degrees and in the blowing snow. He puts just as much into supporting events that attract ten people as those that draw thousands from across southeastern Connecticut. His remarkable generosity is more extraordinary than even the longest tenure on the airwaves.

Mr. Speaker, as Johnny marks his thirtieth anniversary with WICH, he has much to be proud of. His show is among the highest rated in Connecticut. Currently, he holds the record as the longest-serving, active morning radio broadcaster in our state. He is recognized as one of the foremost historians of Norwich. More importantly, he is loved and respected by residents across eastern Connecticut for his tireless efforts on behalf of their communities over three decades. I join them in saying thank you. We look forward to tuning in for many years to come.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to show my concern about a provision in the chairman's bill that allows an increase of \$18.5 million, for the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, or EEOC. I want to do so by drawing attention to a circumstance in Miami, Florida, that I think is worthy of the gentleman's attention and the attention of my colleagues. It has to do with Joe's Stone Crab in Miami Beach.

This is a well-known, world-renowned restaurant. It has been owned for 85 years by the same Jewish family. It has had diversity in its hiring practices long before it was required by law. However, it has been targeted and victimized by the EEOC, not because there are too few female employees. The owner is a female and 22 percent of the employees are female. The heads of the departments of the restaurant, Mr. Chairman, are females, but there are too few female servers, according to the EEOC.

This is in contrast to what is happening with Hooters restaurants. Hooters has only female servers. They are a chain. The EEOC has targeted this one restaurant.

The reign of terror of the EEOC against Joe's Stone Crab began on April 27, 1992. The charge was a failure to actively recruit female servers. This was done without a female filing a complaint, and it was done without complying with the law that 300 days prior to such a ruling, there had to be a complaint filed. There was no complaint filed. The EEOC started an investigation on its own.

On July 3, 1997, there was a ruling by Judge Daniel T. Hurley. In his findings, he said that Joe's Stone Crab was guilty; those were his words, even though it is a civil action, that they were guilty of hiring discrimination.

There was no finding of any intended discrimination, Mr. Chairman. Yet, the Court took it on itself at that point to take over the hiring practices of Joe's Stone Crab. They required that announcement of the roll call, which had been word of mouth, be publicized, and required Joe's to spend \$125,000 in ads in newspapers that the Court specified.

As a result, a fewer percentage of applicants of women was brought in. They hired more than the percentage of female applicants that came in, and again, no female complained at any time.

When confronted with the 22 percent female hiring that had occurred between 1991 and 1995, the Court then just changed the statistical reference. They took the total of the female food servers in Dade County, and that was 32 percent, so they just moved the target so the Court could do what it wanted to do.