

The void these individuals have left in their communities is vast. Words and medals cannot make up for their absence. But in their deaths, the victims of the World Trade Center attack have come to symbolize all that we love in America. The terrorists attacked these towers because they represented America's democracy, economic prosperity, diversity, and freedom. Joseph embodied these ideals in his work and his life, and for that reason, he was a target of these terrorist attacks.

We may not know the details of Joseph's final moments, but we know what his death has done for our country. From this tragedy, a tremendous pride in our country has emerged. We are stronger, more determined, and more united. Signs in New York City storefronts read: "I LOVE NEW YORK MORE THAN EVER." American flags hang in windows, doorways, fences, and wherever space can be found. A tremendous outpouring of charity donations and blood donations has swept across the Nation. Franklin Delano Roosevelt called this "the warm courage of national unity." With this American courage and unity, we will win our war against the men who terrorized our Nation and stole these lives. We are a nation united, now more than ever. And for this we are tremendously grateful to Joseph Roberto. For a man who loved his country, his death brought his country closer together.

Joseph has the admiration and thanks of an entire Nation. His family can be assured that this Nation will never forget the atrocities of September 11 or the values Joseph died for. Our country has come together. And we now come together to tell Joseph's family they are not alone. America stands with them—now in their hour of grief, and in the days and years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, the Bergen County community, and our country in honoring Joseph Roberto for his achievements in life and the legacy he leaves. As his children grow in our unified country, we will tell them about their father, an American hero.

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HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
GENERAL JOHN G. COBURN

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that General John G. Coburn is retiring after 37 years of exemplary active military service in the United States Army. He served his country with dignity, honor, courage and integrity.

General Coburn is a native of the great state of Kentucky and a distinguished military graduate of Eastern Michigan University where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in 1962 from Eastern Michigan University and commissioned as a second lieutenant of Infantry. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Political Science and is a graduate of the Industrial College of Armed Forces, Fort McNair and Washington, D.C. General Coburn also has a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Missouri and is licensed to practice law before the Supreme Court, State of Michigan; Supreme Court, State of Kentucky; District of Columbia Court of Appeals; the United

States Court of Military Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States.

General Coburn is a world-class logistician, who served our nation brilliantly in numerous logistics assignments throughout his career, to include his prior assignment as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Department of Army from 1996 to 1999; Deputy Commanding General, AMC, Alexandria, Virginia and Commanding General, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He was also the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany from 1991 to 1992. Prior to that, he served as the Deputy Commanding General, 22d Theater Army Support Command, Saudi Arabia from April 1991 to July 1991, and as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Procurement, U.S. Army Materiel Command from 1989 to 1991. From the jungles of Vietnam to the Sands of Saudi Arabia, to the floors of our nation's depots, General Coburn brought astute judgment, bold leadership and selfless service to our Army.

Other major command assignments of outstanding service include Commander of Materiel Readiness Support Activity, Lexington, Kentucky, from 1987 to 1989; Commander, Division Support Command, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from 1984 to 1986; Commander, 124th Maintenance Battalion, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from 1980 to 1982; Commander, Defense Contract Administration Services Management Area, Defense Logistics Agency, South Bend, Indiana, from 1978 to 1980; and Plant/Depot Commander, Taiwan Materiel Agency, AMC, Taiwan, from 1971 to 1973. After returning from Taiwan, General Coburn attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

General Coburn's staff assignments include: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 (Logistics), 2d Armored Division, from 1982 to 1983; Executive Officer, Battlefield Systems Directorate, Headquarters, AMC, from 1977 to 1978; Procurement Officer, Procurement and Production Directorate, Headquarters, AMC; Senior Advisor, Training and Personnel, U.S. Army Engineer District-Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 1975 to 1977; Executive Officer, Defense Contract Administration Services Region, Defense Supply Agency, New York, NY, from 1968 to 1971; Assistant G-3 (Operations), II Field Force Vietnam, U.S. Army, Vietnam, from 1967 to 1968; and Special Weapons Platoon Leader, Savanna Army Depot, Illinois, from 1963 to 1964.

General Coburn's military decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

The General is concluding his illustrious career as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) from May 1999 to October 2001. General Coburn's extraordinary leadership extended around the globe commanding one of the largest commands in the Army, with over 50,000 military and civilian employees, and activities in 42 states and over a dozen foreign countries. The

AMC missions are intricate and complex, ranging from developing sophisticated weapons systems and cutting edge research to maintaining and distributing spare parts. It is the one place in the Army where technology, acquisition, and logistics are integrated to assure Army readiness. With General Coburn at the helm, AMC led the Army in sustaining the nation's defense industrial base with the right combination of maintenance depots, ordnance plants, arsenals and innovative industry partnerships. General Coburn is known as one of the foremost leaders in transforming the Army. His strategy in building AMC as the conduit for new technologies is making the Army more lethal, lighter and readily deployable thus setting the path for the future.

Mr. Speaker, General Coburn deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he faithfully served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing him, his wife, Janice and their three sons, John, Robert and Matthew, all the best in the years ahead.

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CONGRATULATING THE CHOOKASIAN  
ARMENIAN CONCERT ENSEMBLE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble on their work to preserve traditional Armenian music. The Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble is the only traditional performing Ensemble of Armenian music in the United States.

John Chookasian, a premier clarinetist, is the founder of the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble. He has been playing Armenian folk music for over 35 years. John holds a graduate degree from the University of Nevada in music and education. He also taught Music and Ethnic Studies at U. of N. for 3 years. He and his wife Barbara have made it their life's mission to preserve ancient Armenian music for future generations.

The Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble has been performing since 1994. The ensemble performs the classical, folkloric, and troubadour musical works of the 16th to 20th centuries. The main aspiration of the ensemble is to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the music of the Armenian people, as well as to promote intracultural understanding.

In 1999, the President of Armenia, Mr. Robert Kocharian, invited the ensemble to present a series of concerts in Armenia and Karabagh. At this concert series the ensemble was presented with the prestigious "National Gold Medal Award of Armenia," thereby making them the only musical group in the United States to receive such an honor from the Armenian Government.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble for working to preserve the tradition of Armenian music. I urge my colleagues to Join me in wishing the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble many more years of continued success.