



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4311

January 18, 2012

To the O'Brien Family:

I regret that my duties in Washington prohibit me from joining you as you gather today to rename the Big Spring Veterans hospital after Second Lieutenant George O'Brien Jr. It is truly an honor to reflect on Lt. O'Brien's valiant service to our nation during the Korean War. Attendance aside, this dedication will serve as a steadfast reminder of Lieutenant O'Brien's courage on the battlefield and the proud legacy he leaves behind.

Throughout his life, George O'Brien Jr. became a number of things: a man, husband, father, grandfather and a friend to many. As a patriot he became not only a soldier, but a war veteran and ultimately an American hero. Nonetheless, to most of us he became what we call a good West Texan. We have all gathered here today to pay tribute to this man's service to our nation by renaming the Big Spring Veterans Hospital in his honor. Appropriately, we have chosen to honor Lt. O'Brien's heroics by renaming a facility that cares for so many veterans. I'm sure if Lt. O'Brien were here today, he would be proud to know his legacy of determination and inspiration will live on through this facility and its dedicated staff as they continue to care for his fellow servicemembers across West Texas.

The State of Texas has a proud military tradition. It's woven into the fabric of this great state from claiming our independence from Mexico to our warfighters today bravely fighting in lands far from home. Lt. O'Brien exemplified so many characteristics of Texas in his life and specifically on that day in October 1952. His gallantry and fortitude were so strong, in fact, that despite being shot and knocked to the ground on several occasions, he found the strength to tend to the wounded and continue to lead his men through perhaps one of the worst days of their lives. During these trying times in our country, we should all strive for that resilient perseverance.

Today's renaming marks not only a tribute to Lieutenant George O'Brien Jr., but also to his family, friends and fellow active service members, both active and veteran that have sacrificed so much for our great nation. May God Bless Texas and our Great Nation.

Sincerely,

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

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