

CONGRATULATING MASTER SERGEANT VICTOR J. LUKSIC ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend Master Sergeant Victor J. Luksic, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his retirement from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard following 40 years of distinguished and loyal service.

For the past 22 years of Master Sergeant Luksic's military service, he was engaged in the Recruiting and Retention Command at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania.

Indeed, Master Sergeant Luksic served as chairman for the Sergeants Major Sub Committee of the National Recruiting and Retention Council, a body that serves in the capacity of a board of directors for the Recruiting and Retention Force of the National Guard Bureau.

As chairman of that Council, Master Sergeant Luksic was charged with representing all 1,400 recruiting personnel serving throughout the United States.

During his service spanning four decades, Master Sergeant Luksic mastered the specialties of tactical communications, infantryman, senior instructor, finance, career counselor, and recruiting and retention.

The father of two children, Master Sergeant Luksic also distinguished himself by his selfless service to his home community in the great Wyoming Valley. He is a past chairman of the board of directors of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He is also a member of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church and its Holy Name Society and the St. Conrad's Young Men's Association of Wilkes-Barre.

Master Sergeant Luksic earned numerous military awards and decorations while serving the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Some of the those accolades include the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Armed Force Reserve Medal with Gold Hour Glass; Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Master Recruiting Badge.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Master Sergeant Luksic on the completion of 40 years of military service. His devotion to duty and to the United States of America's defense has helped make this great Nation a safer place and has furthered the noble causes of promoting liberty and democracy.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BRADLEY J. MARZEC ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Bradley J. Marzec of Rossford, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Bradley's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2009. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Bradley brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. Bradley is a 2004 graduate of Saint Francis de Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio. While attending St. Francis, Bradley was an honor student in addition to serving as a church youth group volunteer. Since his graduation from St. Francis, Bradley has been preparing to attend the Academy by attending the Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Outside the classroom, Bradley has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Bradley earned his Varsity letter in Wrestling where he was named team captain in his junior year and has been a decorated champion. Bradley's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Bradley will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bradley J. Marzec on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Bradley will do very well during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN T. LYNG

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Benjamin T. Lyng for his eight

years of military service and leadership to our country. After graduating from American University in Washington, D.C. and completing Georgetown University's ROTC program, Captain Lyng was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army with the 518th Maintenance Company at Fort Bliss, Texas. He served as a platoon leader and executive officer before he was promoted to First Lieutenant. With the 518th, he led a 35-soldier platoon during a six month deployment to Saudi Arabia during Operation Southern Watch. Later, he served as a Battalion Staff Officer with the First Battalion, First Air Defense Artillery Regiment (1-1 ADA) also at Ft. Bliss. Captain Lyng was promoted to Captain while deployed in Kuwait with the 1-1 ADA.

After graduating first in his class at the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School and fourth in his Officer Advanced Course, Lyng was commissioned to command the 764th EOD Unit based at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, CO. During his command, his company conducted 165 EOD incidents and over 50 U.S. Secret Service details in support of the President, Vice President, First Lady, Vice First Lady and foreign heads of state without injury.

He also commanded the 764th EOD Unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, where he and his company conducted over 300 combat EOD incidents, rendered safe over 20 improvised explosive devices (IED's) and improvised rocket attacks, assisted with forensic evidence collection for War Crimes Tribunals and provided technical advisory and security services for Afghanistan's first direct presidential election. In addition to serving his country, Captain Lyng also served the people of Afghanistan by collecting over 2000 pounds of clothing through the charity he founded, "Children Helping Children."

During his command in Afghanistan, Captain Lyng earned the Bronze Star Medal for his exceptionally meritorious service while serving as a member of the combined/joint task force-76 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Captain Lyng's tactical proficiency and selfless commitment to mission accomplishment in a combat zone greatly contributed to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition to his Bronze Star Medal, he has also received an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Captain Lyng received the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor Captain Benjamin Lyng for his distinguished career and his contribution to our country. Captain Lyng has left a legacy of leadership and service to his community. Today, I congratulate him on his outstanding performance and meritorious service to the Armed Forces of the United States and wish him well in his future endeavors.