

Madam Speaker, I am proud today to recognize Bruce Iacobucci for his leadership in our community and for his dedication to the citizens of the 8th District. Please join me in honoring him today.

OCCASION OF MAJOR SPEROS
KOUMPARAKIS' TRANSFER FROM
THE UNITED STATES MARINE
CORPS LIAISON OFFICE

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Major Speros Koumparakis, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the liaison office. I, and many other members of this Chamber, have had the pleasure of working with him over the past 3 years that he has served as part of U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Deputy Director of the USMC Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

From his arrival in the October of 2006 to his departure in May 2010, Major Speros Koumparakis has represented the Marine Corps on all matters pertaining to the U.S. House of Representatives. During his time in the House Liaison Office, Major Koumparakis planned, led and executed many of the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives and distinguished himself as a leader and as a visible example of Marine Corps professionalism and values. Through his direct and skillful engagement with numerous Members of Congress and Professional Staff Members, he ensured that the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood; resulting in the greatest possible support to the Marine Corps. His initiative, leadership, and tireless efforts as a fellow, legislative liaison officer and as the Deputy Director of the House Liaison Office have had a direct and lasting impact on improving the war fighting capabilities and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps. Among his many achievements are:

Major Koumparakis consistently demonstrated his expertise and knowledge by providing timely and accurate information to the Members of Congress and their respective staffs. He was a vital asset for all matters relating to the Marine Corps and their relationship with the House of Representatives. Major Koumparakis' straightforward and professional work garnered the respect of Members and staffers alike. His candor and knowledge were key attributes in maintaining the Marine Corps' superb relationships with the many Members of the House of Representatives.

Throughout his tour, Major Koumparakis personally responded to hundreds of congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Through his exceptional interpersonal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, he assisted the Director, Marine Corps House of Representatives Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support for issues critical to the Marine Corps. This exemplary customer service provided the Marine Corps latitude and time to reach appropriate solutions in each case. Major Koumparakis directly contributed to the Marine

Corps' high degree of success in these matters that may not have been otherwise achieved.

Major Koumparakis successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted more than 50 international domestic trips for high-level Congressional and Staff Delegations.

These delegations often included senior leadership Representatives, such as the Minority Leader of the House, Chairs and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services Committee and other Committees of jurisdiction. These delegations traveled world-wide and visited heads of state, military commands, and deployed U.S. military personnel. His meticulous planning, attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed the Representatives and staff personnel to focus on fact-finding and learning new information to guide critical decisions made by the Members of Congress. These trips enabled our elected leaders to understand both the successes and challenges facing our Marines that could only be gleaned from first-hand observation and face-to-face interaction. These trips led to increased Congressional support for funding the needs of our deployed Marines and led to a greater appreciation and admiration for the sacrifices made by our Marines and their families. The close relationships developed on these trips paid dividends for the Marine Corps in all areas of legislative affairs.

Another example of this Marine's impact on Capitol Hill was Major Koumparakis' having led or assisted in the planning, coordination, and execution of countless events, receptions, and meetings on Capitol Hill. These events included New Member Orientation for the Freshman Congressional Class of the 110th and 111th Congresses which took place both on Capitol Hill and in Williamsburg, Virginia; Four Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremonies with the U.S. House of Representatives; countless House Armed Services and House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings and events, promotion ceremonies, awards ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, and guided tours of the Capitol. He also scheduled and facilitated several hundred office calls for the leadership of the Marine Corps to include the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and numerous other General Officers conducting business on Capitol Hill.

Utilizing his particular expertise in Communications, Major Koumparakis was instrumental in designing and implementing an engagement tracking system for use within the liaison office shared drive. His efforts digitized a complex and cumbersome system and enabled all liaisons to have easy access to shared information, allowing them to focus on their work and create unity of effort in the office.

In addition to the administrative requirements of the Marine Liaison Office, Major Koumparakis was instrumental in leading the planning and execution of the Capitol Hill Running Club for the past two years. This club met several times weekly, preparing hundreds of Capitol Hill staffers and military personnel to run the Marine Corps Marathon. Due to his hard work, the Club offered the Marine Corps an opportunity to engage with Congressional Staffers through physical training and raised the level of Marine Corps Marathon awareness on Capitol Hill.

On a personal note, Major Koumparakis served as a military fellow on my staff in 2007. Speros was a fantastic addition to our office and was an invaluable resource to me in my duties on the House Armed Services Committee. His smiling face will never be forgotten by me or my staff.

Major Koumparakis, through his dedication to professional, exemplary engagement with Congress has contributed immeasurably to the Marine Corps' solid reputation throughout Capitol Hill. The rapport he developed with Members of the House of Representatives and the Professional Staff Members have made a lasting impression with these Members and Staff and have set the tone for a lasting partnership between the Marine Corps and Congress for years to come. The time he has spent supporting Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. He has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,876,734,073,745.72.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,238,308,327,451.90 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HANNAH LYNCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Lynch who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hannah Lynch is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Lynch is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Hannah Lynch for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINE AUTOMATED ELECTIONS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on May 10, 2010, the Republic of the Philippines will undergo historic elections in its budding democracy. These elections mark the first fully automated national elections to determine the fates of over 85,000 candidates for some 17,000 national and local seats, including that of the President and Vice President. With such a large ballot of candidates and the challenge of polling across a nation of over 7,000 islands, the benefits of an automated system are apparent.

These automated elections, however, are not flawless. Automated voting is not guaranteed to eliminate fraud and error, but seeks to minimize them. Additional independent systems should be in place to ensure transparency and validity across the entire election process and, in particular, over the electronic voting systems themselves. Especially troubling are the reports that the new voting system has never been fully tested in the Philippines, which reinforces the need for a contingency plan in case of voting machine failures. In fact, the National Democratic Institute and other international observers have already expressed similar concerns about these upcoming automated elections.

The Philippine Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has the daunting task of administering these elections, and would do well to heed the bitter lessons that the United States learned from the controversies surrounding our electronic voting machines during recent elections. While still working to improve our election process, we also recognize the importance of mending the public confidence. Public confidence in any form of government is paramount to its success, and this is especially true for any democracy—Philippine and American. Again, I urge COMELEC to establish necessary transparency and validation mechanisms that will earn the confidence of the Filipino people to ensure that their constitutional right was fairly exercised. I look forward to these historic democratic elections and hope that they will result in a confident and peaceful transition of government.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT H. ANDERSON

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Robert H. Anderson, Lt. Col., USMC (ret.) who sadly passed away in November 2009. Lt. Col. Anderson was laid to rest Friday April 2, 2010 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Lt. Col. Anderson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism during World War II. He became a Corsair pilot and was in nearly every major battle in the Pacific including Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Tarawa,

Guam, Peleliu, Tinian and others. Between these battles, he fought kamikazes that were attacking our ships, flew reconnaissance missions, and escorted bombers, protecting them from Japanese fighter planes. During one of his escort missions he was hit with anti-aircraft fire and told to bail out. He jettisoned the canopy but at the last moment he decided that he would take his chances and try to get back to his base in Okinawa. He successfully landed on the runway at Okinawa with no canopy, no landing gear and much of his plane and controls damaged.

Throughout his life, Lt. Col. Anderson demonstrated his commitment to serving his country. After World War II, Lt. Col. Anderson served in the Marine Corps Reserve testing new jets, training pilots and keeping his skills sharp in case he was needed in combat again. He served one weekend a month and two weeks twice a year until Vietnam. He also volunteered as a recruiter for the Marine Corps Reserve and helped overhaul their public relations strategy. He volunteered for active duty during the Korean Campaign, but was not called.

Lt. Col. Anderson's service and dedication to this country warrants the highest recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great American.

INTRODUCING THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services Act of 2010.

Long-term care is a broad range of health and social services that is used by people who cannot care for themselves independently because they live with a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Well over 9.4 million adults receive long-term care in the United States and this number is expected to rise. Longer life spans among the chronically ill and disabled, and higher incidences of acquired disabilities from unmanaged conditions such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity and heart disease project an increase in our reliance on long-term care. States with significant elder populations like Florida know the importance of ensuring that our health care system is well equipped to provide adequate long-term care services.

Last year, I introduced H. Res. 271, a resolution that expressed the need for a national strategy on long-term care, and the necessity of including long-term care in comprehensive health care reform. Many agreed that addressing the state of long-term care and community services is critically important to improving our health care system. However, concerns about the potentially high cost of implementing corrective measures stymied efforts to aggressively tackle the problem in the health reform bill.

The inclusion of long-term care insurance in the health reform bill is helpful, but it cannot serve as a substitution for comprehensively

addressing long-term care and community services issues. Too many patients and families are enduring the physical, emotional and financial consequences of accessing long-term care in a system that is in dire need of improvement. The lack of streamlined standards and dominant payment methods for long-term care have left the system handicapped: depriving countless people of much needed services and placing a tremendous financial and emotional burden on families and caregivers. And yet, there has never been a national plan for long-term care, and nearly 20 years have passed since Congress comprehensively reviewed long-term care policy.

The Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Community Services Act of 2010 is a cost-effective way to ensure that we comprehensively address long-term care and community services policy in the U.S. and U.S. territories. My bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a National Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Services. The Commission will be composed of a variety of Federal and national stakeholders that will construct a comprehensive strategy on how to increase the affordability, accessibility and effectiveness of long-term care and community services in the U.S. and U.S. territories. The Commission's policy recommendations must consider cost, geography, culture, transportation, workforce and other factors that influence access to care.

And, the Commission's strategy must also provide guidelines on how to combat waste, fraud and abuse by long-term care providers, address flaws in Medicare reimbursement policies, increase access to home and community-based services through Medicaid, and promote fiscally responsible ways to finance long-term care. The Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services has two years to submit a report to the President, Congress and the general public about their recommendations and findings.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services Act of 2010 and truly invest in the welfare of our Nation's health and health care system.

HONORING BARTOW HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my high school alma mater, Bartow High School, for winning the 5A state title in boys' basketball. The final game had the Bartow Yellow Jackets beating the Tampa Sickles in a 51–37 match hosted in the Lakeland Center. This will be Bartow High's fourth boys' basketball title, but its first since 1988. The boys were led by head coach Terrence McGriff and seniors Jeremiah Samarippas, Weedlens Beauvil, Adrian Brackins, Richard Murvin, Vincent Reed, and Reginald Polite.

The school's athletics program is also recognized for its girls' softball team, who appeared in the state championship game for 10 consecutive years from 1997–2006 and won 7 out of the 10 matches. Bartow High also has many football alumni who went on to compete