

didn't hesitate and placed himself in harm's way without thinking twice. Even more, what I believe distinguished Kelly's actions that morning was his intelligence. He was fully aware, didn't take any actions for granted, and his mind never stopped processing the scene. This entire House is proud of his distinguished service.

Madam Speaker, Officer Kelly is back on the job, serving the people of Seattle and trying his best to avoid the adulation and spotlight that accompanies his outstanding actions. He is a humble servant; he is an outstanding officer; he is a hero.

HONORING COLONEL EDWARD J. KERTIS FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF GEORGIA

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Edward J. Kertis for a distinguished career and the outstanding help that he has been to me, my staff, and the people in my district.

Col. Kertis assumed command of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on June 29, 2007. Since his appointment, he has been responsible for a \$4 billion military design and construction program; water resources planning, design and construction; hazardous, toxic and radiological waste cleanup; and real estate activities.

Residents of my district are especially grateful for his help with water resources management during an historic drought. As the rains finally began to return, Col. Kertis took the unprecedented step of stopping flow from Thurmond and Hartwell Dams, allowing the lakes to fill while water was flowing into the Savannah River from flooding creeks and streams. This common-sense decision provided economic relief to those communities who rely so heavily on the preservation of the beautiful lakes and parks of the upper Savannah River. But he has served his country in other ways as well.

Prior to his assignment to the Savannah District, Col. Kertis commanded the Walla Walla District, USACE, in Washington State from 2002–2004. He has also served as a platoon leader, staff officer, and battalion executive officer in the 27th Engineer Battalion; company commander in the 41st Engineer Battalion; and engineer company commander in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment—Delta. He was also the inaugural commander of the Northern District, Gulf Region Division, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he managed construction projects in support of Coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Col. Kertis for his service to the nation and the dedication he has given his duties, and in wishing him a long and wonderful retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on May 26, 2010 I missed rollcall vote 302. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye."

PHYLLIS REEDER RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District, Ms. Phyllis Reeder, longtime employee of the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD), and current LCSWCD Administrative Treasurer. After serving the community of Lake County, Indiana in this capacity for the past twenty-five years, Phyllis will be retiring at the end of this month. In honor of Phyllis, a retirement open house will be held by the LCSWCD on Friday, May 28, 2010 at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Crown Point, Indiana.

Phyllis Reeder is a lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana who is extremely proud of her Hoosier heritage. In 1944, Phyllis was born in LaPorte County, Indiana. Her family later moved to Schererville where Phyllis attended Saint Michael's Elementary School. She went on to graduate from Dyer Central High School in 1963. She then attended and graduated from Keypunch School in Hammond. Phyllis then began to work in the data processing department at Simmons Mattress Company in Munster. Later that year, on November 22, 1963, Phyllis married her beloved husband, Charles "Chuck" Reeder. They started a family and raised four girls: Theresa, Debbie, Donna, and Diana, and one boy, Charles. Phyllis was an active parent and also continued to work at Simmons until July 1980 when the company closed its doors. In 1977, Phyllis and her family moved to a ten-acre mini-farm in Cedar Creek Township. It was during this time that Phyllis's passion for environmental conservation began to grow. On the farm, they have a large garden which, at the time, provided their large family with fruit, vegetables, and herbs. The farm also has a windbreak on the property, which helps to prevent wind erosion and also saves energy. In addition, Phyllis's five children participated in many 4-H projects, which included such topics as water conservation, wetlands, foods, basketry, and food preservation.

In 1985, Phyllis's passion for conservation led to her career at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. Phyllis currently serves as Administrative Treasurer for the LCSWCD, where she is known for her friendly demeanor and positive attitude. She consistently goes out of her way to assist co-workers and customers with their needs. Included in her many achievements at the LCSWCD, she expanded the LCSWCD's educational program and trained as a facilitator for Project Wild and

Aquatic, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET. These workshops are offered throughout the county to local schools and are facilitated by Phyllis. Because of her strong belief in conservation, her efforts extend well beyond her working hours at the LCSWCD. Phyllis is actively involved in numerous volunteer organizations and has served on many boards throughout the community. For her unwavering commitment to environmental conservation efforts and to Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Phyllis's dedication to the community and her career is exceeded only by her devotion to her wonderful family. Phyllis and Chuck have been married for 47 years and they enjoy spending much of their time with their beloved children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Phyllis Reeder for her lifetime of leadership, service and dedication to the community of Lake County, Indiana. She has touched the lives of numerous people through her efforts at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and through her extensive volunteer work. While she will be missed by the people with whom she worked, Phyllis's service and selfless dedication will forever be remembered, and I ask that you join me in wishing her well in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL RONALD L. MARSELLE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Ronald L. Marselle for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement. His dedicated service to the citizens of our nation, the Department of Defense, and our Congress is both admirable and commendable.

Colonel Marselle earned his commission as a Distinguished Graduate from the United States Air Force Academy in 1985. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base and as an aviator, served as an aircraft commander, instructor, and evaluator in the KC-135 aircraft.

He returned to the Air Force Academy in 1998 where he led, mentored, and developed our nation's future Air Force officers. Colonel Marselle continued his excellent service to our nation in Washington, D.C., as Deputy Division Chief, Future Concepts and Transformation Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

Most recently, Colonel Marselle provided legislative counsel for the Commander of the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). His in-depth knowledge of the legislative process and USTRANSCOM helped foster the strongest of working relationships. Without doubt, Colonel Marselle's efforts in this regard were instrumental in support of and service to our nation, and will not be forgotten.

Colonel Marselle's successful journey during his many years of service could not have been completed without the support of his loving family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Ronald L.

Marselle on his well deserved retirement, and in thanking him for his service to our country.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the bicentennial of the Republic of Argentina. Two hundred years ago in Buenos Aires, a week-long series of revolutionary events took place, known as the *Revolucion de Mayo*, which set in motion events that led to Argentina's momentous declaration of independence from Spain in 1810.

Since gaining independence, Argentina has emerged as a leader in Latin America and as a valuable ally to the United States. In the western hemisphere, Argentina has always been a friend who shares our values of freedom and democracy. In the global arena, it continues to be an important economic partner, with nearly 500 U.S. companies currently operating within its borders. As a founding member of the United Nations and in its most recent position as Secretary General of the Union of South American Nations, Argentina has also proven to be a cogent diplomat.

Argentina benefits from rich natural resources, a globally competitive agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Additionally, as a country that has been richly endowed with culture, varying from eloquent tangos to loyal soccer fans, Argentina remains one of the cultural epicenters of Latin America.

The positive bilateral relationship between the United States and Argentina has been based on many common strategic and ideological interests, securing Argentina's position as an important ally and friend to the United States. I commemorate this historic occasion with Argentineans in the United States and again congratulate the people of Argentina on 200 years of independence.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bicentennial of the Republic of Argentina. On May 25, 1810, the Argentine people declared their independence from Spain and since that time, their nation has become an important regional and global actor.

I feel a personal connection to the nation of Argentina. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have had the privilege to lead two official congressional delegations to Argentina. I am always welcomed with a warmth and respect that speaks to the character of the Argentine people. President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner is a distinguished leader whose service to her people is impressive. Likewise, Argentina's Ambassador to the United States Hector Timmerman and

his excellent team work hard on a daily basis to advance the Argentine cause here in the United States.

In many ways, the United States and Argentina share much more than a hemisphere; we share common values of freedom, equality and a commitment to democracy that transcend national borders. Our nations have also worked closely on issues pertaining to regional security, and Argentina has established itself as a leading voice in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism. I welcome this cooperation and I look forward to our continued collaboration on these vital fronts.

I hope you will join me in commemorating the 200th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Argentina. May our two nations grow closer and may our shared values grow ever stronger.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF HARKNESS HOUSE TO PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR VETERANS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud the opening today of Harkness House, a four-apartment Victorian in my hometown of New Haven that will provide transitional housing for Connecticut veterans, and thus help to repay those who have served in uniform and now need our help.

Thanks to the hard work of Columbus House, a local organization dedicated to helping homeless Americans, as well as financial and logistical support from the Errera Community Care Center, VA Medical Center in West Haven, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Harkness House will give up to fourteen homeless male veterans a place to live for up to two years, as they work to get back on their feet and reintegrate themselves into the community.

This new haven for homeless veterans is just one of many very worthwhile programs by Columbus House to alleviate the crushing burdens on the homeless men, women, and children in our midst. They also provide temporary and permanent housing at a number of other facilities around our community, as well as outreach services to this and other at-risk and highly vulnerable populations.

Along with providing a crucial resource to homeless veterans, Harkness House is particularly well-named. Its namesake, Dr. Laurie Harkness, has spent a career working to foster supportive housing for Connecticut's veterans in danger of homelessness. She has played a formative role in the creation of several such residential projects all across the state, and brought both housing and hope to over 250 homeless veterans and their families. And she has been a dear personal friend to me.

I congratulate Laurie on this well-earned honor today, and I thank Columbus House and everyone else involved for their leadership and commitment to making Harkness House a reality. Because of their efforts, veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country, but have fallen on hard times, will now have a better chance at a second chance.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NOLAN KAMITAKI

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Nolan Kamitaki, a young constituent from Hilo, Hawaii. I would also like to congratulate him on his graduation as valedictorian of Waiakea High School's Class of 2010.

From a young age, Nolan has been deeply fascinated with natural phenomenon and mathematics, and his passion for these pursuits is reflected in his many achievements. He led Waiakea High School's Math League, Math Bowl, and Science Bowl teams, and participated in Japan's International Micro Robot Maze Contest. Nolan's aptitude for science has been recognized at numerous competitions and symposiums including the 2010 International Engineering and Science Fair, where Nolan earned the first place grand award. Nolan has received prestigious recognition as a 2009 Davidson Fellow for his project, "Programming a Network Approach to Contain the Spread of Epidemic."

Nolan's outstanding achievements in academics and his exemplary leadership and community service have earned him distinction as one of two 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholars from Hawaii. He plans to pursue a career that merges biological processes and computer science.

Nolan is a rising star in the sciences and a proud product of the Hawaii public school system. I am inspired by his impressive accomplishments at such a young age, and I look forward to following the career of this future leader.

TRIBUTE TO GILL GALLO, DIRECTOR OF THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District for his years of service to Riverside, California. Gill Gallo has served as director of the Riverside National Cemetery since May 14, 2006. And after four years, Gill Gallo is leaving this appointment to serve as the Director of the National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

In his position as director, Gill was responsible for all burial, maintenance and administrative operations at the cemetery. He also trained under Steve Jorgensen, the longtime director at Riverside who helped bring hundreds of volunteers into the cemetery's community support network. Gill often speaks of the historical significance of his work, and has remarked that there is no better place to pay tribute and learn about our veterans than by visiting the headstones and commemorating the fallen in our national cemeteries.

Prior to coming to Riverside National Cemetery, Gill served as director at the Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon. He also served