

individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF BRUCE KATSIFF'S
RETIREMENT FROM THE JAMES
A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bruce Katsiff, Director and CEO of the James A. Michener Art Museum, who is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service to the museum and the Bucks County community.

The Michener Museum is an important part of my district's art and cultural identity and this is due in no small part to Mr. Katsiff's leadership and vision. In fact, it was he who changed the name from the James A. Michener Arts Center to the now nationally recognized James A. Michener Art Museum.

In 1989 when he began as director, attendance at the museum averaged 8,000 visitors a year. Now, 120,000 people come to see the exhibits each year and the museum ranks among the top art museums in the greater Philadelphia region.

Bruce's love of art goes back to high school, where he discovered photography and participated in his first exhibit at the age of 17. He then studied photography at Rochester Institute of Technology, earned a Master of Fine Arts at the Pratt Institute and completed post-graduate work at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Katsiff's keen business sense blended well with his passion for art. Under his guidance, the museum flourished in size and staff. Just this month, the Edgar N. Putman Event Pavilion was opened to establish the museum as a premier destination for facility rentals in our area.

For Bruce's final project, the museum will host an exhibition from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, of Old Master paintings and tapestries, including oil paintings from legendary artists such as Botticelli and Titian.

Because of all that Mr. Katsiff has accomplished, I know that he will leave this position in high spirits. Thanks again to Bruce Katsiff for all that you have done for not only the Michener Museum, but for the entire Bucks County community. I am honored to serve as your representative in Congress, and I wish you many more years of continued success.

HONORING MR. RICHARD ZILKA

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Zilka, outgoing president of the Clearing Civic League in Chicago, Illinois, for his lasting service to the community.

Mr. Zilka's community owes him an enormous debt. A member of the Clearing Civic League since 1965, he has been president for 26 years during which time he has distinguished himself as a tireless fighter for the

success and safety of the neighborhood. Instrumental in securing a public library for the citizens of Clearing and establishing the Clearing Night Watch, he also successfully campaigned against the installation of high-pollution medical incinerators in the area. These are just some of the many successes that he spearheaded on behalf of the residents of Clearing.

Mr. Zilka and his wife of 54 years, Marie, have two sons and one daughter. Prior to his retirement he worked for International Harvester, which has since become Navistar. He has also fulfilled a number of diverse roles in the community, including serving on the advisory council of Chicago's John F. Kennedy High School, and the Community Advisory Council in Bedford Park. He has also served as a member of the nearby Garfield Ridge Civic League. In recognition of his achievements, South Rutherford Avenue was recently renamed in his honor.

A resident of Chicago his entire life, Richard Zilka has been a tireless fighter for the well being of his neighbors on the Southwest Side. Held in the utmost regard within the community, I have been inspired by his loyal and enduring service. As he retires from his position as president of the Clearing Civic League, I wish him all the very best for the future.

COLONEL TODD P. "SLEDGE"
HARMER RETIRES AFTER 26
YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Todd P. "Sledge" Harmer on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

I have had the pleasure of working with Sledge on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office, and greatly appreciate his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me personally, as well as numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel Harmer has given much to this Nation through his dedicated and selfless service. His Air Force career started the day he arrived at the U.S. Air Force Academy in June of 1982. He established himself as a serious student with a great aptitude for flying. Upon graduation on May 28, 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering, Lt Harmer was competitively selected among pilot training selectees to attend Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Lead-In Fighter Training, and F16C Operational Course, excelling in each course. He was assigned to the 14th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Misawa AB, Japan where he started flying combat training missions and preparing for greater aerial tasks. His superiors rated him the "best wingman in the squadron" and recognized him as a gifted fighter pilot. As a new Captain, he was upgraded to instructor pilot (IP) and mission commander in absolute minimum time, then selected to be a Standardization/Evaluation Flight Examiner because of his great flying skill and leadership. He was reassigned to the 69th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA

as an IP and Chief of Weapons and Tactics. He was certified as combat-ready, and qualified in air-to-surface, air-to-air and nuclear roles. To no one's surprise, he was selected to attend the coveted F-16 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, and completed it with honors. He went on to complete Squadron Officer School, again completing it with honors and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He returned to the 69th Fighter Squadron for a few years to train and evaluate pilots, and contributed greatly to the success of this important fighter squadron. Captain Harmer was reassigned to the 23rd Operations Support Squadron at Pope AFB, NC where he was responsible for planning and coordinating F-16 employment supporting contingencies, exercises and readiness inspections. After serving as a flight commander and IP, he was sent overseas to serve in the 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea. He was hand-picked to command a flight of fighter pilots flying wartime taskings in an upgraded F-16C. His superiors identified him as an "aviator without peers", and the "greatest contributor to the combat readiness of the most forward deployed fighter squadron in the Air Force." He was promoted to the rank of Major and give greater responsibility as the Assistant Operations Officer, and later the Aide-de-Camp to the Seventh Air Force Commander, Lt General Joseph Hurd. General Hurd recognized his superior airmanship and trusted counsel and called him the finest aide he had ever seen. Sledge was sent to the U.S. Naval War College and earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, then went on to the Air Force's School of Advanced Airpower Studies and spent a year excelling in a rigorous curriculum. Following this, newly promoted Lt Colonel Harmer was assigned to the prestigious Checkmate Division at the Pentagon to lead the European Command Pacific Command Branch. There he continued to contribute, lead and inspire his research teams through keen analysis and writings. Senior Air Force leadership had been impressed with his papers and reports over the years, but his writings would receive special recognition while in Checkmate and would help shape the employment and advancement of air and space power. Perhaps more importantly, however, Lt Colonel Harmer would become an impact strategist and leader in the days following 9-11. He led teams developing Air Force position on Grand Military Strategy, air and space operations plans, combat search and rescue, and the air attack plan for Operation Enduring Freedom. His years of training, education and performing every mission in a superb manner would help him to continue on the track to senior leadership. He was assigned as the Commander, 63rd Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ and given the difficult task of commanding in the Air Force's largest fighter wing. He did not disappoint. He set the benchmark for training and air operations. Following this assignment, Lt Colonel Harmer would attend National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC and receive a Master of Science in National Security Strategy, and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He would spend the following year in Turkey as an Executive Officer to the Commander of CC-Air and 16th Air Force, and, U.S. Senior National Representative, Allied Air Component Command HQ Izmir. He was promoted to Colonel and assigned as the Vice

Commander to a very demanding and active fighter wing, 388th FW, Hill AFB, UT, and to prepare him to later command his own wing, the 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin AFB, FL. His boss, Lt General Gary North, tasked him to direct important sorties such as protection to POTUS, space shuttle and several deployments at home and abroad. General North also hand-picked Colonel Harmer for a demanding position in Iraq's Ministry of Defense where he led a highly specialized planning and training team, and advised the U.S. Forces-Iraq leadership on sensitive Arab-Kurd issues. Upon returning to the U.S., the Air Force continued to challenge Sledge by assigning him to one of the most demanding positions within the Air Force, his current job as the Chief of Air Force House Liaison. Since June 2010, Sledge has advised the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Director of Legislative Liaison, and numerous other senior military and civilian leaders on issues of the greatest concern to HQ Air Force and the Congress. He has more than served as a liaison between the Pentagon and the Hill, he has developed and improved key relationships that help us make better decisions about the Air Force. He is extremely intelligent and articulate, and has helped shape my thinking and influenced many Members of Congress. Simply, we trust him!

Colonel Harmer is a command pilot with over 3,300 flying hours primarily in the F-15 and F-16. He is the recipient of the following major medals and decorations for his service and accomplishments: the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Throughout his distinguished career he has represented our country and Air Force with dignity and honor, and this is why I am so privileged to pay tribute to this fine Airman. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Todd Harmer, his wife Stacie and their daughters, Jordan, Leigh and Erika, for their service and sacrifices over the past 26 years. I wish them Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives.

RECOGNIZING JOHN GUALTIER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Gaultier of Vinton, IA for his years of service to veterans in Eastern Iowa.

John's service to the veterans and his community in Eastern Iowa has been a lifelong endeavor, as he's drawn on his own experience in war and battling PTSD to ensure that returning veterans are better served and that students are aware of the service and sacrifice their elders made in the Second World War.

At the age of 18, John served as an Army Medic in the European Theater of Operations where he saved many American lives and participated in the liberation of two concentration camps and a Russian POW camp.

Since 1995, John has logged over 7,000 hours of volunteer service at the Iowa City Veterans Medical Center visiting with his fellow veterans and drawing on his own experience battling post-traumatic stress to help them recover. John has worked with psychiatrists at the Medical Center to help them in treating servicemembers with PTSD returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. John has also donated money and vehicles to ensure that veterans have transportation to VA facilities for their care.

John's service to his community also extends to students at Vinton-Shellsburg and North Linn Schools where he has shared stories of his experience in the war for the past eight years. John has turned his difficult experience in war into a lesson for our community's youth.

For his work volunteering at the Iowa City VA hospital and sharing his experiences with students, John was honored earlier this year by Cedar Rapids' KCRG's "9 Who Care" Awards, and he was nominated to represent Eastern Iowa at the Jefferson Awards for Public Service, where he is a finalist for the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for "Outstanding Community Service Benefiting Local Communities."

As the son of a World War Two veteran, who landed on Iwo Jima when he was 17, I understand the service and sacrifice made by veterans like John. They truly are members of the Greatest Generation, and John deserves to be commended for continuing to serve after he returned home and turning his own trials from war into a learning experience for others.

Congratulations John for this well-deserved honor. Thank you for your continued service to our community and work on behalf of Veterans. You represent the best of Iowa, having served your country and community for over half a century. Keep up the good work.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. The Leadership Alliance, established in 1992, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business and the public sector.

Through an organized program of research, networking and mentorship at critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for graduate training and professional apprenticeships. Leadership Alliance faculty mentors provide high quality, cutting-edge research experiences in all academic disciplines at the na-

tion's most competitive graduate training institutions and share insights into the nature of academic careers.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has mentored over 2,000 undergraduates who have participated in the Summer Research Early Identification Program and over 200 alumni who have obtained their PhD (215) or MD-PhD (19) degrees as Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars.

More than 53 percent of Leadership Alliance early identification students enroll into a graduate level program versus the national rate of 40 percent enrollment into graduate programs. Of this 53 percent, 42 percent enrolled into or completed PhD programs. Of the 42 percent of students enrolling into doctoral training programs, 46 percent completed PhD programs and more than half of those were in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Leadership Alliance institutions graduated approximately 25 percent of all biomedical sciences PhD degrees to underrepresented minority students in a five year time period (2004-2008), making it a leading consortium grantor of PhD degrees in the biomedical sciences in the United States.

In my district, over the past 18 summers, the University of Pennsylvania has hosted 210 undergraduates who were mentored by faculty and had an in-depth research experience designed to provide them with theoretical knowledge and practical training in research and scientific experimentation and other scholarly investigations.

Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars are diversifying the academy with 58 percent of them at research-intensive institutions. Doctoral Scholars also are engaging in career positions in government and industry. The Leadership Alliance has demonstrated its effectiveness as a model for identifying, training and mentoring underrepresented minorities who are poised to expand and diversify the base of the 21st century workforce.

I am pleased today to recognize the importance of sustaining efforts to invest in programs that identify, train and mentor talented underrepresented and underserved students; recognize the continued dedication of institutional leaders, faculty members, administrators and students across the United States and support their roles in the continued training and mentoring of underrepresented students along the academic pathway; and to congratulate and commend the Leadership Alliance, including the University of Pennsylvania, for 20 years of mentoring a diverse and competitive research and scholarly workforce.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOUNT WASHINGTON CRUISES ON THEIR 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mount Washington Cruises on reaching your 140th anniversary.

New Hampshire is proud to be home to some of the most beautiful sights in the Northeast. The White Mountains and Lakes Region have attracted tourists from all over the world, and the beauty and grandeur of Lake