

MX400 Officership course, and the creation of Cadet Leader Development Training (CLDT).

Colonel Meese graduated from the United States Military Academy on 27 May 1981 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. After being an honor graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, he reported to his first duty assignment with the 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery (later designated 6th Battalion, 8th Field Artillery) at Fort Ord, California. He served as a company Fire Support Team Chief, Battery Executive Officer (during which time his Battery received the Gilmore Award as the best firing—battery in the 7th Infantry Division), Battalion S-1/Adjutant, and Battalion Fire Direction Officer. During this period he assisted with the conversion of the artillery to the Infantry Division (Light) configuration and participated in training deployments to Japan, Panama, Minnesota, Idaho, and other locations in California. In 1985, he attended the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, where he was the distinguished graduate, and then was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery (later designated 4th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery) in Hanau, Germany from 1985–1988. He served as the Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, interim Battalion S-3, and firing Battery Commander of a 155mm M109A1 SP howitzer battery with a contingency mission in support of the 3rd Armored Division's General Defense Plan in Germany's Fulda Gap. In this position, he was designated as the MacArthur Leadership Award Nominee for V Corps and was selected for early promotion to major.

Colonel Meese attended the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University from 1988–90, earning an M.P.A., an M.A. and completing all requirements for his Ph.D., except the dissertation, which he would later complete coincident with other duties. He was assigned to the United States Military Academy as an instructor and assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences from 1990–1993, where he taught the advanced economic principles course, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and economics of national security. He was an honor graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and in 1994–1996 he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He became the Operations Officer of 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, coordinating the battalion's operations on a no-notice deployment to fight wildfires in Montana and on an NTC rotation. He later served as the Deputy G3 of the 1st Cavalry Division, including commanding the Division Assault Command Post during its deployment to Korea as part of Exercise Foal Eagle in 1996.

The Academic Board selected Colonel Meese as an Academy Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, and he returned to become the Director of Economics in 1996. In 2001, he was selected to become a Professor, U.S. Military Academy, was confirmed by the Senate in 2002, and became Deputy Head of the Department of Social Sciences. Since June 2005, he has served as the Professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences, U.S. Military Academy.

During over 19 years serving at West Point, Colonel Meese has personally supervised the execution of one of the leading political science and economics programs in the Nation, ensuring that cadets achieve the highest

standards, are enthusiastic about their education, and eagerly anticipate their service in the Army. This includes continually ensuring that the Social Sciences curriculum reflects the changing economic, political, and cultural environment that graduates will face and incorporates the latest teaching in terrorism, national security, and post-conflict studies to better prepare cadets. As a result, every USMA graduate has a core understanding of Social Sciences and over 200 cadets every year studied political science or economics in depth. This study has significantly prepared graduates to anticipate and respond effectively to the uncertainties of a changing technological, social, political, and economic world that they face as commissioned leaders of character in the United States Army. He has exemplified teaching by teaching a minimum of two sections every semester at West Point.

Colonel Meese has inspirationally led the professional development of Social Sciences faculty, supported the research needs of the Army, and advanced the fields of economics, political science, and national security policy. As a result of his leadership, Social Sciences faculty have been routinely included in the ongoing analysis of economics and national security policy issues, both as individuals and through the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC), the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis (OEMA), and the Center for Human Security Studies (CHSS). He robustly supported scholarship by senior military and civilian faculty who have routinely presented or published papers at least once annually and nearly every military faculty presented or published at least once during their USMA tour. He personally exemplifies scholarship, resulting in over two dozen invited presentations, including testimony to a U.S. congressional committee; twenty book chapters, conference papers, major conference reports, or journal articles; and two full length books: *American National Security and the Armed Forces Guide to Personal Financial Planning*.

At West Point, Colonel Meese has been a critical leader of strategic thought among his faculty, throughout the Academy, and within the Army. This includes his leadership of conferences on topics including: "Toward an Army Officer Corps Strategy," "Bridging the Cultural Divide: NGO-Military Relations in Complex Environments," "The Professional Military Ethic in an Era of Persistent Conflict," "Public Diplomacy: Messages, Process, Outcomes," and "The Army Profession." As a result of these efforts and his ongoing encouragement of dynamic faculty members conducting leading-edge research, the Social Sciences Department has become one of the leading repositories of innovative thought within the Army. In 2006, the Department was recognized for its contributions with the presentation of the Army Superior Unit Award. During 2003–2004, Colonel Meese was the USMA Fellow at the National War College, where he graduated from the National War College while exemplifying teaching excellence on their faculty.

Beyond West Point, Colonel Meese has been called on numerous times to address some of the most challenging strategic political-military problems facing the Nation and the Army. He deployed for a full year from 2010–2011 as the Assistant Chief of Staff for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, where he was instrumental in integrating the 1,500-person ISAF staff working

for General Petraeus to supervise a comprehensive civil-military counterinsurgency campaign. In December 2009–January 2010, he deployed to Afghanistan leading a flag officer/ambassadorial interagency team to improve U.S. detention policy and establish Combined Joint Task Force 435. In January–March 2009, he deployed to assist General Odierno and Ambassador Crocker as they developed the "Responsible Withdrawal of Forces from Iraq" plan for the Obama Administration. He had previously deployed to Iraq from June–September 2007, assisting General Petraeus' assessment and testimony; from January–March 2007, to develop "the surge" campaign plan; from June–August 2003 in Mosul, Iraq to help establish governance and stability immediately after the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and from January to July 2002 to Bosnia as the Executive Officer to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations for the NATO Stabilization Force. In sum, he has deployed to combat zones for over 31 months since 2001 in support of ongoing military operations.

In addition to combat deployments, Colonel Meese has assisted the Army's strategic decision making in many other areas. He served as the Executive Director of the Secretary of the Army's Transition Team in 2005; was the co-director of the Department of Defense Panel on Commercialization and Globalization (the Dawkins Panel) in 1999; served as a member of the Defense Science Board Improved Explosive Device Task Force (2007–2009); and was a member of the 2001 Army Science Board Team developing the redesign of the Army Headquarters staff. He participated in the assessment, training, and education of the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) in 1998 to fundamentally transform the SANDF after their post-apartheid transition of government. He has participated as a presenter, organizer, or author in nine different NATO or Partnership for Peace conferences that have supported effective partnerships with NATO and non-NATO partners.

Colonel Meese's distinguished career reflects the vision, demonstrated leadership, and extraordinary service of a proven leader. His service, unwavering dedication to duty, and the life-long impact he has had on the careers of faculty members and graduates of West Point have contributed immeasurably to the status of the United States Military Academy and to the achievements of Army officers. In fact, I was one of those officers who had the privilege to serve with and learn from COL Mike Meese, and I am at once humbled and honored at this moment to congratulate him on a career of exceptional service to the Army and the Nation. I wish him, Ramona, and their family all the best as they transition to civilian life and continue to serve in other ways.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2012*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote No. 623, on December 12, 2012. I would have voted "no."

# HONORING JAY PIERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2012*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jay Pierson, the longtime floor assistant to Speakers Gingrich, Hastert and BOEHNER, who will be retiring at the end of the 112th Congress.

It's fair to say that no one knows more about legislative procedure and the workings of the House than Jay. His retirement will leave an irreplaceable void in the institutional memory of this chamber.

Jay started working in the House two years before my election in 1980 and I have relied on his assistance throughout my time here. In fact, whenever my staff had legislative questions, our answer usually started with the exclamation: "Let's call Jay!" And when you called him, you could always rely on his expert advice.

In addition to his wealth of legislative knowledge, Jay is just an all-around terrific person who is unfailingly helpful and ready with a smile. It is these qualities that earned him the respect of members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, it is an understatement to say that the Republican cloakroom and floor won't be the same without him. I am grateful for Jay's career of service to our country and wish him all the best in his retirement.

# HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHABAD CENTER OF NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2012*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey, Rockaway Township, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1988 by a small group of volunteers, Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey has grown into a regional network of social, religious and charitable programs. The Center is built around the acceptance of every individual on his or her own level, regardless of background, affiliation, age or financial status. By blending traditional values with modern day techniques, the Center has been able to touch many lives through Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties.

At the core of the Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey is their educational program, offered through the Chabad Educational Center. Their mission is based on the driving principle that the Jewish education system should focus on character development, spiritual consciousness and selfless devotion to the betterment of humanity.

The Center opened in 2008 to provide innovative educational services and cultural enrichment for all ages. Making up the Chabad Educational Center are the state-of-the-art Early Learning Center, Hebrew School, Hebrew

High, Adult Education Institute and the first Community Mikvah established in Northwest New Jersey. Each of these allows the Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey to bring valuable educational and cultural opportunities to all members of their community.

The Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey also offers Men's and Women's clubs, giving members of their community the opportunity to socialize and perform acts of philanthropy throughout Northwest New Jersey.

Through their educational, philanthropic and community outreach programs, the Center has established itself as a pillar of our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chabad Center of Northwest New Jersey as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

# CECIL SCAIFE VISIONARY AWARD AWARDED TO AMY GRANT

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2012*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, musical genius is commonplace in Middle Tennessee. We see it on the Billboard Top 40, and we hear it in our local gathering spots. We are a community of notable note-makers, and yet there are those who stand a bit taller among the rest of our blessings. I rise today to honor Amy Grant as she receives the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award and is recognized for her contribution to Tennessee's legendary sound.

Amy Grant's music is more than a simple part of our lives. From her light-hearted hits to the notes and scores that wove their way from our darkest moments, Grant's pen continually casts light into our collective soul. Bluegrass, gospel, Christian, and pop all claim a bit of Grant's heritage as she continues to weave all four together into one signature blend. Her music is a part of our Christmas, our Easter, and our seasons in between.

I ask my colleagues to join with me and celebrate Amy Grant not simply for her legendary sound and steadfast commitment to the music industry, but for her graciousness in paving the way for other singers, songwriters, and bare-footed musicians to come along with her. It is fitting, then, that she be awarded the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award, and I appreciate her faithfulness to Nashville. I also appreciate the hard work and support of those who established and continue the Cecil Scaife Business Scholarship. Your devotion to those who pioneer the way for future music legends helps to strengthen our community and the sounds of our home.

# DEDICATION OF THE RYAN WINSLOW VETERANS CENTER

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2012*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce to this House that the Clay Veterans Center in Center Point in the Sixth District of Alabama has been rededicated as the Ryan Winslow Veterans Center.

The renaming honors the patriotic service of Marine Lance Corporal Ryan George Winslow, who lost his life in Iraq defending our freedoms, and also recognizes his parents, George and Marynell Winslow, who instilled in their son high character and a desire to serve others.

Ryan Winslow, who attended Hoover High School and Jefferson State Community College and belonged to Shades Crest Baptist Church, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in January 2005. Deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Lance Corporal Winslow performed his duties with great dedication, distinction, and drive despite his young age. Tragically, Ryan suffered fatal injuries during combat operations in Al Anbar Province on April 15, 2006. He died at the age of 19. Ryan's memory is held in high honor, respect, and love by his family, friends, and the many individuals that he touched during a too-short life.

Turning personal loss into a passionate resolve to help others, the Winslows have become great advocates for all soldiers and veterans in Alabama. Marynell Winslow played a lead role in founding Gold Star Families of Alabama to recognize service members who have given their lives in defense of our country and provide comfort to their families. Gold Star Families has recently undertaken a project to build a memorial at the American Village to Alabamians who have given their lives in service to our country since 9/11.

The Veterans Center in Center Point is a special place. Opened in December 2010 by Three Hots and a Cot, a truly inspiring nonprofit organization, the center offers safe shelter to homeless military veterans and helps with their transition back to an independent lifestyle. With a staff that includes formerly homeless veterans, the center goes beyond offering housing and meals and provides services such as life skills training, job searches, transportation to VA hospitals for medical appointments, and companionship and stability. It is a model example of the responsibility and duty that we have as a society to assist the veterans who have sacrificed for us.

The tremendous amount of good that has been done and that will be done in the Veterans Center will now serve as a lasting tribute and thank you to Ryan Winslow and his family, and indeed to every serviceman and servicewoman who has given the ultimate sacrifice to defend our great Nation. The name of Ryan Winslow will be proudly born by this sanctuary of hope and recovery.

It is altogether fitting and proper that the U.S. House of Representatives take time to recognize and memorialize this most important occasion.

# HONORING JAY PIERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time servant of the House of Representatives, Mr. Jay Pierson, who is retiring after 34 years of advising Speakers, Leaders and Members of Congress.