

can match. Equally important, she has served as a mentor to numerous young officers throughout her career, inculcating them with the Air Force's core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence.

Colonel Lockhart received her commission in 1982 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at the College of Holy Cross. As a freshly minted 2nd Lieutenant, she attended meteorology school for a year, where she began to build the skills necessary for a successful career in the Air Weather Service. Shortly after arriving to her first duty station at Griffiss AFB, NY she was recognized for her initiative, intellect, and quick grasp of the operational requirements. She was given responsibilities generally reserved for more senior weather officers in SAC and NORAD, and continued to establish herself as an exceptional meteorologist. As a 1st Lieutenant, she was credited with improving the overall readiness of her squadron and wing, and protecting valuable resources with her accurate forecasts and astute weather warnings. She was routinely tasked to handle the most delicate and time sensitive weather briefings to missile warning and space surveillance centers. In 1986, Colonel Lockhart transferred from active duty to the Air Force Reserve as a Captain, and continued to serve in the weather field as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) at Peterson AFB, CO. Her active duty experience would prove invaluable as a new Reservist who would go on to provide years of support to the Air Force's active, guard, and reserve components in a variety of positions and assignments.

As an IMA weather officer, she helped develop combat plans to support strategic, conventional, and special operations, to include leading weather forces for a deployment of KC-135 aircraft during Operation DESERT STORM. As a Major assigned to Eglin AFB, FL, she was handpicked to provide specialized on-site support to two high-visibility Space Shuttle landings at Edwards AFB, CA. While serving as an IMA Weather Officer at McConnell AFB, KS, she provided operational forecast, weather advisories, watches and warnings to a major refueling wing, and the Kansas and Oklahoma Air National Guard. Colonel Lockhart became an expert and innovator in the electro-optics arena, provided exceptional weather support during Hurricane Opal, and prepared critical climatology packages for the wing's F-16 deployments around the world. While assigned to an operations support squadron at Nellis AFB, NV, Col Lockhart commanded a weather flight that provided 24-hour weather support to the HQ Air Warfare Center and two of Air Combat Command's busiest and complex wings. Her successes and expertise led to her being selected as the first weather officer assigned to the Air Force's Weapons School. There, she helped to integrate and establish 21st century combat weather support into the warfighter's contingency operations. She was tasked to model critical targets post 9/11, maintain direct contact with Operation ENDURING FREEDOM deployed units and aircrew, and cited as the most operations oriented, bombs-on-target-on-time weather officer ever assigned to her wing. Colonel Lockhart was asked to bring her experience and natural diplomatic talents to Washington, D.C. to serve as the IMA to the Chief of the Air Force House Liaison Office on Capitol Hill.

Over the past four years Colonel Lockhart has carried out the delicate tasks of managing the House Liaison Office while her active duty colleagues have traveled on CODELs and deployed. She has been an important part of building strong relationships between Capitol Hill, the Pentagon, and senior Air Force leadership. Colonel Lockhart is trusted and relied upon by Members of Congress and their staffs to help facilitate legislative and programmatic matters. We have benefited greatly from her kind, professional, and capable ways.

Throughout Colonel Lockhart's career, her commanders have referred to her as, "the brightest junior officer on my staff", "brilliant", "superior and visionary leader", and "Total Force ace." Simply stated, Colonel Mary Lockhart has made lasting and important contributions to the United States Air Force. Our Nation is indebted to her and her family for their selfless years of service and unquestioned devotion to peace and security at home and abroad. Mr. Speaker, I wish Mary, her husband Paul, and daughters Jenna and Marisa, Godspeed and much happiness as she begins her retirement from the United States Air Force.

RECOGNIZING RONNIE CHIH-CHIEN LU

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with the other co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus—Representative SHELLEY BERKLEY, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and Representative PHIL GINGREY—to recognize the service of Ronnie Chih-chien Lu. Mr. Lu is the outgoing Senior Officer in the Congressional Liaison Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, TECRO. Mr. Lu is returning to Taiwan for his next assignment as a diplomat. During his service as the TECRO contact for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, Mr. Lu has served as an invaluable resource for us.

In 2005, Mr. Lu was hand-picked to serve as a congressional liaison for TECRO. During his almost 7 year tenure in this position, Mr. Lu oversaw Congressional Delegation visits for over 30 Members of the House of Representatives and organized 12 Congressional Staff Delegation visits to Taiwan. Mr. Lu was also part of the TECRO team that worked toward the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 55, which commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. He also worked to garner support for House Concurrent Resolution 266 (H. Con. Res. 266), which called for Taiwan's active participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization. H. Con. Res. 266 passed the House of Representatives in 2010.

Mr. Lu has served in Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2000. Early in his diplomatic career, he served in both the Department of Protocol and Department of African Affairs. Mr. Lu received a Master of Arts degree from National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Though he secured many legislative victories for Taiwan while he served in Wash-

ington, DC, he made even more long-lasting relationships. My colleagues and our staff are proud to call him a friend, and we hope to see him back in Washington, DC one day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 222, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our strong friendship and strategic alliance with the Republic of Turkey.

Turkey has continuously stood with the United States in our efforts to promote democracy and freedom throughout the world. As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, Turkey has committed troops and necessary resources to efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan through the years, and serves as a crucial transit point for supplies and personnel going to these countries. Additionally, Turkey announced last year that it would lead the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, regional command in Kabul for a third year. Turkey is also at the beginning operational stages of a NATO radar facility in its southeast region as part of a missile defense system intended to protect NATO allies from ballistic missiles.

In addition to cooperation on NATO-led efforts, Turkey plays a critical role in promoting democracy throughout the region. Over the last year, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has traveled throughout Egypt, Tunisia, and other countries affected by uprisings to encourage secular constitutions and democratic reforms that are vital to U.S. interests. Turkey has also taken a leading role in addressing the ongoing situation in Syria, opening its borders to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and encouraging Arab countries to lead a coordinated effort to find a peaceful resolution in Syria.

Turkey continues to increase efforts to support religious minorities in its own borders as well. Last August, Turkey issued a decree for the return of hundreds of properties, including cemeteries, hospitals, and schools, to non-Muslim communities. This announcement also provides compensation to the non-Muslim community foundations for properties currently registered to third parties. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton applauded Turkey's efforts to "take serious steps to improve the climate for religious tolerance."

Turkey remains a vital ally of the United States, and I am encouraged by the steps that Turkey has taken to improve its own commitment to democracy and to promote democracy throughout the Middle East. Turkey has

earned our respect, gratitude, and recognition for its efforts over the last 60 years. I look forward to continuing to work in support of our mutual interests.

DENIS ANGHEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Denis Anghel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Denis is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Denis Anghel 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 to Denis Anghel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING VICE ADMIRAL (VADM) SALERNO FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true leader for his extraordinary service in the United States Coast Guard, Vice Admiral (VADM) Brian M. Salerno. VADM Salerno served his country for 37 years in the Coast Guard and on June 5th, he will retire as the Deputy Commandant for Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters, a position he has held since May 2010. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to service and to our country.

As the Deputy Commandant for Operations, Vice Admiral Salerno oversaw policy development and strategic planning for all Coast Guard maritime safety, security and response operations. Assuming the duties as the Deputy Commandant for Operations shortly after the initial response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Vice Admiral Salerno was responsible for the Coast Guard's in-depth investigation and after action review of the incident, and directed implementation of numerous improvements to the Coast Guard's Spill of National Significance response and management protocols. He was also instrumental in establishing vital joint operating plans and processes, such as the Maritime Operations Coordination Plan, which greatly advanced the Department of Homeland Security's "One-DHS" initiative to increase the Nation's ability to respond to maritime threats. When Somali pirates began attacking merchant vessels in the Gulf of Aden, Vice Admiral Salerno led the United

States' efforts to establish internationally accepted and highly effective shipboard procedures to minimize the likelihood of a successful attack. These measures have proven essential to helping mariners and the shipping industry protect themselves and combat piracy while transiting in high-risk waters. Using his nearly four decades of experience working on some of the most complex maritime safety and security issues, Vice Admiral Salerno laid the foundation for the continued development of interagency, international, and industry partnerships that will prove increasingly more important to national security, sovereignty and prosperity as emerging threats and opportunities in the Arctic and other outer-continental shelf maritime activity increases.

Vice Admiral Salerno was commissioned as an Ensign in December 1976 after attending Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. His assignments have predominantly been within the Coast Guard's marine safety program, where he commanded Coast Guard units in Boston, MA and San Juan, PR, and was responsible for carrying out vital Captain of the Port, Officer-in-Charge of Marine Inspection, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Federal On-Scene Coordinator duties. His other field assignments include units in Baltimore, MD, Port Arthur, TX and Portland, ME as well as serving as the marine safety advisor to the Panama Canal Authority. Prior to assuming his current position, Vice Admiral Salerno was the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship and he also served as the Assistant Commandant for Policy and Planning and as the Director of Inspections and Compliance at Coast Guard Headquarters.

Vice Admiral Salerno is a 2000 graduate of the U.S. Army War College, with a master's degree in Strategic Studies. He is also a graduate of the Naval War College and holds a master's degree in Management from the Johns Hopkins University. He is a licensed master of small passenger vessels. His personal military decorations include three Legion of Merit Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and a grateful Nation, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary career of Vice Admiral Brian M. Salerno. There are few opportunities for us to recognize the accomplishments of those who selflessly dedicate their lives to the service of our country, and having had the pleasure of working with Vice Admiral Salerno as the Chairman of the Coast Guard's oversight Subcommittee, I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done to protect our Nation's waters and the millions of Americans who live, work, and visit them every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION REGARDING RECORDED VOTE ON ROLL CALL 220 DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5236

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, during Floor consideration of H.R. 5326 on May 8, 2012, I mis-

takenly recorded my vote on rollcall 220 as "yea" on the question on agreeing to the amendment offered by Ms. BLACK of Tennessee.

I intended to vote "no", on the Black amendment, which sought to prohibit the Attorney General of the United States from using any funds appropriated by H.R. 5326 for the purpose of originating or joining in any lawsuit which seeks to overturn, enjoin, or invalidate a series of specified statutes related to immigration. Again, I would like reiterate my strong opposition to the Black amendment and express my significant concern that its language of limitation would unduly abrogate the longstanding prosecutorial discretion of the Department of Justice as well as undermine and violate the basic principle of separation of powers embodied by our Constitution.

TEURLINGS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LADY REBELS SOFTBALL TEAM CROWNED STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Teurlings Catholic High School Lady Rebels softball team for recently being crowned class 4-A state champions by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. This team truly has the heart of a champion. En route to the state championship, the strength and will of this team was tested time and time again. In the end, this team triumphed and defeated the Leesville High School Lady Cats to become the undisputed state champions on April 28, 2012.

The team's five seniors: Corin Voinche, Halie Green, Delilah Melancon, Julieanne Broussard, and Megan Fuselier, tasted additional success each year they played. In 2009, the team made the state quarterfinals. In 2010, the team reached the state semifinals. In 2011, the team played in the state finals. This year, it attained the ultimate goal and won the state championship. This group embodies the term perseverance. Having overcome adversity and never allowing its determination to waver, I commend the efforts of the entire Teurlings Lady Rebels softball team.

Congratulations to coach Callie Gautreaux and her coaching staff of Lana Bowers, Vallie Gaspard, and Caleb Castille. This team had an outstanding year and saved its best performance for the year's largest stage. I look forward to next year's softball season and wish the Lady Rebels team good luck in defending its crown.

HONORING TUTT S. BRADFORD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor one of the most well-known and selfless men in my District.

Tutt S. Bradford passed away recently at the age of 94 following a long life of community service and philanthropy. I knew him as a