

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mاتيok Mathiang is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mاتيok Mathiang 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 Mاتيok Mathiang 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 of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL EDGAR J. YANGER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Edgar J. Yanger on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army after 32 years of service.

Colonel Yanger was born and raised on Guam, the eldest son of Felizardo and Cecilia Taitano Yanger. He has served our country with distinction since 1981, when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following his graduation from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He later earned a Master's of Architecture degree from the University of Hawaii, and was assigned to the Los Angeles District, Army Corps of Engineers, first as the Deputy Resident Engineer of Fort Irwin, California, and then as the Construction Program Manager for projects in California, Arizona and Nevada. His work included the planning and management of numerous military and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) construction projects.

Colonel Yanger's exemplary service also includes assignments as the Chief of Operations for the Director of Military Support (DOMS) in the Army Operations Center in the Pentagon; in this position, he was the principal action officer for the Department of Defense support to all local, state or federal government emergency or disaster requests, including DoD support for Typhoon Paka in Guam, the 1998 Northeast Ice Storm, Hurricane Bonnie and support for the recovery of the John F. Kennedy Jr. plane crash. He also served as a BRAC Program Manager with the Army's Installation Management Agency in the Pentagon responsible for BRAC construction projects, environmental cleanup and property transfers in California, Alaska and Hawaii. Additionally, he served as the Chief of Staff for the Korea Region Office, Installation Management Agency, as well as the Director of the Army's BRAC Program from 2006 to 2007, and was responsible for executing a \$20 billion program of legacy and new 2005 BRAC requirements.

In 2007, Colonel Yanger was chosen to serve as a Board member on the Army's Discharge Review Board, a Secretary of the Army

level Board responsible for the review of 3,000 discharge cases annually. He was appointed President of the ADRB in 2008, and in 2010 was as the Director of the Military Review Boards (MRB). Although he retired in 2011, he was recalled to active duty to serve an additional two years on the MRB. During this time, he improved the timeliness and accuracy of case reviews, and personally rendered decisions on more than 13,000 applications to the MRB.

Colonel Yanger's exemplary service earned him numerous awards and military decorations including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Airborne Badge.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful nation, I commend Colonel Edgar J. Yanger for his many years of dedicated service to our country. He has demonstrated exceptional meritorious service during his career with the United States Army and has proved himself to be a distinguished leader. I wish the very best to Colonel Yanger, his wife, Doris, and their two adult children, E. Jonathan and Melina.

TIER RANKINGS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing that examined the role of tier rankings in the fight against human trafficking.

Many of those who joined us last week have been in this fight from the beginning—from the year 2000 when my Trafficking Victims' Protection Act created not only the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, but also the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

At the time, I don't think anyone could have predicted that this report would become the international gold standard and primary means of anti-trafficking accountability around the world. From the halls of parliaments to police stations in remote corners of the world, this report is being used to focus anti-trafficking work in 186 countries on the key areas of prevention, prosecution, and protection.

The fact that it has been so successful is a credit to the hard and careful work of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Each year, this office evaluates whether the government of a country is fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, or, if not, whether the government is making significant efforts to do so.

The record is laid bare for the world to see and summarized in a tier ranking. Tier I countries fully meet the minimum standards. Tier II countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant effort to do so. Tier III countries do not meet the standards and

are not making significant effort to do so. Along with the embarrassment of being listed on Tier III, Tier III countries are open to sanction by the U.S. government.

Since the TIP Report's inception, more than 120 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings—citing the TIP Report as a key factor in their increased anti-trafficking response. In the 2003 Trafficking in Persons Reauthorization Act, I and my colleagues in Congress created the Tier II Watch List. This list was intended to encourage anti-trafficking progress in a country that took positive anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year—especially those countries that took last-minute measures to avoid a Tier III designation. We wanted to reward good faith efforts and encourage them to continue.

However, some countries made a habit of last minute efforts and failed to follow through year after year, gaming the system. Consequently, in 2008, Congress created an "automatic downgrade" for any country that had been on the Tier II Watch List for two years but had not taken significant enough anti-trafficking measures to move to Tier II. The President can waive a Tier III downgrade for two additional years if there is "credible evidence" that the country has a written and sufficiently resourced plan to meet the minimum standards.

The "automatic downgrade" would protect the integrity of the tier system and ensure it worked properly to inspire real progress in the fight against human trafficking.

It has now been four years since the two-year limit, or four years-with-a-waiver limit, was instituted. China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Republic of Congo, Iraq, and Azerbaijan have now had at least four full years of warning that they would face downgrade to Tier III if they did not make significant efforts to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent trafficking. Now their time on the Tier II Watch List is up.

In last week's hearing, we took a close look at the records of these countries in 2012. If these countries have once again failed to make significant efforts to meet the minimum standards, the State Department must downgrade them or risk undermining the credibility and demonstrated power of the TIP Report.

I am particularly concerned about the Government of China's record. The Government of China has been on the Tier II Watch List for eight consecutive years in large part because its plan to fight human trafficking is inadequate, unevenly implemented, and the Government of China has not been making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards. Law enforcement in China is still not trained to identify or respond properly to sex or labor trafficking victims. I have heard reports that local police are often unwilling to help parents find missing children who may be enslaved in local brick kilns, and that officials have been known to profit from brick kilns that exploit children.

As we heard from a brave trafficking survivor last week, the Government of China continues to forcibly repatriate North Korean trafficking victims who face severe punishment, including execution, upon their return to North Korea. Moreover, the Government of China's continued one-child policy has decimated China's female population. Tens of millions of

women and girls are missing from the population, making China a regional magnet for sex and bride trafficking as men reach marrying age but cannot find a mate. The Government of China is failing not only to address its own trafficking problems, but is creating an incentive for human trafficking problems in the whole region.

The Government of Uzbekistan's record is also of great concern, as the government itself continues to force hundreds of thousands of school-age children and adults to work in fields during the cotton harvest each year.

The Government of the Republic of Congo, despite making some progress in 2010 with the passage of a law that would prevent child trafficking, has failed in the last two years to convict a single person under that law despite the pervasive child trafficking in their country.

The Government of Russia has had nine years of warning that without significant change, they too would be downgraded. However, the Government of Russia does not have in place formal procedures for identification and referral of trafficking victims by law enforcement, labor inspectors, and other government officials. The Government of Russia still has not established a government body to organize government anti-trafficking activities, nor does it adequately fund shelters or services for trafficking victims. Russian citizens are trafficked from Russia to countries all over the globe as well as within Russia, and yet the Government of Russia does not have a national trafficking education or prevention plan.

The Government of Azerbaijan continues to use administrative fines for traffickers, allowing traffickers to write-off the crime of trafficking as a simple business expense that is less expensive than hiring their workers.

The Government of Iraq has been on the Watch List since the TIP Report first began to hold them accountable in 2009. Like trafficking victims elsewhere in the world, the victims in Iraq need protection, those who are vulnerable to trafficking need prevention measures, and traffickers need to be brought to justice.

The importance of accurate Tier rankings cannot be overstated. Over the last 12 years, we have seen countries begin in earnest the hard work of reaching the minimum standards after the TIP Report accurately exposed—with a Tier III ranking—each country's failure to take significant action against human trafficking. By the same token, a premature boost to Tier II, such as what occurred with Vietnam last year, may not only undermine progress, but fail to inspire it. The tier rankings were meant to be, and in large part have become, a powerful tool in the fight against human trafficking.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Armenian Caucus, I am pleased to continue to lend my support to the Armenian-American community and the people of Armenia in any way that I can. I support strongly the work that all the members of the Armenian American community do to foster strong ties between America and Armenia.

This month we mark a somber and important anniversary.

Ninety-eight years ago, the Ottoman empire committed one of the largest crimes against humanity in world history. The systematic annihilation of over a million Armenian men, women and children is a crime that cannot be forgotten. We will not allow it to be forgotten.

I know that many will say that the Armenian deaths occurred in the midst of war and social disruption and so we cannot call it genocidal killing, or that we cannot even say accurately how many people died and how they died. Such arguments avoid the evidence. The evidence shows that more than a million Armenians died at the hands of the Ottoman empire.

Further, some will complain that these statements unfairly besmirch the dignity and reputation of today's Turks. I would say that recognizing genocide from nearly a century ago need not sully the reputation of modern-day Turks any more than accounts of disreputable, brutal or atrocious behavior of early settlers in the Americas, or of Germans in the 1930s and 1940s, or South Africa under apartheid, or other historical regimes reflect badly on those nations today, unless those nations refuse to acknowledge and learn from past evils and mistakes.

I'm also pleased that so many of my colleagues have joined me in supporting continued U.S. government aid and support for Armenia and the people of Nagorno Karabakh. These remain challenging times for the people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, and I hope our colleagues on the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate honor our request for that aid to continue.

On this anniversary of the genocide against the Armenian people, let us recommit ourselves to ensuring that the truth about this heinous event is acknowledged by every country in the world.

HONORING THE ARCHIE HIGH SCHOOL WHIRLWINDS GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Archie High School Whirlwinds girls basketball team for finishing with a perfect regular season for the first time in school history.

I want to commend them for their outstanding teamwork, sportsmanship and training throughout the 2012–2013 season.

I applaud each and every one of them for their contribution to the team and the hard work necessary to achieve this accomplishment. The team was astutely guided by head coach Troy Schulte, and assistant coach Charles Plattner, and the basketball players included seniors Kara Fisher, Kaily Kurzweil, Stefani Simms, and Mallory Wiskur; juniors Leslie Iseman and Jordan Schulte; sophomores Tiffany Greenwood, Samantha Ogden, Taylor Plattner, and Mary Kurzweil; and freshman Arely Guajardo, Mallory Lyons, Brooke Wiskur and Quincy Young.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the history,

goals and accomplishments associated with Archie High School girls basketball, and extend to the 2012–2013 team the most heartfelt congratulations for completing a perfect regular season.

LINYEINER GONZALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Linyeiner Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Linyeiner Gonzalez is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Linyeiner Gonzalez 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 Linyeiner Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF DRUG-RESISTANT DISEASES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing that examined a deadly phenomenon involving both natural and man-made elements—diseases that are resistant to most or all available methods of treatment. While this is a growing problem of increasing concern throughout the world, the subcommittee focused yesterday on the impact of such diseases—known as “superbugs”—in developing countries and the challenges to preventing and treating these diseases in this part of the world.

There is a family of germs that occur normally in everyone's digestive system. They can cause infections when they get into the bladder, blood or other areas where they don't belong. That is the natural part of this growing problem. Gut flora are absolutely essential for health and an effectively functioning immune response. There are about 100 trillion microorganisms in our digestive systems—ten times the number of cells in our bodies. Most of them help break down the foods we eat. Those that are not helpful are usually can be treated with existing medicines, such as antibiotics.

The man-made part is that antibiotics have been used increasingly to treat naturally occurring germs, but many of them have become resistant to such treatment. These so—