

What all their fine hearts emote!
 To win that day and night!
 All in those darkest of all fights!
 All in this brilliance,
 As when one's soul ignites!
 Shinning All In The Brilliance of Honor's
 Light!
 Now In Hearts To Hold!
 Of which all our children must be told!
 Will we so be the ones?
 With such uncommon courage,
 And grace as you Murph on earth as it is in
 heave they will be done!
 And shine as bright as the midday sun!
 While all in the face of evil,
 For your Brothers In Arms to death look
 upon . . .
 To Follow!
 To Lead!
 To help them succeed!
 But, Where Our Honor Lies!
 To evil to erase!
 As with your fine heart they could not keep
 pace!
 Out On Point!
 All In Your Strength In Honor!
 No one could take your place!
 As you heard death's haunting call!
 And the face of death Michael you saw!
 And yet you did not hesitate!
 Standing Strong and Standing Tall!
 As our Lord and his Angel's watched you fall
 . . .
 With tears upon their face!
 How proud of you they must have been that
 day!
 Watching you all in Honor's way!
 Standing back all in such awe . . .
 As your fine soul up to Heaven would ascend
 . . .
 With you new life as an Angel to begin . . .
 In The Army of Our Lord,
 to watch over us and defend!
 This Congressional Man our Nation has so
 blessed!
 For Heaven could not wait for one of its best!
 As we lower you fine body down to rest!
 With but tears upon our face,
 as Michael you showed us how to behave!
 As these word in our hearts At East we
 made!
 But Michael,
 we will hear you in the night!
 Upon gentle breezes so slight . . .
 And we see will see your face and realize . . .
 You are an angel to watch over us both day
 and night . . .
 In life,
 moments are all that we so have!
 As our time begins To Make A Difference to
 grab!
 To Crush Hearts!
 To But Find Where Our Honor Lies!
 SEAL . . . ED WITH A KISS,
 AS MURPH WE SAY GOODBYE!
 On this day knowing . . .
 But Where Our Honor Lies!

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
 OF MR. SONNY HASHMI IN AD-
 VANCING INNOVATIVE TECH-
 NOLOGY INITIATIVES THAT EN-
 HANCE CITIZEN SERVICES, SAVE
 TAXPAYER DOLLARS, AND PRO-
 MOTE BEST PRACTICES ACROSS
 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Mr.

Sonny Hashmi of Oakton, Virginia for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the management excellence category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Mr. Hashmi serves as the Chief Information Officer for the United States General Services Administration, or GSA. In this role, Mr. Hashmi is responsible for managing GSA's \$600 million information technology budget and ensuring that GSA's IT initiatives effectively align with the agency's strategic goals and government-wide leadership responsibilities in key areas, such as information security and enterprise architecture efforts.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Mr. Hashmi was instrumental in launching GSA's groundbreaking "Drive to the Cloud" initiative. This program enabled GSA to lead by example in becoming the first agency to transition its email services to a cloud-based platform, along with its collaboration and documents management tools. It is projected that these two migrations from legacy systems to cloud-based platforms will result in \$15 million in savings for the agency by 2016.

Under Mr. Hashmi's visionary leadership, GSA has also worked to ensure its lesson learned and best practices permeate across the Federal Government, and it is a testament to Mr. Hashmi's success that each year, additional agencies follow GSA's blueprint and guidance in moving to embrace shared services and innovative cloud-based solutions.

Mr. Hashmi represents precisely the type of Federal Chief Information Officer our government desperately needs more of. I fully concur with GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini's recent observation that, "Sonny not only fixes problems, but also provides newer and better solutions. He is a leader in the best sense. He is all about the outcome and builds a team that shares that desire."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Mr. Sonny Hashmi for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal. Mr. Hashmi and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Mr. Hashmi and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. Each one deserves our gratitude and respect.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF
 SERVICE BY THE SISTERS OF
 MERCY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and well-being of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
 VERSARY OF THE WEST FLOR-
 IDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUN-
 CIL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council and recognize its significant impact and contributions to Northwest Florida.

The West Florida Regional Planning Council was established in 1964 as the Pensacola-Escambia County Regional Council when the need of transportation planning and coordination was recognized. As the third regional planning council to have been formed in the State of Florida, it has since grown to also include Bay, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington Counties and their municipalities. In addition to transportation planning, the Council today provides a forum

to engage its members in regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategic planning, emergency preparedness planning, environmental planning and education, and intergovernmental review. Furthermore, the Council provides assistance in grant-writing, project management, technical planning, and data analysis.

Due to its collaborative nature, the Council naturally recognizes the importance of an all-of-community and region approach. To that end, it welcomes and encourages citizens throughout the Gulf Coast to become engaged in the process to actively address and solve problems of the growing region.

Over the past five decades, the Council has dedicated their efforts to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Northwest Florida. Their contributions have helped ensure that the Emerald Coast remains a top tourist destination and a place where thousands live like millions wish they could.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of its members for their devotion to service and wishing them and the Council all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD
FRAZIER MACIVER, JR., CHAM-
PION OF LGBT VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Donald Frazier MacIver, Jr., who has dedicated his life to serving his country, his community, and his fellow military service members and veterans. Donald's service began as a Senior Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army's elite 5th Special Forces Group. In Vietnam, Donald showed the depth of his commitment to service by participating in extraordinarily hazardous missions behind enemy lines as a member of the covert Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

In the last fifty years, Donald has worked tirelessly to advance the dignity and equal treatment of GLB service members and veterans. In 1993, Donald was arrested at the White House for his nonviolent civil disobedience in protest of the implementation of the U.S. military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Donald has also served as a volunteer consultant on proper treatment and dignity for those living with HIV and AIDS. His contributions to the HIV/AIDS community include time as the Chair of the Community Advisory Board of the New York University Medical School, NYU Langone Medical Center, and Bellevue Hospital Center HIV/Hepatitis/Infectious Diseases Research Networks, and volunteer consultancy to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health. In 2011, Donald was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the VA Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health for his "dedicated service and

commitment to improving the care provided to our nation's veterans."

As president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual (GLB) Veterans of Greater New York, Donald's leadership inspired GLB veterans who were discharged from the military for "homosexual conduct" to demand the respect and honor due for their faithful service. When unforeseen circumstances forced the closing of the GLB Veterans' office in January 2014, Donald went once again to action. Concerned that decades of activism and records of the discriminatory treatment of GLB veterans would be lost to history, Donald selflessly volunteered hours of his expertise to a coalition dedicated to preserving the GLB Veterans' archives. In March 2014, Donald singlehandedly organized, securely packaged, and transported sixteen boxes of archived records to a secure storage site in Bronx, New York. His continued stewardship of the records protects the memory of military veterans who faithfully served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere. It is impossible to calculate the value of Donald's contributions to GLB veterans' recognition and equality in New York City and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS AND CAREER ACHIEVE-
MENTS OF DR. SCOTT GERALD
BORG, WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVEL-
OPING AMERICA'S ANTARCTIC
RESEARCH PROGRAM INTO ONE
OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND
ACCOMPLISHED IN THE WORLD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Dr. Scott Gerald Borg of Fairfax Virginia, for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the career achievement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Dr. Borg serves as the Head of the Section for Antarctic Sciences within the National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs. According to the Partnership for Public Service, under Dr. Borg's direction, the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research program has become one of the most esteemed and comprehensive on the continent. Today, Dr. Borg plays a critical role in guiding the U.S. Antarctic science program that supports cutting-edge research across a range of topics, including climate change, the origins and nature of the universe, and the discovery of new species of extinct dinosaurs.

The work being facilitated by Dr. Borg and his colleagues is truly groundbreaking research. For example, Dr. Borg's leadership is credited with overcoming numerous technical and logistical challenges that enabled the National Science Foundation to complete the West Antarctic Ice Sheet drilling project, which extracted ice core that dates back 68,000 years and represents the highest-resolution record of climate obtained to date. Further, Dr. Borg also oversaw the development of clean drilling technology that retrieved the first-ever pure water samples from an Antarctic lake a half mile below the surface of ice sheet. These samples are estimated to have been sealed under the ice for approximately 15 million years, and may enable researchers to understand what types of life can survive on other worlds.

Being named a finalist by the Partnership for Public Service is just the latest honor in Dr. Borg's outstanding and celebrated career that has made tremendous contributions to the global research community and elevated the prestige of Federal scientific research over the past two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dr. Scott Gerald Borg for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Medal. Dr. Borg and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Dr. Borg and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our thanks and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION
AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF
CAPTAIN ROBERT "BOB" RAS-
MUSSEN, USN (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize retired Navy Captain Robert "Bob" Rasmussen for his lifetime of honorable service and dedication to our great Nation on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola.

A native of Sacramento, California, Bob was born on May 26, 1930, and entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1951. He excelled in flight training school at NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola, both located in Northwest Florida, and was assigned to a fighter squadron in San Diego, California, where he deployed on multiple occasions to the Western Pacific aboard the carrier USS *Philippine Sea*. In 1956, he was selected to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels. For three years, he awed and inspired millions of Americans flying flight demonstrations as the right wing pilot and number four slot. Bob continued his tours at sea in Fighter Squadron 33 aboard the USS *Intrepid* and as a Flag Lieutenant to