

Deputy Commander Atlantic Fleet before completing the Navy Postgraduate School program in Monterey, California. In 1966, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 111 aboard the USS *Oriskany*, where he completed two combat tours in Vietnam and served as first Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer. Before returning to combat in Vietnam as the prospective Air Wing SIXTEEN Commander, subsequently selected for Captain and assigned as Chief of Staff and Operations Officer of Carrier Division SEVEN and then as Commanding Officer of the ammunition ship USS *Mount Hood*, Bob completed a tour in our Nation's capital region.

After the end of the war, he served as Commanding Officer of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico before later returning to Washington to command the Aviation Officer Distribution Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. Following three decades of service as one of the finest Naval aviators in history, recording 650 carrier traps and with more than 5,000 flight hours logged, as many servicemembers do, Bob found his way back to Pensacola where he completed his Naval service in 1983 as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Aviation Schools Command. Throughout his prestigious career, he received many awards, including three Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Bronze Star.

Bob's love for aviation, however, remained, and his artistic prowess proved too strong, as he went on to serve as the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Director of Development for four years before becoming Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum in 1987. During his tenure there, he produced hundreds of naval aviation watercolor pieces and several bronze sculpture works for the Museum, the Foundation, and several other historic venues, earning him the R.G. Smith Award for excellence in naval aviation art. As a direct result of his efforts, the Naval Aviation Museum more than tripled in size and remains the most successful Naval museum in the country as close to one million people visit and enjoy the museum each year.

My wife Vicki and I join Northwest Florida—and a grateful Nation—in thanking Captain Bob Rasmussen for his more than six decades of admirable military and public service and wish him all the best as he takes off in his retirement alongside his wife, Phyllis; their children, Kathryn and Eric; and grandchildren, Christopher, Ashton, Emily Page, Madison, Avery, and Jack.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST.
BERNADETTE SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the wonderful accomplishments of the St. Bernadette School.

St. Bernadette School, located in Northborough, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Deeply rooted in Catholic ideals, St. Bernadette

School strives to encourage intellectual curiosity, spiritual inspiration, and a high moral compass. Its rigorous academic program, commitment to Catholic values, and diverse student body has led the School to be called the 'Flagship of the Diocese' by the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester.

Since its founding in 1997, St. Bernadette School's enrollment has grown exponentially. The School's current body of approximately 500 students enables it to give students individual attention while holding them to high academic standards.

Through new initiatives, St. Bernadette School has incorporated technology into the learning process. Recently, the School has built a computer lab, a mobile Macintosh lab, and installed interactive whiteboards in every class room. An iPad program was also started in the 2012–2013 academic year, providing every student with additional learning opportunities. Foreign language programs are required at every grade level, in addition to pre-algebra and project-based learning initiatives. This diverse curriculum has resulted in many middle school students at St. Bernadette being selected to the Junior Honor Society, an organization that recognizes achievement in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and citizenship.

St. Bernadette also fosters community through its extra-curricular programs, hosting a variety of family-oriented events and fundraisers throughout the year. The Parent Guild hosts events such as Spree Day, Family Picnic, Walkathon, and more. The parents of St. Bernadette students also coach the school's sports teams, which include basketball, cross country, golf, ski, and track. In addition, students from grades 6–8 are divided into Houses, where they practice leadership and responsibility while planning communal outreach programs.

None of this would be possible without the work of the talented educators and staff members of St. Bernadette School. Principal Deborah C. O'Neil has demonstrated a passionate commitment to the success of her students. Time and time again, this has been exemplified through the School's consistent growth rate and track record of achievements.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of St. Bernadette School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating St. Bernadette School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. ALICE LIPPERT IN DEVELOPING A CRITICAL INFORMATION-SHARING SYSTEM TO COORDINATE THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND POWER COMPANIES FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

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, Ms. Alice Lippert of Fairfax, Virginia, on being se-

lected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the homeland security and law enforcement 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.

Ms. Lippert is one of three United States Department of Energy officials who are being recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the groundbreaking data visual platform, known as EAGLE-I. EAGLE-I is our Nation's first-ever system that can gather and share real-time emergency situation information on power and natural gas infrastructure. As one disaster program manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noted, before EAGLE-I, "It was difficult to get a clear picture of what was going on. Now we rely on the DOE as the authoritative source."

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Ms. Lippert, a senior technical advisor in the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, was instrumental in recognizing that our country's inability to collect and access real-time data on energy infrastructure during an emergency represented a critical vulnerability that hampered the Federal Government's ability to effectively coordinate the response to major natural disasters, such as the destructive Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Ms. Lippert was not satisfied with the status quo emergency response system, which was antiquated and cumbersome in requiring Department personnel to directly contact energy companies to obtain data that would have to be manually entered into a data base. This process could take hours and did not provide Federal, State, and local first-responders with the real-time data they needed to gain situational awareness of a locality's battered power and natural gas infrastructure.

Ms. Lippert took the initiative by contacting two colleagues with subject matter expertise in advanced grid modeling and computer programming. Together, these civil servants worked in-house to build EAGLE-I, which now covers 75 percent of all U.S. electricity customers. However, it was not until October 2012 that EAGLE-I was put to the test, and the true value of Ms. Lippert's leadership and hard work was realized.

In the aftermath of the damaging Hurricane Sandy, our Nation's first-responders and emergency managers had access to regular updates on the grid status in the hard hit areas, enabling decisions to be guided by accurate and up-to-date data and information. As the Department's Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability noted, "These reports were critical to decisions by federal, state and local officials in responding to and recovering from the catastrophe. The power outage reports gave insight to senior DOE leadership and responders that allowed them to make informed decisions, reducing

both the human and economic impacts associated with the storm.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Ms. Alice Lippert on being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Medal. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Ms. Lippert and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our deep gratitude and respect.

MARKING THE PASSING OF JAMES BRADY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of James Scott Brady, a courageous champion in the fight against gun violence and the legacy of lifesaving leadership he leaves behind. Through triumph and tragedy, Jim Brady remained an insistent and impassioned voice of clarity and consequence in our national effort to strengthen our gun laws. His death at age 73 concludes a life defined by public service and personal bravery—and renews the call to action that he made so well for so long.

Jim Brady, a proud alumnus of the flagship institution in his home state, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discovered a life-long passion for public policy after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science.

After graduating, Brady worked with some of the leading American political figures of the late 20th century. As an aide to then-State Senator Everett Dirksen—who would later serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and as the U.S. Senate Minority Leader—Brady deepened an abiding belief in the power of public service to build a better world.

As an advisor to top-level public officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense and the U.S. Senate, Brady became an indispensable counselor and trusted friend to many. He was tapped to serve as Director of Public Affairs and Research for the Reagan-Bush Committee and, following the election, as Spokesperson for the Office of the President-Elect and White House Press Secretary.

On a fateful March in 1981, Jim Brady suffered a gunshot wound to the head during the assassination attempt on President Reagan's life. The road to recovery would be hard, but Jim and his wife, Sarah Brady, would inspire the nation with their resolve.

Strengthened by their own struggle, Jim and Sarah vowed to take a stand on behalf of all victims of gun violence. This couple's heroic leadership challenged our nation to act, and because they did, millions of Americans are safer and many of our communities are more secure.

It took the Bradys six years, seven votes, three administrations, endless strength and boundless courage to enact the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act. But, thanks to their dedication, the Brady bill became the law of the land.

By 2010, the Brady law had blocked felons trying to buy guns more than a million times—an average of 171 felons denied applications to buy firearms a day. Almost 300,000 domestic violence offenders were prevented from buying guns. Thanks to Jim and Sarah Brady, countless families have been spared the tragedy of gun violence.

In recognition of this leadership, Jim Brady was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Today, the White House press secretary addresses the media—and the nation—from the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.

Every day, the Bradys' legacy is felt in lives saved by the law that bears his name. Jim Brady's perseverance challenges all of us to never stop fighting for the common sense gun violence reduction measures our nation needs. Jim Brady was a man of extraordinary wit, charm and courage, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

I hope that it is a comfort to Jim's wife, Sarah, his children and all of his loved ones that so many people across the country share their grief and mourn the loss of such a valiant and dedicated man.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. KENT HILL, DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND CONSUMMATE DEDICATION TO OUR VETERANS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kansas City VA Director Kent Hill, a transformational leader with an open door policy that is known for the unselfish public service that he has provided to our veterans, their families, his staff, and to me in my capacity as United States Representative for the Fifth District of Missouri. I think it is important to recognize the accomplishments of those who professionally serve with distinction. Director Hill has done so modestly without bringing attention on himself.

The scope of his work since 2002 at the Kansas City VA Medical Center included an operating budget of approximately \$260,000,000, approximately 1,500 employees and providing healthcare services to more than 45,000 veterans. He had the added responsibility of opening and overseeing clinical programs, including five Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and the new Honor Annex. In addition, the Kansas City VA Medical Center has a vibrant research and outreach program.

When Kent Hill took over as Director for the Kansas City VA Medical Center, he came in as a veteran who had attended the Air Force Academy and has spent 40 years in Federal service. During his career, he cultivated a successful management style, centered on personal involvement and respect for his staff and the veterans and their families that he served. He was an advocate of the methodology outlined in the book, “The Servant Leader”. His staff worked within a management style that

delegates power, believes in a team approach, motivation, recognition, and at the core; an understanding for the veterans and their issues. He has been a strong advocate for continuing professional growth through education and initiated a mentoring program.

Under Kent Hill's direction, the hospital has undergone a complete floor to floor update and expanded to include: new surgical suites, Women's Clinic, Chiropractic care, state of the art Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Hospice Unit, Blind Rehab Center, Cochlear implant program, Sleep Lab, New Ambulatory Surgery Unit, an OIF/OEF Case Management Program and a new Dialysis Unit.

Access to VA healthcare and services have long been a priority for Director Hill. His management and oversight of veteran access included weekly meetings with clinical leaders to review capacity for appointments and wait times as well as decisions on adding staff and new services. To facilitate easy access for veterans to the programs and services of the Kansas City VA Medical Center, Director Hill originated a Greeter program, a Vet 4 Vet navigator program and shuttle service to and from the parking lots; and a successful and long awaited Veterans Transportation Service became operational. He tackled telephone access and electronic messaging to providers. Director Hill did not stop with services and programs at the main hospital—but placed emphasis on taking VA healthcare outside the parent facility and into the surrounding communities. He activated a Mobile Medical Unit, opened Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and built a community-based Radiation Therapy Building. One of his more noteworthy achievements was the opening of a large outpatient building—the Honor Annex—that houses mental health services, primary care and a women's clinic.

One of the compliments that I have heard often is regarding cleanliness and modernization of the hospital. An example of his receptiveness and desire for a more accessible environment can best be illustrated with the Director's directive to remove glass partitions that had created barriers between staff and veterans. This important move coincided with many communication and outreach initiatives.

During my time in office, I have watched the Kansas City VA gear up for returning veterans from current conflicts while maintaining services to all of our existing veterans. An example of Director Hill's proactive style became evident as the current conflicts brought new mental health problems and illnesses, he called for focused education for his staff on how to identify and help veterans coming home from combat. With the continual evolution of hidden wounds from war, he ensured the staff was trained to identify signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and possible suicide. Expanding of mental health services included veterans having access to Veterans Court as well as a multitude of homeless programs and initiatives. An example of the influence and impact of Director Hill's leadership is the widespread participation of the KCVA staff in the spring and fall community Heart of America Stand Down for homeless veterans. Director Hill can be seen every year personally distributing boots to homeless veterans. Since arriving in Kansas City, Director Hill has championed inner city and rural outreach programs to ensure veterans are aware of their many benefits. His