

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
JOHN L. MURRAY, U.S. ARMY
CONTRACTING COMMAND

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and applaud the achievements of Command Sergeant Major John L. Murray of the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC). Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, ACC includes more than 6,100 military and civilian employees across the globe that provide support to our war fighters by acquiring equipment, supplies, and services vital to our Soldiers' mission and daily needs. Command Sergeant Major Murray will soon retire after more than 35 years of distinguished service to America's Army. He has served with distinction at virtually every level in the Army—from team chief to command sergeant major, the Army's highest enlisted grade. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, initiative and selfless service in the execution of programs supporting the total force of quality Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Command Sergeant Major Murray began his Army career in 1979 as a radio operator, completing initial entry and advanced individual training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Before joining Army Contracting Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal in December 2011, Command Sergeant Major Murray was the Command Sergeant Major for the Expeditionary Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He previously served as Commandant of the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Gordon, Georgia. A former drill sergeant, Command Sergeant Major Murray has served with distinction in a number of critical assignments while deployed to over 20 countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He spent more than five years in Southwest Asia in support of Operations Southern Watch, Desert Storm, Desert Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom with the Joint Communication Support Element MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, the 10th Mountain Division, the 11th Signal Brigade and the 160th Signal Brigade.

While his career accomplishments are many and significant, I wish to highlight Command Sergeant Major Murray's contributions to the establishment of the Army Contracting Command on March 13, 2008. He was one of several key Army leaders who worked tirelessly to create a new major subordinate command from the ground up in record time. His wisdom, insight and vision were essential elements in building the foundation of a global enterprise that awarded and managed more than 190,000 contractual actions valued at more than \$60.9 billion in fiscal year 2013.

Command Sergeant Major Murray also played an important role in the relocation of ACC Headquarters from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Redstone Arsenal in 2011. This move followed the transfer of ACC's parent command, Army Materiel Command (AMC) Headquarters, to Redstone Arsenal from Fort Belvoir, as directed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision in 2005.

While AMC had several years to plan for and transition to its new Alabama home, ACC completed its relocation in less than 18 months. This tremendous accomplishment was a direct result of Command Sergeant Major Murray's inspired leadership, foresight and team-building skills.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank Command Sergeant Major Murray's wife, Ingrid, for supporting her husband and Army families. She served as the Family Readiness Group leader for the 11th Signal Brigade and Signal Corps Regimental Non Commissioned Officer Academy. She has also served as a senior spouse advisor and mentor for other Family Readiness Groups and the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Even the youngest member of the Murray family, John, Jr., was recognized by the Army Surgeon General for encouraging Army family members to "Ask for Help" when contemplating suicide.

The distinctive accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Murray represent a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, Army Contracting Command and the United States Army. We wish Command Sergeant Major Murray, Ingrid and John Jr., all the best in the years ahead.

TIA FRANK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tia Frank for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tia Frank is an 11th grader at HOPE House and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tia Frank 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 Tia Frank 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.

RECOGNIZING SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Slippery Rock University on celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

In 1887, the citizens of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania saw the need for affordable and accessible higher education in their commu-

nity. In less than 18 months, Slippery Rock raised funds, acquired land, erected buildings and gained approval to be a state normal school. Slippery Rock State Normal School opened its doors on March 26, 1889 to its first class of 168 students with its "ultimate object . . . to make the student, as far as possible, an educator." The Norman School became Slippery Rock State Teachers College after it was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1926. In 1960, it was renamed Slippery Rock College and was granted university status in 1983 to become Slippery Rock University.

Today, Slippery Rock University offers a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 8,000 students. The University is a recognized leader in evidence-based planning and decision making. The approximately 80,000 alumni have served in occupations across the spectrum. Slippery Rock University has consistently been recognized not only as one of the best universities in the Northeast but also as a great place to work. Shaped by its normal school heritage, Slippery Rock University is characterized by its commitment to intellectual development, leadership, and civic responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in light of Slippery Rock University's 125th anniversary, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in recognizing its educational leadership in Pennsylvania for more than a century.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MANUFACTURING EXPO AND CONGRATULATING THIS YEAR'S INDUSTRY HONOREES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Oakton Community College, in partnership with NSERVE and with the support of the Tooling and Manufacturing Association, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, North Shore Community Bank and more than 50 local manufacturers, for hosting the 2014 Manufacturing Expo in the suburban Chicago district I represent.

The Expo includes workshops, speakers and student tours of local manufacturers offering young people the opportunity to learn more about American manufacturing and available careers. Since 2008, nearly 2,000 students have benefited from these experiences.

The 2014 Expo is also honoring some of its most outstanding industry partners for demonstrating a true commitment to serving young people and to ensuring our future economic and manufacturing success.

It is my honor to congratulate Terry Iverson of Iverson and Company; John Winzeler of Winzeler Gear; John Rubco of Woodward; and Mark Glennerster and Tara Kandra of John Crane, this year's award recipients.

Since 2008, countless manufacturers have generously opened their doors and welcomed curious students, making these education/business partnerships possible. I am grateful for their excellence and participation. I would also like to recognize all the participating high schools, with Oakton Community College, for

their dedication to providing the next generation with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the 21st Century.

The 2014 Manufacturing Expo is poised to be the most successful to date, and I am so proud that these partnerships are happening in and around the Tenth District.

WILLIAM GRASER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud William Graser for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. William Graser is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by William Graser 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 William Graser 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.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. PEARL RILEY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Pearl Riley and I join her family members and friends on April 6, 2014, in commemorating this special centenarian birthday.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1914, and raised in Alsuma, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa. Pearl and her husband, the late Alonzo Riley, Sr. were married for 50 years and raised eight children. She is the grandmother of twenty two; great grandmother of thirty nine; and great, great grandmother of fourteen. One of Pearl's great loves in life, in addition to her family and gardening, was the church. Throughout her life, she was a regular teacher of both children and adults in Sunday school, drama, arts and crafts, and choir. She also served as her church's President of the District Missionary Society and was a member of the Deaconess and Mother's Board. Outside the church, Pearl was an active member of her community working as a volunteer for voter registration and serving as a community representative.

Pearl Riley has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, the following speech has been delivered to audiences at various veteran service organizations and veteran events in Kansas by a brave young lady named Kristin Stowers who lives in the Big 1st District of Kansas that I represent. After hearing twelve year old Kristin Stowers deliver her remarks on her family's experience with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I wanted to share it with my colleagues in Congress. We could all learn a tremendous amount about sacrifice, commitment, and perseverance from this young lady's remarks.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

(By Kristin Stowers of Hutchinson, Kansas)

It is hard to realize that these amazing people that gave up their lives to save and protect our nation and its people are gone. . . . It makes you see that life is not just a fairy tale ending that we were taught as children, we were taught that it was going to be okay in the end. We now realize you can't win every battle you enter. Some don't make it home to their families, but you have to say to yourself. We were put to the test to complete life a way that we see fit and once you have completed your mission, you wait patiently in your favorite place that you have always found comfortable. Where you wait to see your family that has not yet completed their missions. I know it is hard to coop with what you are going through I had to deal with it, but in a different way.

My mother had a brain tumor and had to have surgery on my first day of kindergarten and had a stroke later on. Our house caught on fire in my fourth grade year and we had to live in a hotel for three months. My father was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and we as a family have to deal with the others sufferings each day. In the last few months we have discovered many other things have gone wrong in our relationship with each other causing more pain than intended. We have not gotten the chance to talk to each other about our problems at home and since the VA does not implement family counseling in their facilities, but they do have spouse counseling. Having said that, I would like to say that the injuries affect the whole family not just the spouse.

PTSD is like a black hole, you get sucked in without even knowing what is happening around you. Your hoping that tomorrow will be better than today, but still hoping that when you come from school or work that the stress has not overcome them and they are laying in their chair. . . . Silent. . . . Dead. With the help of the VA it is still progressing, but still worse than before. It makes me think that he is floating away in a bubble, but God will not leave him without a fight. To this day he is in a battle with PTSD and the prize of the battle is him and us. . . . His family and friends. We are hoping that he wins, but you never know what the outcome will be. That is why we are all here. Every person in the world with PTSD is in a battle. Some lost and some still lead victorious and I trust him to be victorious.

All I ever wanted is for the pain to end and many of you may be thinking the same thing, and I know this is over used but it will

heal with time. I will promise you that it will get better even if it doesn't look like it. Just think they want you to carry on with your life even if it is looking grim at the moment. It takes guts to take that chance that you will never see your smiling family that on the inside is torn from your choices, but know that they are the right ones.

It makes me realize that I will not have a perfect life and no one ever will with our missions, and the people that finish theirs when you're not ready to let go of the memories that you had together. The memories that will and have impacted your world and will leave a crater that you have to live with and have to move on even if you can't. The thoughts and the people will ever be imprinted in our minds and will never leave because the pain will always be demanding. People always think that war is just a thing that can be stopped on the spot, but they don't know the aftershock of the explosion that is a death or an injury that is fatal.

The people that saved us from ourselves and different countries that are or was threatening us. They saved us and our nation from danger and the problems of life. Heroes and Inspirations are these people that risked their own life to save the people that are going to change a million lives or just a few. Humans like this are my inspiration and I hope to be just like them; they changed a thousand people; a thousand points of views on life; and a twelve year old girl that is striving to be an inspiration just like them later on in life.

Many young people have their favorite bands and/or actors as their people to look up too, and sure I have my own but I have many leaders in my life some I can't name but they changed my life no matter what they did to protect me, my family, and my neighbors. They will be remembered as the ones that grew up as the kids that were big hearted and the ones that were strong and brave. The reason we are here is these people wanted to save us and that is what they did and they bought us time.

Time to spend thinking of ways to buy us more time. These warriors spent their lives saving their family and friends and their generations and so on. These are the people that are my heroes and my saviors at the time of need and always will be.

STEPHANIE McDANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie McDaniel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie McDaniel is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie McDaniel 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.