

Catherine, and Caroline. I wish him nothing but success and happiness.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN NEWBY ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian C. Newby on his promotion to the rank of Major General, United States Air Force.

I have known Major General Newby for many years and have the honor of calling him my friend. He is a man of integrity and kindness. He is the epitome of what a General should be.

Major General Newby was born in Dayton, Ohio, but attended Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. He was commissioned in 1983 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at Texas Tech University and earned a law degree from the University of Texas Law School in 1986.

For more than 25 years he has been a true National Guardsman, serving his country while also working at senior positions in government and at a top legal firm.

He served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Texas Air National Guard before being promoted to Brigadier General.

Major General Newby also served as Chief of Staff to former Texas Governor Rick Perry and in that capacity co-chaired the State of Texas' recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike. He also served as the Governor's General Counsel before being appointed to serve as Chief of Staff.

He currently holds an Of Counsel position at Canley Hanger, LLP of Fort Worth while also maintaining his own legal practice.

Major General Newby has been and continues to be an incredible public servant.

RECOGNIZING PAUL GROMOSIAK FOR HIS SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO THE NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Mr. Paul Gromosiak for his passionate support of and commitment to the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls State Park. As a tribute to his hard work and dedication, a monument will be placed at Heritage Park commemorating his impact on the community.

As a committed life-long Western New Yorker, Mr. Gromosiak has inspired countless individuals who have come to visit the Niagara Falls State Park. He graduated from Niagara University with a B.S. in Chemistry and went on to receive a permanent certification in mathematics as well as in chemistry and general science from the State University of New York.

Mr. Gromosiak has spent countless hours walking the park and helping visitors learn

more about the nation's oldest park. Moreover, he has authored numerous books about the place that means so much to him. In addition to being a well-respected historian, he is also an engaging teacher and a dedicated leader in the community. He worked as a chemistry teacher in the Niagara Falls School District as well as a chemist for both the Eastman Kodak Company and the Hooker Chemical Company.

Mr. Gromosiak is frequently interviewed by national and local media for his insight on the history and continued progress of Niagara Falls. In 1989, Mr. Gromosiak appeared on the CBS program "America Tonight" for a special segment on the environment surrounding Niagara Falls. He served as a guest columnist for The Buffalo News and The Niagara Gazette. Furthermore, he was consulted in 1993 by Canada's weekly news magazine MacLean's for information on the storied custom of honeymooning in the Falls. In 1997, he was featured in the PBS documentary "Fading in the Mist," speaking about efforts to maintain the natural environment of Niagara Falls. Mr. Gromosiak also contributed to a web page on the history of Niagara Falls.

Mr. Gromosiak has been an avid fighter for the City of Niagara Falls and has championed projects such as the Niagara Experience Center as well as the relocation of the Stone Chimney. His ideas have sparked interest in and made the region's history more accessible to the public, as exemplified by his emphasis on history as an experience.

Family and friends of Mr. Gromosiak can attend the event to unveil the monument in his honor. It takes place on Friday, July 10th at 11pm at Heritage Park on Main and Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Mr. Paul Gromosiak. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gromosiak for his vital influence on the City of Niagara Falls, the State Park, and the community. His outstanding impact is derived from a deep understanding of the region's rich history, an innovative vision for its future, and a passion for its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE, ISLANDS AND SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Established in 1915, this Chapter of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts has served as a lifeline within our community—responding to the needs of residents and visitors alike by providing food, shelter and other disaster assistance in emergencies, teaching life-saving skills, and organizing blood drives. The Cape, Islands, and Southeast Chapter reaches a population of more than 1.2 million people across Barnstable, Bristol, Plymouth, Nantucket and Dukes counties and saves millions more from suffering the harm or loss of a loved one.

The American Red Cross of Massachusetts has served as a pillar for our community

through the world's most trying times and through local and regional challenges. During the First World War, the Red Cross notably sent nurses to treat recovering soldiers and undertook initiatives such as knitting over 90,000 pairs of socks and treating the sick infected with influenza during the height of the epidemic. In 1955 when Hurricanes Edna, Carol and Hazel hit Massachusetts the Chapter provided shelter and food services to over 200 people across Cape Cod. By 1991, the number of people it was able to provide shelter to had increased to 17,000. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks the Chapter's blood drives was inundated with willing volunteers that individuals were asked to return at a later date. Chapter volunteers responded once again when Hurricane Katrina struck the shores of the southern United States by sending volunteers down to the areas hardest hit. And, most recently, when tragedy struck closer to home at the Boston Marathon in 2013, Chapter volunteers were quick to become involved in relief efforts.

Furthermore, this Chapter has a global reach. Volunteers have gone on to serve in the International Red Cross across the globe, from war-torn Afghanistan to impoverished African nations. Chapter volunteers exemplify the Red Cross' mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. I am proud of the work they have done in Southeast Massachusetts and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross. I take comfort knowing that this Chapter will remain a vital humanitarian organization in not only the Commonwealth, but across the nation and the world, for generations to come.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this amendment is critically important. The designation of the Northern Long Eared Bat as threatened has had a significant impact on the Ninth District of Georgia, despite the fact that the only evidence it is there is a geo-tagged dot on a map.

These bats are listed as threatened because White Nose Syndrome has led to a drastic decline in their population. Humans don't cause White Nose Syndrome but they are being penalized for it. There are some counties in my district where the bat has never been seen, but because they're in the bat's "range" they are subject to burdensome restrictions.

A construction project for a new interchange in my home, Hall County, was delayed because of the need to survey for the bat.

What's worse, even if no bats are found during the preconstruction bat survey, Fish and Wildlife Service requires a clearing restriction in construction contracts for prime-building months if certain factors contributing to a quality bat habitat are present. These types of restrictions increase prices and create unnecessary and burdensome delays on important infrastructure projects. Similar restrictions can also negatively affect other sectors such as forestry, ranching, and utilities.

The underlying bill takes important steps to address the problematic requirements associated with the bat's status as a threatened species. This amendment goes the extra step to prevent the current situation from getting even worse by prohibiting the use of funds to list the Northern Long Eared Bat as endangered.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY MATHIASSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jerry Mathiasen of Council Bluffs. Jerry was recently named the president and CEO of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF). He had previously served as the interim president and CEO at PCCF before his most recent post. PCCF serves as a community builder within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area by leveraging partnerships and providing grants across the county to improve the lives of its citizens.

As a native of Council Bluffs, Jerry returned home after serving in the administration of Governor Terry Branstad for 14 years. Once home, he gave his time and talents to the Iowa West Foundation for almost 18 years. Jerry has had a long, successful career as a philanthropic leader and has earned the title of President and CEO of PCCF.

I applaud and congratulate Jerry for his recent promotion to President and CEO of PCCF. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Jerry and wishing him nothing but continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #417 on House Amendment 64 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING CHANCELLOR WILLIAM "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator and faithful public servant, Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan, for his years of faithful dedication to the University System of Maryland. After 46 years as an exemplary advocate of educational excellence, Mr. Kirwan retired last month. I would like to thank him for his passion, dedication, and commitment to the students of Maryland. From his 24 years as a faculty member, to his decade serving as President of the University of Maryland, College Park, and on to his 12 year tenure as Chancellor of the Maryland University System, Chancellor Kirwan has touched and contributed to the lives of countless Marylanders. In addition to his stewardship of Maryland's institutions of higher education, Chancellor Kirwan has also been a national thought leader on a wide range of topics including innovation, academic transformation and higher education's role in economic development. Among others, Chancellor Kirwan has received the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, the Tech Council of Maryland's Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, the Regional Visionary Award from the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's Public Service Award. His achievements speak for themselves. Chancellor Kirwan's services have been greatly appreciated and his efforts will be sorely missed. I congratulate Chancellor Kirwan on his many accomplishments and wish him all the best in his retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan for his years of leadership and excellence in the education of Maryland's students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes #390 through 391. Had I been present,

On Roll Call #390, Motion to Close Portions of the Conference on H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, I would have voted YES;

On Roll Call #391, Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 91—Veteran's I.D. Card Act, I would have voted YES.

TRIBUTE TO KNAPP PROPERTIES INC.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Knapp

Properties, Incorporated of Des Moines, Iowa. Knapp Properties was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past 75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Knapp Properties has lived up to these goals and strives to treat all of their associates with the same respect and integrity that they would expect in return. This attitude spreads throughout the entire organization from their President, Gary Neugent.

I applaud and congratulate Knapp Properties for earning this prestigious award. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Knapp Properties Inc. and wishing them nothing but continued success in the future.

IRAN

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the Chairman and the Members of her subcommittee.

I rise today with grave concerns about this agreement that could very well lead to an increased likelihood of a nuclear Iran.

This outcome is unacceptable and the consequences would have harmful effects on our country and the region.

Simply put, we cannot trust a country that continues to sponsor and sanction terrorism against U.S. interests and actively promotes the destruction of our strongest ally in the Middle East—Israel.

The United States must limit opportunities for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons rather than providing avenues for the spread of such weapons.

A nuclear Iran will be very unlikely to respond to peaceful international intervention. By permitting Iran to obtain nuclear weapons capability—even after 10 years—we will increase the likelihood of future military action in the Middle East.

This will increase the burden on our already strained military and put the brave men and women of our armed forces at risk unnecessarily—while increasing the possibility of further destabilization in multiple countries in the Middle East.

Additionally, by lifting the sanctions on Iran and releasing the money held in accounts held abroad will we be promoting the further funding by Iran of terrorist activities and groups such as Hamas and the Taliban. Strengthening a regime well known for state sponsorship of terrorism goes against all reason.

Further, we can be sure that other countries are looking at this agreement with Iran as a bellwether of permissive activity. If one country in the region is allowed by the United States to obtain a nuclear weapon, surely others will look to follow suit.

It's my belief that Congress should step up the pressure and reject any agreement that