

the citizens of Eastern Washington and wish him the best of luck in the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE 51ST PASSAGE OF THE “FOOD STAMP ACT”

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 51st anniversary of the “Food Stamp Act” of 1964, an act that strengthened the agricultural economy and improved levels of nutrition among low income households.

This impactful legislative achievement was passed by the historic 88th Congress of the United States, and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 31, 1964.

During the 1960’s our nation was in the midst of the biggest legislative civil rights battle since the ratification of the 14th amendment of the Constitution, which addressed citizenship rights and equal protection under the law.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to imagine that during a time where the country was experiencing its largest uninterrupted period of economic expansion, American families were battling a war on poverty.

Leaders like President Johnson, who himself grew up in a poverty stricken family in Stonewall, Texas, had a firsthand account of these struggles that many American families faced on a daily basis.

President Johnson took action and pursued an agenda, which he called “The Great Society.”

The “Food Stamp Act” is a legislative victory for his agenda that benefits those Americans who are living below the poverty line, by providing a sustainable source of food.

The impact of this legislation was simple; it helped put food on tables.

In my city of Houston, Texas, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has helped establish nine major Food Banks that serve the city and its citizens with providing the much needed access to nutrition for families and individuals who otherwise would be unable to afford it without programs created by the “Food Stamp Act.”

As President Johnson remarked when he signed this act that it, “weds the best of the humanitarian instincts of the American people with the best of the free enterprise system.”

The most important benefactors of this program have been the children of this nation.

The “Food Stamp Act” at the time when it was signed into law assisted 17 million children by giving them access to hot lunches in their schools.

For many of these children this was the first time they had a lunch while at school.

Mr. Speaker, hunger in our nation does not see color or sex or religion. This is a problem that affects us all no matter our background.

While simultaneously strengthening our markets for the farmers, the “Food Stamp Act” has immeasurably improved the volume of retail food sales in our nation and around the world.

Our national food abundance should be continuously used constructively not only to

combat hunger in our communities but also to help other nations through trade as well as to assist them in providing lunches for some 40 million school children throughout the developing world.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I am proud to remember the positive impact that the “Food Stamp Act” has had on our communities, and nation as a whole, along with the millions of lives it has improved over the decades.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM GRIGGS’ SERVICE AS WYANDOTTE CITY CLERK

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Griggs for his forty two years of service to the city of Wyandotte. First elected in 1973, Bill is one of the longest serving public officials in the Downriver communities.

Bill is described by his colleagues as dedicated and kind, and is praised in the community for the dignity and professionalism he has brought to the clerk’s office. His presence as a leading voice in Wyandotte has been recognized by generations of residents, and with the dedication of the City Council chambers in his honor will be recognized by many more.

Bill has served as a role model in our community, serving as the director of Wyandotte’s adaptive recreation program and on the Board of Directors for the National Wheelchair Athletics Committee. He inspired people with disabilities with his participation in the 1968 and 1972 Paralympics Games, and was inducted into the Michigan Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor William Griggs for his forty two years of service and his lasting impact on the Wyandotte community. I thank him for his leadership, and wish him many years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JESSICA BUTLER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Jessica Butler for her service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California over the past two and a half years.

Ms. Butler was born in Wharton, Texas to Robert and Carol Butler and spent her youth in Bay City, Texas with her siblings, Sarah and Sam. After completing her high school education, Ms. Butler studied poultry science and food safety at Texas A&M University and Auburn University.

After college, Jessica accepted a Fellowship with Congressman DEVIN NUNES through the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Federation of Animal Science Societies. Her work in Mr. NUNES’ office led her to discover her passion for policy. After completing her fellowship, she joined my office

as my Legislative Assistant and became one of the few individuals who can say they worked for every Portuguese Republican from California in the House of Representatives. During her time in my office, she handled several legislative portfolios, including agriculture, energy, healthcare, homeland security, immigration, trade, and water. Last year, she was promoted to Legislative Director and handled my work on the Appropriations committee.

On August 1, 2015, Ms. Butler’s time in my office will come to an end. Ms. Butler is returning to Texas, where she will marry Mr. Nathan Russell, a nuclear plant operator who has loved her since their freshman year of high school, on September 19, 2015. While I know her family will be happy to have her back in the Lone Star State, she will be greatly missed as a member of my team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commanding Jessica Butler for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her well in this next chapter of her life.

TO HONOR THE TEXAS JOB CORPS GRADUATES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of the recent graduates of the Texas Job Corps Centers.

The four Job Corps centers in Texas have served the people of our great state for over 50 years, providing a no-cost education and career technical training program that helps young Texans from ages 16 to 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training.

By graduating from the Job Corps, these young men and women have proven that they have skills and determination to succeed and be valuable contributors to communities throughout Texas and the country.

On behalf of the people of the 29th Congressional District of Texas, I would like to congratulate the 2015 Job Corps graduates of all four centers in our state—David L. Carrasco Job Corps, Gary Job Corps, Laredo Job Corps, and North Texas Job Corps.

I would also like to recognize the Texas Job Corps for their half century of success and say thank you for the service the Job Corps Program and its graduates have provided to Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL JAMES A. WINNEFELD, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., who is retiring July 31, 2015, after serving with distinction for more than 37 years, culminating

his career as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Throughout his service as a senior military leader, Admiral Winnefeld has provided this body, and in particular the House Armed Services Committee, with invaluable testimony and candid military advice. Over the last four years, Admiral Winnefeld has served as the ninth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I think I speak for all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee when I say his vast experience, knowledge, outstanding leadership and professionalism combined with his deep respect and consideration for all of our service men and women will be greatly missed.

During his tenure as Vice Chairman, he provided military advice to not only the legislative branch, but also to the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a wide range of complex military and national security issues during an extremely challenging period in our country's history.

In this challenging fiscal and security environment, Admiral Winnefeld helped lead our military through global events and threats to include the Department of Defense's rebalance to the Pacific, Iraq troop withdrawal, Afghanistan transition, the global threat of ISIL, instability in Syria and Russia's provocative actions in Eastern Europe. In addition, the Vice Chairman played key roles in advising our nation's leaders on and formulating plans for various counterterrorism efforts.

As Vice Chairman, he led the development and implementation of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, an effort that involved thousands of senior leadership man-hours. Pivotal to his role as the Vice Chairman he also chaired the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (or JROC), where he worked tirelessly to transform the requirements processes to become more agile, transparent and inclusive. He focused its efforts on the immediate capability needs of the Combatant Commanders and the most pressing military issues of the Joint Warfighter. As co-chair of the Defense Acquisition Board, Admiral Winnefeld worked to link the requirements, resource and acquisition communities in developing programs to deliver appropriate capabilities to the Joint Warfighter at the right time and for the right price. Admiral Winnefeld's work as a co-chair of the nuclear weapons council ensured our military's nuclear enterprise and number one priority remained viable and relevant as a strategic deterrent to our nation's adversaries.

Admiral Winnefeld graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology and received his commission from the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He subsequently served with three fighter squadrons flying the F-14 Tomcat and as an instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School. Admiral Winnefeld's unit commands at sea include Fighter Squadron 211, USS *Cleveland* (LPD 7) and USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65). He led "Big E" through her 18th deployment, which included combat operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom immediately after the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, 2001. As Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO/Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, he led Task Forces 50, 152 and 58 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and maritime interception operations in the Arabian Gulf. He also served as

Commander, United States SIXTH Fleet, Commander NATO Allied Joint Command Lisbon and Commander Striking and Support Forces NATO.

His shore tours include service in the Joint Staff Operations Directorate (J-3), as Senior Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as Executive Assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. As a flag officer he served ashore as director, Warfare Programs and Transformational Concepts, United States Fleet Forces Command, as Director of Joint Innovation and Experimentation at United States Joint Forces Command and as the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) on the Joint Staff. Prior to becoming the Vice Chairman, Admiral Winnefeld served as the Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM).

As the Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM, Admiral Winnefeld led historic advances in the working relationship between USNORTHCOM, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs and Boarder Protection and the National Guard, specifically with the Dual-Status Commander concept. In addition, he led the U.S.-Mexican military-to-military relationship to a historic level of collaboration and brought very tangible results to our Nations' important struggle against the fast-growing transnational criminal organizations. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Admiral Winnefeld culminated a long and distinguished career in the service of our nation and his tenure leaves a lasting positive legacy to the Armed Forces. I appreciate his extraordinary reflected great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, and the Department of Defense.

For nearly forty years Admiral Winnefeld has performed his duty professionally, honestly and with great dedication. Our nation will miss his leadership and expertise.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing him and his family all the best as he moves to the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING COL. CHUCK HODGES' SERVICE TO JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend and Commander of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, U.S. Army Colonel Charles Hodges, Jr.

COL Hodges will leave command next month after a tremendously successful three years at JBLM. He has played a critical role in the implementation of joint basing and has proved the success of the program to both the Department of Defense and the Army. In addition, his partnership with the surrounding community is unprecedented. He has strengthened an already robust relationship between the base and community by finding creative solutions to issues such as traffic congestion and noise abatement.

COL Hodges has also been instrumental in ensuring our separating troops can pursue job

training and career opportunities. He has worked to develop resources in the surrounding community and at the state and federal levels to provide transition assistance for all veterans.

The Army will be losing a strong leader when COL Hodges retires later this year after a long and impressive career in the Army. He started his service in the summer of 1985 when he enlisted in the Florida National Guard as an 11B Infantryman. After being commissioned as an Infantry Officer and Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Central Florida (UCF) he completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School and Ranger School. He was then assigned to Germany and 3-5 Cavalry in the 3rd Armored Division. While there he participated in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After returning from Germany and completing the required military schooling, he commanded A Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (ASSLT) in the Republic of Korea; and Company H, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) in Arlington, Virginia.

In 2001-2002, COL Hodges attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth and was then assigned to Fort Lewis, where he served as a Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, (Tomahawks); and as the Operations Officer of 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. While there, he was part of the team that certified the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team and deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served as the Chair of the Military Science Department at Duke University. In 2007, he returned to Fort Lewis and took command of 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. He commanded the battalion for three years, and he deployed it to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After command, he was selected to serve as the Director of Training, G3, for I Corps. After attending the United States Army War College, COL Hodges took command of the newly created Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in August of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize COL Hodges' successful and decorated career. I commend him for his service, leadership, and dedication. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by his family including his wife Kathy and their children Shelby and Sam.

The State of Washington and our country owe COL Hodges a debt of gratitude for his work and dedication to our country. We thank him for his service to our country and congratulate him as he begins the next chapter of his career.

COMMENDING UNITED STATES-TURKEY MILITARY COOPERATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the announcement made last Thursday that Incirlik Air Base in Turkey will now be made available for both unmanned and manned airstrikes