

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.

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

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**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.

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COMMENDING UNITED STATES-TURKEY MILITARY COOPERATION

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**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

against the Islamic State. The announcement indicates a substantial increase in cooperation with our longstanding NATO ally, the Republic of Turkey. The enhanced operations will include the direct involvement of the Turkish Air Force in conjunction with our own military.

In recent days, Islamic State terrorists have stepped up their attacks on Turkey. On July 20, a suicide bomber took the lives of 32 innocent civilians near a cultural center in Suruc, Turkey. On July 23, a non-commissioned Turkish officer was killed in an armed attack at a military border post at Elbeyli, Turkey. I wish to express my sincere condolences to our friends in Turkey for these losses, which provide further evidence of the barbaric nature of the terrorist forces now dominating much of Syria and Iraq.

It is more essential than ever that we deepen our cooperation with key allies like Turkey as we seek to bring peace and security to a troubled region. I wish to commend the continued cooperative efforts of the military leadership in both the United States and the Republic of Turkey. It is essential that this bond between our countries remains strong as we confront this strategic challenge.

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TRIBUTE TO KATIE ROTH

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**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Katie Roth for being named the 2015 Woman Business Owner of the Year by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a group of standout female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Ms. Roth got her start in the news business after earning her Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Iowa. With hard work and her natural leadership qualities, Ms. Roth quickly worked her way up in the ranks, until ultimately she decided to open the doors of Portico Staffing. Since founding Portico Staffing, Ms. Roth has continued to grow the business through hard work and determination to succeed.

Ms. Roth has selflessly dedicated her time and talents to improving the lives of others. When she isn't busy expanding the size and scope of her business she invests her time in mentoring others, helping to foster the next generation of Iowa's leaders. Ms. Roth's high ethical standards and level of achievement have given her the necessary qualifications to receive this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ms. Roth in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Rep-

resentatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this distinguished award, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

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RECOGNIZING BASF ON THEIR  
150TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize BASF on their 150th Anniversary. Their longevity as a company is a testament to their innovative products, the drive of their leaders, and the hard work of their employees. BASF's presence in the United States goes back to the 1950s, and today they employ over 15,000 Americans in more than 30 states. They deserve to be commended for this milestone anniversary.

BASF is a pillar of our community in Southeast Michigan. Specifically, their plant in Wyandotte, Michigan employs over 1,000 people in good paying, high skilled jobs. Notable is their dedication to community relations and charitable activities. The company played a critical role in the founding of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the only international wildlife refuge in this country. They worked to restore Fighting Island in the Detroit River so it is suitable for wildlife habitat, and they contributed to the trails in the Humboldt Marsh unit, among numerous other activities. Their dedication to conservation, and giving back to the community, is to be commended.

When BASF was founded 150 years ago, nobody would have imagined how large the company would grow or the impact they would have on the world. Today, they continue to produce innovative products while also being responsible corporate stewards. This is significant in today's world and deserves praise. Congratulations to everyone at BASF as you celebrate your 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 150 years of success and community contributions of BASF.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, from Friday, July 24, 2015 through Tuesday, July 28, 2015, I was out of the country participating in the congressional delegation accompanying President Obama on his diplomatic visits to Kenya and Ethiopia. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 467 I would have voted Aye (S. 1482, Need-Based Education Aid Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 468 I would have voted Aye (H.R. 1656, Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 469 I would have voted Aye (Amendment to H.R. 2770, Keep Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 470 I would have voted No (On Ordering Previous Question for H. Res. 380,

providing for consideration of H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 471 I would have voted No (On H. Res. 380, providing for consideration of H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 472 I would have voted Aye (H.R. 675, Veterans Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 473 I would have voted No (Young Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 474 I would have voted No (Smith of Missouri Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 475 I would have voted Aye (Johnson of Georgia Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 476 I would have voted Aye (Capps Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 477 I would have voted Aye (Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 478 I would have voted Aye (Jackson Lee/Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 479 I would have voted Aye (Nadler Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call No. 480 I would have voted Aye (Pocan Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call No. 481 I would have voted Aye (Motion to Recommit H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call No. 482 I would have voted No (On Passage of H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

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RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

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**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Social Security Act into law—establishing the groundbreaking programs of Medicare and Medicaid and guaranteeing that a wide range of health and medical services would be available to millions of Americans previously ineligible or unable to attain basic healthcare.

Prior to this law, over half of our nation's seniors did not have access to health insurance. Yet one year after its establishment, 19 million seniors and disabled individuals were provided coverage. That figure has grown dramatically; for the last half century, Medicare and Medicaid have provided vital healthcare