

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
JENNIFER WALTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brigadier General Jennifer Walter on her retirement from the Iowa Air National Guard. In 2012, General Walter became the first female general officer in the history of the Iowa Air National Guard. She now retires with 40 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard.

General Walter received her first commission of Second Lieutenant in 1986 after attending Officer Training School at the Academy of Military Science. Before becoming the first female general officer of the Iowa Air National Guard in 2012, General Walter served in numerous command positions, among them as the first female Iowa Air National Guard group commander, squadron commander, and non-medical colonel. General Walter has deployed in operations around the world, including Operation Southern Watch in Al Jaber, Kuwait, and as the 755th Air Expeditionary Group Commander with the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

General Walter's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity Service, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device (more than 37 years of service), Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, NATO medal, and the Iowa National Guard Meritorious Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent General Walter in the United States Congress, and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for years of dedicated service to the United States of America. I invite my colleagues in the United States House or Representatives to join me in congratulating her on her retirement, and wishing her nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF JOY McDUFFIE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie, whose death on November 21st, 2015 at age 59 was a loss not only to her large and loving family and friends but to my hometown of Buffalo, New York where she was a true champion for fairness and equality in the city she loved so much.

A woman of courage and conviction, Joy McDuffie will be long remembered as a highly

respected and motivated community activist dedicated to social justice, fair housing and a better future for Buffalo's children.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Joy was the third of twelve children. She personified her belief in the value of life-long education as she earned her associate's and bachelor's degrees and eventually received her master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Buffalo at age 50. Her work ethic was indisputable as she served as a business analyst in the private sector, and put her experience and social skills to great success as the owner and operator of "Club Joy."

She would later use her experience as the owner of a development company that purchased and restored homes as a GIS analyst and housing counselor with the Western New York Law Center. In this capacity, Joy McDuffie brought real data and a real commitment to ensure increased opportunities and greater access for all those wanting to own their own home.

Her passion for stronger neighborhoods and no-nonsense approach to problem solving made her an ideal Chairperson for the Distressed Properties Task Force in the City of Buffalo. She was a force as, under her leadership, this committee was re-energized with a renewed focus on reducing vacant and abandoned properties in the city she fought for and helped make so much stronger.

COLONEL GLENN W. SANDERS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Glenn W. Sanders for his past three years of dedicated service as a Legislative Liaison for the Army Reserve. I wish him well in his next assignment as an instructor at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Colonel Sanders is currently assigned as the Legislative Liaison for the 81st Regional Support Command at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. During the last three years, he supported Army Reserve units across the southeastern United States, meeting with Congressional staff and Federal, State and Local elected officials.

Prior to this assignment, Colonel Sanders served one year in the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Afghanistan, working as the Executive Officer to the Command's Operations Officer. From 2008 to 2011, he served on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Fellow and then as a Liaison in the Army House Liaison Division. His previous assignments include Mobilization Division Chief, Assistant Professor of Military Science, Battalion Operations Officer, Detachment Commander, Battery Commander, Squadron Fire Support Officer, Battery Executive Officer, Troop Fire Support Officer and Platoon Leader.

Colonel Sanders holds a Masters of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College; a Masters of Public Administration from California State University, Northridge; a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside; and a Certificate in Legislative Studies

from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

He is a graduate of the Army War College, Reserve Component National Security Course, Defense Strategy Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Field Artillery Basic and Advanced Officer Courses.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, United Nations Medal, NATO Medal and Army Staff Identification Badge. He is a recipient of the Order of Saint Maurice from the National Infantry Association.

I wish Colonel Sanders, his wife Kari and his daughters Kira and Kelli well as they move to Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE
OKAMOTO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Okamoto for his four years of service on the Foster City City Council, and for his many significant contributions to our community.

During his term, Steve was instrumental in accomplishing many objectives that have shaped Foster City. The parks system was built out as Werder Park and Destination Park were completed this year. In 2014, the city's smoking ordinance was implemented, the implementation of the fire management shared services model with San Mateo and Belmont was completed, a gatekeeper ordinance for development projects was implemented, a synthetic softball/soccer field at Edgewater Park was completed, and a 15-acre site was sold and developed into the new Foster Square. In 2013, Phase III of the Levee Pedway Repair Project was completed, a synthetic soccer/baseball field at Sea Cloud Park and a synthetic soccer field/walking track at Port Royal Park were completed and finally the voters approved Business License Tax Measure U.

Additionally, Steve served on the Airport Community Roundtable, the Airport Land Use Committee, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, as the liaison to the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District, and as the liaison to the City's Parks and Recreation Commission.

Steve's commitment to the residents and community of Foster City has been unshakable. He has been a resident for over 34 years and he and his wife Diana have raised their family there. They are the proud parents of two grown children, Brad, 32 and Katie, 31.

Steve was born in San Francisco, attended Lowell High School, and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in business. He had a successful career in the financial industry for almost four decades and then worked for the American Cancer Society for ten years raising tens of millions of dollars for the agency. When he was elected to the city council, he retired from the American Cancer Society so that he could devote all of his time and energy to his new responsibilities.

During his service, he's been a voice of reason and responsibility while on the city council, and a person deeply concerned about the

future of his community. I take special note of his concern about the impact of airport noise on the residents of Foster City. For several years, he has served on the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable and worked closely with my office to reduce the number of overflights of jet aircraft approaching San Francisco International Airport. His work culminated in a recent agreement with the FAA that would, in part, have the FAA examine whether it is feasible to use a slightly different approach to the airport. If, at some point in the future, the residents of Foster City sleep better at night, they will have Steve Okamoto, in part, to thank for that outcome.

In his broader public service, Steve has for years educated our community about the civil rights tragedy that we know as the internment

of Japanese American citizens at the start of World War II. He and his committee of volunteers are actively raising funds to create a memorial at the site of the Tanforan Assembly Center that was the starting point for the transportation of Japanese Americans into the heartland of America during a time when racism and a failure of political leadership allowed our fellow citizens to be incarcerated for no reasons other than fear and bigotry. Steve was himself interned in his early years. America has since apologized for this historic injustice, and when the Tanforan Memorial is constructed it will be a lasting reminder in our community that we can never let anger and bigotry trample the civil rights of our fellow Americans.

Deeply dedicated to the dignity of seniors, Steve also serves as honorary chair of Komochi, San Mateo, a community service organization that delivers services in the Japanese tradition of respect and care for the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an extraordinary public servant, human being and good friend. Steve Okamoto is one of the most conscientious people I know, and he has always dedicated himself entirely to any task at hand. When Steve speaks, our community listens. When we look amongst us for an outstanding citizen, we see Steve Okamoto. We will miss him in public life, but will certainly have his guidance through private actions for years to come.