

The members include conservatory graduates and professional musicians as well as some who only played in their youth.

The mission of these musical groups is to bring the legal community together in harmony to perform concerts and raise funds for organizations providing legal services for those who cannot afford them as well as for other charitable causes and civic events. The Big Band has performed concerts for the American Diabetes Association, the American Legion, Shriners Hospitals for Children, The Thalians, Magen David Adom, the City of Hope, Hollywood Remembers World AIDS Day, Ascencia (raising funds for housing for the homeless), the Beverly Hills Bar Association's 80th and 85th Anniversaries, Loyola Law School's 50th Anniversary and for justices of the California Supreme Court.

On Friday evening, July 14, 2017, Maestro Greene and the Big Band of Barristers will perform in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress. Speakers at this program include the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, and Thomas V. Girardi, Esq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my House colleagues to join me in congratulating Maestro Greene and his Big Band of Barristers along with the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic for all their achievements.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER T. DREW

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity, on behalf of myself and my constituents, to honor Colonel Christopher T. Drew, District Commander for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)—Chicago District. Throughout his command, Colonel Drew has shown unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of the District under his command. Colonel Drew will relinquish his command to Colonel Aaron W. Reisinger on July 21, 2017, at which time he will complete his exemplary career in the United States Army.

In 1992, Colonel Drew began his selfless twenty-five year military career in the United States Army. Throughout the years, Colonel Drew completed tours in Texas, New York, California, Missouri, and Kansas, before arriving in Chicago. He was also deployed several times, serving in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Colonel Drew handled every assignment with courage, honor, and merit. He is regarded as a most gifted teacher who excels at bringing people together to solve problems and helping individuals become the best versions of themselves. For his distinguished service, Colonel Drew is the recipient of numerous awards and citations, including two Bronze Star Medals, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, one Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and two Meritorious Unit Commendations, as well as the Sapper Tab, Ranger Tab, Air Assault Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Colonel Drew took command of the USACE—Chicago District in 2014. During his time as District Commander in Chicago, his

leadership has played a significant role in the organization's accomplishments, most notably in Northwest Indiana. The USACE initiated an ecosystem restoration project at the Portage Lakefront Park in 2015, in which sixty-five acres were restored, complementing the investments made previously by the USACE to open up public access to Lake Michigan. In East Chicago, Colonel Drew joined city officials to break ground on a shoreline restoration project that will enhance amenities to allow residents to enjoy the lakefront, while benefiting a diverse ecosystem. Stormwater and sanitary sewer projects were initiated by the Colonel's leadership, in partnership with local sponsors in various communities, which improve water quality throughout the region and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents in numerous communities. Work continues on the Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project, which protects residents along the river and creates opportunities for increased economic development, and the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal carries on apace. These projects and others stand testament to Colonel Drew's commitment to the USACE's mission to work with its partners to energize the nation's economy through its civil works projects, as they likewise improve the quality of place in areas such as Northwest Indiana, I am grateful for his generosity of spirit, his meticulous work ethic, and his dedicated life of service.

Colonel Drew's outstanding career is exceeded only by his devotion to his beautiful family. He and his amazing wife, Rochelle, have two beloved children, Ian and Amara.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Drew has selflessly served his country and his fellow Americans. He has been a steadfast and proven leader throughout his remarkable career, one that has been instrumental in producing and developing the talents of the next generation. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Christopher T. Drew for his honorable service to the United States of America and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SUPPORT OF FY18 NDAA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2810, the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. As a Member of Congress, one of my most sacred duties is to help promote and ensure the safety and security of our nation. We are truly grateful and indebted to the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom and democracy. This legislation takes great strides towards ensuring that our military is equipped with the most advanced, state of the art technology and military capabilities to defend and protect our nation from ongoing and emerging threats across the world. The FY 2018 NDAA bill authorizes \$630 billion for base budget requirements as well as \$64.6 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations. Additionally, this legislation contains several provisions that would equip, supply, and train our troops; provide resources for them and their families; and set national security policy for threats at home and abroad. I am particularly pleased to see that this bill

prioritizes the readiness of U.S. Cyber Command, cyber mission forces, and cyber warfare tools and capabilities, including initiatives to strengthen the cyber workforce and strengthens congressional oversight of these capabilities.

While I am supportive of the funding allocated to these critically important defense programs, I continue to have strong concerns about Congress' inability to make difficult funding decisions as it relates to our national security priorities. The hard reality is that the overall top line discretionary budget authority in this bill will likely prove to be fiscally unworkable at the end of the legislative and budget process. Ultimately, I am deeply concerned that many of these initiatives will potentially be funded at the expense of vital domestic spending programs. While robust funding of our national security is paramount, it is equally as important that we continue to provide essential funding for domestic programs that help educate our children, ensure every American has access to quality and affordable healthcare, and repair our deteriorating infrastructure. We cannot have a safe and secure country if our people lack the resources necessary to be financially and socially secure. Funding for vitally important programs that help millions of Americans across the country prosper should not be an either or proposition.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

HONORING EDWARD CARL
DEUTSCHMAN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Carl Deutchman for his outstanding service to our nation. A longtime resident of the central coast of California and a fellow sailor, he passed away this June at the age of 93.

Not long after graduating high school in 1941, Mr. Deutchman enlisted in the Navy and attended the Del Monte Pre-Flight School in Monterey. Today, this site is the center of the renewed Naval Post Graduate School, one of many prominent military institutions in my district.

During WWII, Mr. Deutchman was soon assigned to the USS *Intrepid* and flew over the Pacific Ocean on many combat missions. He flew a Corsair as a member of the Grim Reaper VF-10 Squadron in April of 1945, providing vital air cover for Marines. Mr. Deutchman was also a lead pilot during the amphibious assault of Okinawa—the final and largest of the Pacific island battles during World War II. Later he participated in an air raid over Tokyo. The anti-aircraft fire was so intense that, as he later put it, "you could almost get out of the plane and walk on the stuff coming up." Years after, he maintained close ties to the pilots who fought beside him, reuniting with them each year to reminisce in old stories and enduring friendships.

Mr. Deutchman returned to the mainland and swapped his cockpit for the classroom. Armed with an undergraduate degree in business from California State University—Fresno

and a graduate degree in education from the University of Southern California, he discovered his passion for teaching. Over more than thirty years as an elementary school teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent, Mr. Deutschman made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of students.

In his retirement, he returned to California's Central Coast and continued his goodwill on behalf of organizations like the Grey Bears, Boy Scouts of America, Rotary International, and as a board member of Good Shepherd Housing. Edward Deutschman represented the best of his time, not only as a solider and educator, but as a dedicated family man to his

late wife Katherine Bell Thomas, children Kathleen Deutschman Scott, Robert Edward Deutschman, granddaughter Tigist Scott Macauley, and great-grandsons Ibrahim Macauley and Abdul Rahman Macauley. On behalf of California's 20th District, it is my honor to recognize this American hero, Edward Carl Deutschman.