

and expertise effectively to advance American energy dominance and enforce energy sanctions, like those against Russia and Iran.

Frank served as energy counsel to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works from 2003 to 2007. While at EPW, his knowledge on energy issues was vital. He drafted key provisions of the bipartisan Energy Policy Act of 2005, legislation that helped to unleash American innovation and set the conditions for today's energy abundance.

I want to congratulate Frank Fannon on this well-deserved confirmation and wish him well in his new role at the State Department.

#### TRIBUTE TO GREGORY SLAVONIC

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my good friend and fellow Oklahoman, Mr. Gregory Slavonic, for his Senate confirmation as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Manpower and Reserve Affairs at the Department of Defense.

Greg was raised in Oklahoma City, OK. He graduated with a bachelor of science from Oklahoma State University and then enlisted in the Navy. After completing boot camp and signalman "A" school he received orders to the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* (CVA 64) and completed two western Pacific deployments in support of combat operations in Vietnam. In 1976, he earned a master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit Medal; Bronze Star Medal, two awards; Meritorious Service Medal, three awards; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two awards; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; and numerous other campaign and service medals.

Throughout his 34-year career in the Navy and as chief of staff to Senator JAMES LANKFORD, Greg has served his country and his home State of Oklahoma with great honor and distinction. He will bring those experiences of success to this position and continue the excellence that has been the trademark of the U.S. military.

I want to congratulate Greg Slavonic on this well-deserved confirmation and wish him well in his new role at the DOD.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARIAH SMITH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend LTC Mariah Smith, U.S. Army, for her more than 18 years of service to the Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith has distinguished herself for the past 2 years as a senior congressional liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. In this capacity, she has worked successfully to build and uphold the critical relationship between Congress and the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith managed the military personnel portfolio, which involves over 1 million soldiers, almost \$60 billion in assets, and more than 40 percent of the Army's total appropriation. She approached this task with the dedication expected of an exceptional Army leader: She acted on opportunities to take care of soldiers. She has been notably proficient in resolving innumerable inquiries into individual soldier issues. In the same manner, she enabled Members of Congress to remain devoted to the care of their constituents, while also supporting congressional efforts to shape personnel policy.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith is recognized as a mentor and leader among her peers, with an outstanding depth of service in the legislative affairs area, having previously served as a congressional fellow, military legislative assistant for a Member of the House of Representatives, and a legislative liaison for the NATO training mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. Her tenure in the Army includes almost 5 years of leading soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and the Horn of Africa. Her significant contributions to the Army's budget liaison office are a credit to herself, the Army, and the Nation she serves.

I am pleased to commend Lieutenant Colonel Smith for her many years of distinguished service as a congressional liaison and to wish her well in her continued service.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING WILLIAM T. KERR

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mr. William T. Kerr and his contributions to the creation of Flag Day. His passion for the flag spurred a lifetime pursuit to establish a national holiday to honor it.

Mr. Kerr grew up in Pittsburgh and established himself in Yeadon, PA. After hearing the stories of sacrifice and patriotism during the Civil War, Mr. Kerr garnered a unique appreciation for the flag of the United States.

In 1888, Mr. Kerr established the American Flag Day Association, an organization committed to promoting patriotism and respect for the flag on a national scale and establishing Flag Day on June 14. In Mr. Kerr's capacity as the president of the American Flag Day Association, a position he held for five decades, he met with nine Presidents and wrote countless letters to Senators, Members of Congress, Governors, and local officials to petition for Flag Day to be celebrated on June 14.

Mr. Kerr's activism inspired several leaders, including President Woodrow Wilson, who went on to proclaim June 14 as National Flag Day on May 30, 1916, and General Douglas MacArthur, who wrote a letter to Mr. Kerr in 1947, citing reverence and honor in the flag

itself. Though Congress initially failed to submit legislation to President Wilson supporting the proclamation to recognize the holiday, three decades later, Congress passed a bill formally declaring June 14 as National Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman, with Mr. Kerr standing next to him, signed the Flag Day bill into law, formally declaring June 14 as National Flag Day.

I commend Mr. Kerr on his commitment to creating a day to honor the flag. Pennsylvanians are renowned for their hard work, dedication, perseverance, and patriotism, and Mr. Kerr is an excellent example of that assessment. Mr. Kerr's legacy has lived on, especially in the small farm town of Yeadon, where the town celebrates Flag Day as an all-day affair. •

#### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT GINGER

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize one of Nevada's most dedicated and exceptional educators, Mr. Scott Ginger of Green Valley High School, who has served thousands of students with the utmost dedication. Mr. Ginger, as his current and former students continue to call him, has remained committed to his students' success for 29 years. He began his career at William E. Orr Middle School in 1989 and moved to Green Valley High School 2 years later, where administrators, faculty, students, and families have revered him. He has won the Green Valley High School Golden Gator Award 17 times and has been inducted into the Clark County Teachers' Hall of Fame.

Nevadans who know Mr. Ginger are eager to highlight his impressive skills as a speech and debate coach, a role that has given him and his forensics team at Green Valley High School the county championship 24 consecutive times since 1995 and the State championship a record 16 times. In 2018, the National Speech and Debate Association named him Nevada Educator of the Year. Although a very skilled competitor, Mr. Ginger has always emphasized that speech and debate are primarily "a vehicle to build character, to be ethical, to be kind, to think big picture and think about others." Students who were fortunate to learn from Mr. Ginger agree. Those in the professional world claim Mr. Ginger's classroom lessons still help them keep calm and collected when speaking in public. Most importantly, those students also give Mr. Ginger credit for their ability to make lasting connections and friendships.

The sense of community belonging that Mr. Ginger has given his students is perhaps his most important legacy. He has allowed some of his most talented students to teach within the classroom and has provided an opportunity for former students to come back and speak about the multiple benefits they have reaped from forensics. Thus, a community of skilled debaters

has grown in southern Nevada, including those who have become leaders in a variety of fields all across the country. No matter where their career paths lead them, Mr. Ginger's former students will always remember and cherish the life lessons they learned in his classroom.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Scott Ginger for his 29 years of service as an educator in the Clark County School District. I admire Mr. Ginger for his incredible ability to inspire and shape the lives of his students and for encouraging cooperation and a sense of community that should be held as a model for all classrooms in our Nation. I celebrate Mr. Ginger's impact in Nevada, and I am proud of his work to enhance young Nevadans' ability to succeed and thrive.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL LORI J. ROBINSON

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Gen. Lori J. Robinson, USAF, will officially retire from Active Duty later this summer. This week, General Robinson's friends and family are gathering in Crystal City to celebrate her career. In advance of that event, I wanted to say a few words about this exemplary military officer and honorary Alaskan who has devoted her entire 36-year career to the security of our Nation.

General Robinson was born in Big Springs, TX. She is the oldest of five children. Her father served over 30 years in the Air Force, so she was not a stranger to the military lifestyle. General Robinson completed her undergraduate work at New Hampshire University in English and was commissioned as an Air Force officer through the ROTC Program in 1981. Entering the Air Force, she was trained as an air battle manager. General Robinson spent several years mastering her craft before completing the weapons instructor course as a distinguished graduate from the Air Force Weapons School. She served in several locations to include Florida, Philippines, Nevada, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Colorado, Southwest Asia, and multiple stints in the Nation's Capital.

While General Robinson served both across the Air Force and the country, it was in 1989 when then-Captain Robinson arrived at Pacific Air Forces, PACAF, for her first assignment at the headquarters. As the chief of current operations and command briefer, General Robinson gained breadth beyond her operational duties as an air battle manager. She would return 26 years later in 2014 to assume command of PACAF, becoming the first female Air Force officer to lead an Air Force major component command. General Robinson met the challenges of a command spanning 13 time zones and 100 million square miles of air space head on, providing effective leadership to the command during a challenging time for the Air Force.

As PACAF commander, General Robinson oversaw U.S. Air Force operations at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson and Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. She was generous in her support for Alaska's airmen and graciously keynoted the 47th Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Banquet in 2015.

Following General Robinson's time as the PACAF commander, she took command of North American Aerospace Defense Command, NORAD, and U.S. Northern Command, USNORTHCOM, in May 2016. In this final assignment, General Robinson made history again as the first female to command a combatant command. Tasked with the defense of the North American continent, General Robinson has faced down challenges ranging from nuclear threats from North Korea to a series of severe natural disasters. Managing disaster relief for 10 hurricanes while simultaneously providing aid for the wildfires that affected over 10 million acres in 2017 strained the commands and their resources, but General Robinson used the challenges to help expand the commands' readiness and capabilities.

General Robinson's strong relationship with Alaska continued in that role, as Alaskan Command is a subunified combatant command of USNORTHCOM. During her tenure as the NORAD and USNORTHCOM commander, General Robinson made several visits to Alaska and worked to bolster the military's presence in the State. She advocated for the sustainment of and funding for the Alaska Radar System, and she appreciated the significance of joint training and exercises that take place in the State. General Robinson's focus on these aspects of military readiness has helped grow the capabilities of the military in Alaska and, as a result, has increased the defense of the United States. Recognizing the importance of excellent military-community relations, General Robinson graciously keynoted the 2018 Salute to the Military in Anchorage, sponsored by the Armed Services YMCA.

General Robinson has led a career in the Air Force that reflects its core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. She is an example to all who serve, especially the young women looking for a path to success in the military. At every step along the way, she has supported and been supported by her husband, Maj. Gen. (retired) David Robinson. They are a truly unique pair of military talents and a model for dual-career military families. The impact the two of them have had on the Air Force and our country cannot be understated.

Although retirement will pull General Robinson from the Air Force, I understand she is looking forward to spending time with her children and grandchildren. We Alaskans are proud of the impact General Robinson has had on our State during her time in the

service, and we are proud of the impact we have had on her. She is an exemplary officer and a true example for all women looking to succeed in the military. I hope that, as General Robinson enjoys her time in retirement, she brings her family to visit Alaska sometime soon.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I take this opportunity to thank General Robinson for her service and wish her well in her retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MOLLY WINTERS DIALLO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor Molly Winters Diallo, the Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High Biscayne Bay Campus in North Miami, FL.

Molly's inspiration to become a teacher began when she was young. Her parents were teachers, and they instilled in her the importance of education. When students walk into her classroom, Molly tells them they are going to college, and she will help them get there. Her school has students from 66 different countries and speak several languages. To many, her words of encouragement made the difference.

In Molly's classroom, students are taught the importance of investing in education. Her students are asked for their thoughts on topics, what they want to learn, and what changes she can make to better suit their needs.

Molly's bond with her students extends beyond high school. She has helped them throughout their college application process, providing advice and has served as a shoulder to lean on when they encounter setbacks.

Molly grew up in Connecticut and began teaching at a private school in the British Virgin Islands. After receiving her master's degree from Tufts University, she moved to Miami in the early 2000s. She previously taught at Miami Edison Senior High for 5 years before transferring to Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High Biscayne Bay Campus, where she teaches advanced placement human geography and psychology and honors U.S. history.

I extend my sincere recognition and appreciation to Molly for her hard work and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE DINWIDDLE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Michelle Dinwiddie, the Polk County Teacher of the Year from Lake Gibson High School in Lakeland, FL.

Michelle follows what she calls the Pro Principle, that she and her students should be professional, productive, and proficient in all aspects of their lives. She challenges her students to demonstrate professionalism in speech and attire, productivity in achievement, and proficiency in learning so they can succeed.