

Later on 16 August, the Taliban offered to help remove civilians from the airfield. RADM Vasely accepted the Taliban's offer, and Taliban forces began clearing and securing the airfield (exhibits 15, 18, 21, 23). The addition of these three forces was sufficient to clear the runway and resume flight operations (exhibits 15, 18).

(iii) Once the perimeter was reestablished on 16 and 17 August, the Taliban took the South, the NSU took the North and West, and 1/82nd took the West and overall security responsibilities (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 103). JTF-CR continued to manage the flow of combat forces into HKIA and into the line to hold the tenuous status quo (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 103). Force flow over the next two days delivered the remainder of the 1/82 IBCT, all of the 24th MEU Command Element, the remainder of 1/8 Marines, the MEU Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB), 2/1 Marines with enablers from the CENTCOM SPMAGTF, and the TAC of the 82nd Airborne Division (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 100, 102, 104, 121, 125). JTF-CR had TACON of all forces providing security of HKIA until 17 August, when Gen McKenzie, CENTCOM Commander, tasked the 82nd Airborne Division with security of HKIA (exhibits 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 238). The JTF-CR retained sole responsibility of NEO tasks and duties (exhibits 10, 11, 15, 18, 138, 238).

(d) During the execution of NEO, the JTF-CR managed three critical tasks at the JTF level or through its subordinate units: Gate Operations, ECC, and the Multi-National Coordination Cell (exhibits 15, 17, 18).

(i) After being relieved of airfield security duties, 1/8 Marines (24th MEU) occupied North and East Gates, and 2/1 Marines (SPMAGTF) occupied Abbey Gate (exhibits 53, 103). From 19–26 August, these gates were used to process and screen tens of thousands of civilian evacuees (exhibits 15, 18). Commanders at each gate exercised their authority to open or close their respective gates, as they deemed appropriate, according to the situation on the ground (exhibits 15, 53, 103). The JTF-CR Commander retained the authority to reopen a gate if the gate commander had closed it due to the threat environment or possible attack (exhibits 15, 18, 103). However, there was tremendous pressure from the strategic level (Combatant Command (CCMD), Joint Staff (JS), White House) to continue to process and evacuate civilians to the maximum extent possible, so gate closures were done rarely, locally, and temporarily (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 56, 77, 103, 121). For example, Abbey Gate did not physically close until the night of 26 August (exhibit 53). JTF-CR's management of gate operations also entailed reacting to the overwhelming number of special requests to secure specific evacuees from gates (exhibits 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22). Members of the USFOR-A FWD, JTF-CR, MEU, 1/8, and 2/1 staffs were constantly engaged in retrieving specially requested individuals from the gates, with the lower echelons doing so on behalf of JTF-CR (exhibits 13, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 76, 108, 122).

(ii) The JTF-CR Commander was responsible for deciding when to close Abbey Gate to facilitate the Joint Tactical Extraction (JTE) (exhibits 13, 15, 17, 18, 22). Initially, the JTF-CR sought to close the gate on the evening of 25 August (exhibits 18, 53, 77, 89, 126). However, U.K. Forces were still operating at the Barron Hotel and could not meet this timeline (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 77, 89, 126.). If the JTF-CR Commander decided to close Abbey Gate while U.K. Forces were still processing evacuees, it would have isolated them at the Barron Hotel. This would have affected the JTE, as the JTF-CR Commander estimated it would take 24–48 hours to clear the outer corridor and facilitate

U.K. Forces' passage of lines into HKIA (exhibits 15, 18). Additionally, if the JTF-CR closed Abbey Gate early, the crowds likely would have breached the airfield, which posed a significant risk to mission and risk to force (exhibits 15, 18).

(iii) The 24th MEU established the ECC at the passenger (PAX) Terminal in North HKIA (exhibits 15, 18, 100, 101, 102). Evacuees waiting for flights consistently saturated this area, creating a security concern (exhibits 100, 101). As a result, JTF-CR tasked subordinate units to provide security forces at the PAX Terminal to ensure evacuees did not attempt to board the wrong flights or move into the compounds on North HKIA (exhibits 15, 18, 101).

(iv) As the lead for NEO, JTF-CR hosted the MNCC (exhibits 18, 21, 145). At the MNCC, JTF-CR coordinated the requirements of the multi-national partners to evacuate personnel (exhibits 18, 21). This usually included manifesting flights and coordinating appropriate arrival destinations based on the status of evacuees (exhibits 18, 21).

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IGOR BABAIOV

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, each year, the Ellis Island Honors Society recognizes individuals who have proved their commitment to our Nation through outstanding achievement in industry, education, entertainment, and the arts.

Today, I have the honor of congratulating my friend and fellow Tennessean Igor Babailov, one of this year's recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Igor has earned a very special place in American culture through his work in philanthropy and the arts. A celebrated portraitist, he has immortalized on canvas Presidents, dignitaries, royalty, and even three Popes, and earned the trust of the world's most important curators. His philanthropic endeavors have changed the lives of veterans and helped children realize their full potential.

On behalf of the State of Tennessee, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Igor and thank him for using his talents to make America a more diverse, innovative, and beautiful place to call home.●

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ROGERS

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it is my honor to congratulate Coach Lamar Rogers of Clarkrange, TN, on winning the Fred Russell Lifetime Achievement Award and joining the distinguished ranks of the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame.

Over the course of his long career, he has enriched the lives of young female athletes by helping them reach their highest potential. For 46 years, Coach Rogers has served as the architect of one of the most impressive and well-respected girls basketball programs in the Volunteer State, boasting a 1,289–290 record and eight Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

State championships. He is also revered—and feared—as the winningest high school girls basketball coach in Tennessee.

But more importantly, he is a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration to the next generation of athletes and educators, and I consider it my privilege to recognize him for his leadership. Congratulations, Coach.●

TRIBUTE TO ADOLPH L. "BOB" HIRSCH

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Mr. Adolph "Bob" Hirsch, a remarkable man and World War II veteran who turns 100 on July 23, 2022.

In September 1942, at the age of 20, Mr. Hirsch enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. He would go on to attain the rank of seaman first class, serving this Nation honorably throughout World War II until 1945. During this time, Mr. Hirsch served as a gunner's mate on the Coast Guard Patrol Frigate *Annapolis*. It was aboard that vessel in the American theater of operations that Mr. Hirsch was engaged in combat action against hostile enemy submarine forces.

In September 1945, Mr. Hirsch was also involved in a daring rescue while serving on the *Annapolis*. After the Steamship *Prince George* caught fire in Ketchikan, AK, several U.S. Coast Guard vessels responded to the incident, including the *Annapolis*. Mr. Hirsch was engaged in lifesaving and port clearance operations, further demonstrating his remarkable bravery.

Following his time in the Coast Guard, Mr. Hirsch continued his outstanding legacy of service. He joined the New York City Police Department and served that city honorably for over 20 years. Since 1976, Mr. Hirsch has resided in Bethlehem, CT, and we are proud he has chosen to call our great State home.

Mr. Hirsch's tireless service will be an enduring legacy. I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Bob Hirsch on this milestone of his 100th birthday.●

REMEMBERING JACK GRANEY

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack Graney, Cleveland Indians player and broadcaster, as he is posthumously awarded the Ford C. Frick Award by the Baseball Hall of Fame on July 23, 2022.

Jack Graney was born on June 10, 1886, in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, but his professional career on the baseball diamond began with the Cleveland Naps in 1908. Over his 14-year Major League career, Jack led the American League in walks during the 1917 and 1919 seasons and played in three World Series games, helping the Naps to victory in 1920. His daughter fondly remembers growing up on the road and

watching her father in action on the field.

Jack spent each of his seasons in Major League Baseball with Cleveland. After 14 seasons, Jack retired with 1,178 hits, 420 runs batted in, and a career .250 batting average.

Jack made baseball history over the course of his career; he was the first at bat against Babe Ruth in the big leagues, the first 20th century big league player to bat with a number on his uniform, and the first to transition from player to broadcaster.

In 1932, Jack returned to baseball when he joined WHK-AM, which had just begun broadcasting Cleveland games. He would go on to be the voice of the Cleveland Indians for the next 22 years. Rumor had it, when the Indians played, you could hear Jack's voice echoing through the streets of Cleveland. While radio was only local at the time, Jack was committed to providing a narrative of every single game to Cleveland fans. During away games, he broadcasted from Cleveland, using the ticker-tape that came through from the live game.

Jack's detailed descriptions of plays, stadiums, and fans brought the game to life. Throughout his career, he broadcasted for various Cleveland stations and with different partners. In 1935, he commentated on the World Series and the All-Star Game for national audiences.

Jack's final broadcast aired in 1953. For more than 20 years, Jack brought baseball to Cleveland fans. On April 20, 1978, Jack passed away at age 91. His legacy lives on today through his family and through all those he inspired to love America's game and to pass on that love to their own children and grandchildren.

In 2012, Jack was posthumously inducted into the Cleveland Baseball Hall of Fame for his tenure as a player. And this month, the Baseball Hall of Fame will present the Ford C. Frick Award to Jack for his major contributions to baseball. Recipients are chosen based on their commitment to excellence, quality of broadcasting abilities, reverence within the game, popularity with fans, and recognition by peers.

Jack embodied each of these qualities and made our city proud. Today, we celebrate his contributions to baseball, his commitment to Cleveland, and his extraordinary life.●

TRIBUTE TO ROLAND J. BABIN

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to express my appreciation for and offer my sincere congratulations to a dedicated public servant, Mr. Roland J. Babin, on his retirement after 67 years of service for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Mr. Babin commenced his career as a student worker in 1955. He currently serves as the districtwide maintenance specialist for the department's Acadian region, making him the department's and the State

of Louisiana's longest actively serving employee.

During his long tenure, Mr. Babin served the department and the State in a number of ways, from working as an engineer aide I to an engineer technician VII. He has supervised and trained countless construction and maintenance personnel over the years, making an impact on the department that will last for years to come. Even at 85 years old, Mr. Babin can be found on a job site operating a shovel, measuring tools, a roller behind a hot mix paver, or a vibratory compactor. Mr. Babin also recorded daily journal entries, dating back to 1970, narrating the department's construction and maintenance projects, hurricanes, ice storms, other emergency responses, and personal anecdotes from his career. In 2017, Mr. Babin was a recipient of the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr., Career Civil Service Award, the highest honor awarded to classified Louisiana State employees for outstanding and selfless service for the Louisianian community.

His tireless work throughout the years has ensured that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development will continue to serve Louisiana for decades to come. The department and the State of Louisiana have benefited greatly from his leadership and contributions, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten. I personally thank Mr. Babin for his notable service and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BURRESS

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I rise today to honor the career of Mike Burress for his dedicated service to better the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In his over 37 years with the Lincoln Trail Area Development District administering and writing grants, Mike has worked tirelessly to better our cities and communities.

Mike started his career as a community development adviser, providing direct support and coordination to the regional planning and development process. A few short years later, Mike was promoted to associate director for community and economic development, where he was responsible for the day-to-day supervision and coordination of the community development department.

In the summer of 1998, Mike was promoted to the district's deputy director, primarily overseeing community and economic development throughout the eight-county region. In 2018, the Lincoln Trail Area Development District board of directors selected Mike to become the district's fifth executive director.

In the last 4 years, his leadership and advocacy as executive director have benefited area development districts throughout the State. Mike's ongoing work with local, State, and Federal delegations as well as nongovernmental organizations highlights the es-

sential work the area development districts do in assisting their constituents.

Mike and his wife Judy are Hardin County natives with three children and two grandchildren. I am proud to salute and thank Mike for a remarkable career of dedication to his community.●

RECOGNIZING HILLCO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Hillco Technologies, Inc., as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2022.

In the 1950s, Wallace "Arlie" Hill, a longtime resident of Nezperce, designed the first hydraulic foldup harrow cart for his own family farm. Shortly thereafter, he built them for his neighbors and eventually for farmers all across North America before opening Hillco, Inc., in 1963. Arlie Hill became famous for his harrow, springtooth, and packer cart designs and various multi-unit hitches for drills and plows which he tinkered with until his mid-80s.

Located amongst the rolling hills of Idaho's Camas Prairie, the Hill family is familiar with how critical combine leveling systems are for effective hillside harvesting. When tractor manufacturers stopped supplying leveling systems in the 1990s, Hillco stepped in to fill the gap in the market. In 1993, the first Hillco, Inc., leveling system rolled off the production floor for a Case-IH combine followed by the first leveling system for a John Deere combine in 1998. In 2021, Hillco manufactured their 2,500th leveler.

Now called Hillco Technologies, Inc., and owned by Lenny Hill, Arlie's son, their team of 55 employees pride themselves on their collaborative effort to design, test, and market methods and mechanisms that advance farming and agricultural practices from start to finish. They continue to preserve Arlie's innovative spirit as they expand their product line to offer additional equipment that addresses the unique challenges facing farmers and ranchers in the Pacific Northwest and across the Nation. While Hillco equipment is well known in farming communities nationwide, the Nezperce community recognizes Hillco for their generous support of local businesses, athletics, education, and first responders.

Congratulations to the Hill family and all of the employees at Hillco Technologies, Inc., for being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2022. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●