

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF COLONEL ADAM J. CZEKANSKI

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Colonel Adam J. Czekanski, who will retire from his post as Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District on August 4, 2023.

Colonel Czekanski served honorably in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 25 years. He began his career in 1998 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University as well as a Master of Science degree in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas.

Colonel Czekanski has served in a variety of important roles since joining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was the Deputy District Commander for the San Francisco region, the Operations Officer for the South Pacific Division, and the Commander of the Buffalo District before finally taking a post as the Commander of the Pittsburgh District.

During his time in leadership, Colonel Czekanski mobilized the Corps's workforce and operational capacity to confront a variety of environmental and engineering challenges unique to western Pennsylvania. During his command of the Pittsburgh District, Colonel Czekanski also traveled around the country on multiple Temporary Emergency Power Deployments to help rebuild communities after hurricanes and wildfires. His eagerness to serve those in need is an example to us all.

Over the course of his service, Colonel Czekanski was awarded a Purple Heart, 3 Bronze Stars, and a Soldier's Medal. These awards are a testament to his dedication to the United States, our nation's military, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Adam J. Czekanski's diligent service to his brothers at arms, our communities, and our entire nation is evidence of a life well-lived and a retirement well-earned. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate him on his retirement and many impressive accomplishments throughout a successful military career.

CONGRATULATING ZOE MARTONFI
ON HER CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eldon High School's Zoe Martonfi on her victories in Missouri's Class 3 1600 Meter Run, 800 Meter Run, and 300 Meter Hurdles State Championships.

Zoe claimed her first ever state titles at the Class 3 championships. Not only did she win one race but conquered her next two events as well. Zoe led the pack in the girls 1600-meter run, then won the 800-meter run less than two hours later in addition to the 300-

meter hurdles. Zoe should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championships to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Zoe Martonfi for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58; YEA on Roll Call No. 65; NAY on Roll Call No. 284; YEA on Roll Call No. 290; YEA on Roll Call No. 291; and NAY on Roll Call No. 310.

HONORING RETIRED COLONEL JERRY A. BROWN

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Colonel Jerry A. Brown for a career of service to our nation.

Col. Brown is a 1996 graduate from the Army ROTC program at Emporia State University, and the second generation of his family to serve in the United States Army. He has faithfully served our Nation for over 30 years, starting as an enlisted Petty Officer in the United States Navy before commissioning as an Officer in the United States Army. During his career, Col. Brown deployed to the Mediterranean while serving on board the USS *Forrestal* CV-59 in April 1988, he conducted operations to support the Persian Gulf War, and he participated in combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2010 to 2011.

As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer of the 63rd Readiness Division, Col. Brown has supported Army Reserve priorities, programs, and resources by building relationships, educating, and informing Senators, Representatives, State Legislators, Mayors, and non-governmental organizations across the Division's seven-state regional footprint of New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Further, as a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer, he is responsible for legislative actions with professional organizations, defense industry partners, and veterans service organizations that includes informing, advising, and representing senior Army Reserve leadership on congressional activities, and for telling the Army Reserve Story in the 7-state region.

In his last post, Col. Brown also provided support to the 7-state region as a board member for the 2022 Service Academy. He supports all local leaders of Nevada by providing them with information regarding the Army Reserve and the economic impact to states and cities. He has also supported the Army Reserve Ambassador Program, which supports students with full-ride scholarships to any ROTC program in the Nation with the hope that they will one day return to the Southwest as tomorrow's leaders.

In his over 30-year military career, including 10 different assignments and 2 different services, Col. Brown has shared his knowledge and experience with hundreds of officers and enlisted Soldiers, helping them to develop as leaders and enhance their careers. Col. Brown is an exceptional leader who will be greatly missed by the U.S. military when he moves into retirement, while his service will be long remembered by those he worked with. There is no doubt that the soldiers he helped train and mentor over his 30 years will continue to build on his legacy of service and working to make our Nation stronger.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Colonel Jerry A. Brown on his outstanding service to our Nation and in congratulating him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING OLIVIA ANDREWS ON HER CLASS 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Father Tolton's Olivia Andrews on her victory in Missouri's Class 2 3200 Meter Run State Championship.

Olivia claimed the Class 2 title with the impressive time of 11:02:24, achieving a school record and Class 2's fastest time of the season in the 3200-meter run. She ended her high school career with a bang as she dominated her last race before she heads off to college next year. Olivia should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Olivia Andrews for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Washington County on the 225th anniversary of its agricultural fair and celebrate its importance to southwestern Pennsylvania's agricultural industry over the years.

The Washington County Agricultural Fair is the oldest in Pennsylvania, having started in 1798. Since its creation, the annual fair has promoted our community's achievements in agriculture, horticulture, homemaking subjects, arts, and sciences. It is also an opportunity for 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, and many other community organizations to share their work with friends, neighbors, and visitors. Today, the 8-day event attracts over 65,000 attendees each year.

The fair is an important part of Washington County's history and heritage. Over 1,700 individual farms operate in the region, making agriculture the largest industry in the county.

Generations of families and farmers have worked to build a thriving and prosperous agricultural community, which is now a defining characteristic of Washington County's economy and culture.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the Washington County Agricultural Fair on its 225th anniversary. I thank the staff, volunteers, and exhibitors for the important services they provide to southwestern Pennsylvania communities and hope for their continued success over the next 225 years.

CONGRATULATING TRINITY RIGGS
ON HER CLASS 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Russellville's Trinity Riggs on her victory in Missouri's Class 2 Shot Put State Championship.

Trinity claimed the Class 2 title for the Indians, ending her high school career with an incredible throw of 11.93 meters. She should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Trinity Riggs for a job well done.

HONORING ANNE HOLCOMB

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Anne Holcomb's twenty-two years of service as the executive director of Humboldt County's food bank, Food For People.

Ms. Holcomb grew up in Alfred, Maine, and attended the University of Maine. She began her decades of service helping people with disabilities transition into community life, and served as the executive director of Southern Maine Parent Awareness. She moved to Humboldt County in December 2000. During her tenure as executive director of Food For People, Ms. Holcomb helped dramatically improve the scope of the food bank's services. The food bank expanded warehousing, trucking, and direct services to reach the far corners of rural Humboldt County.

Under Ms. Holcomb's leadership, Food For People grew to operate 18 unique programs for children and adults at more than 85 locations. These programs included the Backpacks for Kids weekend hunger relief effort, Children's Summer Lunch and Food Box Program, Mobile Produce Pantry, Free Produce Markets, and Senior and Homebound programs. A large network of pantries for localized response, nutrition and education programs, and CalFresh outreach was developed under Ms. Holcomb.

In 2000, Food For People's main facility in Eureka was closed due to a major sewage

leak. This preceded the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which the community's need for food resources surged. The food bank continued operating to meet this need through creative problem-solving and hard work on the part of Food For People's staff, board, and dedicated volunteers. During this time, Ms. Holcomb launched a major capital campaign to build a new state-of-the-art food bank, warehouse, and office facility. This newly opened facility will allow Food For People to better serve the community, especially in times of crisis.

During her long career with Food For People, Ms. Holcomb always put nutrition first, ensuring that households, children, and seniors have access to high quality food distributed in a dignified manner. She has been a champion for hunger relief statewide and was also a mentor for staff and a committed community partner.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Holcomb has dedicated decades of her life to serving people in need and addressing hunger and poverty. Her exemplary service to Food For People and the people of Humboldt County has been meaningful and will have a positive effect for many years. Therefore, please join me in congratulating her on her years of inspiring work and wishing her the best on her next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDWIN JUDE RACHUBA

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Edwin "Ned" Rachuba, a Navy veteran and steamfitter from southwestern Pennsylvania, who passed away on March 10, 2023 at the age of 83.

Mr. Rachuba graduated from Baldwin High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy on active duty aboard the USS *Wasp* from 1957 to 1959 and an additional 4 years in the Navy Reserve.

After leaving the military, Mr. Rachuba worked as a steamfitter and was a member of the Steamfitters Local Union 449 in Pittsburgh for 42 years. His professional life and military service exemplified the values of hard work, dedication, and commitment to his community.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Rachuba was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. He married his high school sweetheart, Sally, and celebrated 63 years of marriage over their lifetimes. Mr. Rachuba would travel across Pennsylvania and the country to watch his grandchildren play sports, never missing an important family event.

Mr. Speaker, Edwin Rachuba's dedication to his work, devotion to his family, and service to our Nation are an example of a life well-lived. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Mr. Rachuba's family and wish them healing during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING FORT
ZUMWALT SOUTH ON THEIR
CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fort Zumwalt South Girls Soccer Team on their victory in Missouri's Class 3 Soccer State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 3 title for the third time in the first ever three-peat in girls' soccer by a Missouri public school. Isabel Montileone and Audrey Smith scored beautiful first-half goals to give the Bulldogs the win as they defeated Smithville 2-1. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Fort Zumwalt South Girls Soccer Team for a job well done.

DEFENDING ROHINGYA REFUGEES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, June 20th every year marks World Refugee Day, an international day organized by the United Nations to raise awareness of the plight of refugees around the world. The UN defines refugees as "people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country."

The Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim minority who practice a Sufi-influenced variation of Sunni Islam throughout Southern Asia. The Rohingyas trace their roots back for many centuries predominantly to the Rakhine State in Burma.

The United Nations has described the Rohingya as "the most persecuted minority in the world" due to the actions taken against them by the Tatmadaw. Discriminatory policies of the Burmese government since the late 1970s have compelled hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya to flee their homes. In 2017, the Tatmadaw renewed and increased violence, including reported rape, murder, and arson, triggered an exodus of Rohingya from Burma.

The majority of those Rohingya who have been able to flee have found refuge in Bangladesh. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates the population of Rohingya in Bangladesh at close to one million.

The largest exodus of Rohingya began in August 2017 after a massive wave of violence broke out in the Burmese Rakhine State. It is estimated that 730,000 Rohingya fled from the 2017 genocide seeking refuge in Bangladesh. With half of those able to flee to safety in Bangladesh being women and children.

In honor of the annual World Refugee Day, the American people commend Bangladesh for providing safety for the Rohingya refugees from the Tatmadaw. Today 17 countries are