

dutifully served this Nation with exemplary dedication as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army in the office of Financial Management and Comptroller.

Major Hapner recently left Capitol Hill to continue his service to our Nation and America's Army National Guard as the Legislative Liaison for the Adjutant General of Nevada.

After growing up in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Hillsboro, Ohio, Major Hapner attended Miami University in Ohio where he earned his bachelor's degree in business and a minor in political science.

Initially enlisting in the Army National Guard as an infantryman, Major Hapner's first deployment was in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. In 2008, Major Hapner was commissioned as an aviation officer, attended flight school at Fort Novosel in Alabama to pilot the UH-60 Blackhawk, and distinguished himself as the Honor Graduate.

Major Hapner has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. He was the Assistant Operations officer and a Platoon leader in Alpha Company during his first Middle East deployment.

In 2015, he deployed with the Ohio and Colorado National Guards to Iraq as the Air Mission Officer in Command. In 2016, he was assigned as the Aviation Task Force Executive Officer in Illesheim, Germany.

Recently, Major Hapner served as the Deputy Executive Officer to the Director of the Air National Guard, National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon. Eric's last flying position was as a UH-60 pilot in command where he led multinational aviation missions with Middle Eastern and European allies.

In addition to his Army assignments, Eric graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in 2017. During law school, Eric pursued his passion of public service through multiple law clinics and internships ranging from county prosecutors to the Army JAG Corps and the Colorado Supreme Court. Additionally, Eric worked for Colorado State Senator Owen Hill, ultimately becoming his Chief of Staff.

In 2022, I had the privilege of working with Major Hapner in my office for the people of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, where he served as an Army Congressional Fellow.

We continued working together during his subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. Major Hapner worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and their staff to accurately articulate the Army's budget priorities.

His professionalism, his integrity, and his commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work ethic enabled him to successfully represent the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense in Congress.

Those lucky enough to travel with Eric to visit Army installations came to appreciate his profound insight, meticulous planning, and sage advice. Whatever journey you embark upon, there are few more reassuring sights than Eric sitting next to you.

No one knows this better than his family. Eric is a devoted husband to his wife, Hakela, who is currently attending law school at the McGeorge Law School in Sacramento, California. Eric met Hakela here on Capitol Hill and married in 2022.

Major Hapner's commitment to service and care for others permeates every organization

and activity he participates in. Moreover, he exemplifies servant leadership for individuals in the Army and their communities to emulate.

Throughout his career, Major Hapner has positively impacted Soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion.

I applaud Major Hapner for the job well done, and I hope that my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in wishing him and his family the very best in their future Army assignments and beyond.

HONORING DALE ANDERSON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership, service, and dedication of Dale Anderson to the 5th Congressional District of Colorado. For eighteen years, Dale Anderson has served on my Congressional staff in many roles, each marked by a distinguished pursuit of excellence and service to the Pikes Peak region with personal integrity, sacrifice, and loyalty.

Dale was born in Independence, Missouri where he was raised by devout Christian parents. After graduating from high school, Dale served in the United States Army for nine years where he developed his passion for the care of veterans. Following his time in the Army, Dale graduated from University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Almost immediately after my election, Dale joined my staff as a Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison. In that role, he advocated on behalf of countless veterans, active-duty military members, and their families, to numerous federal agencies. His work also included helping establish the PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in Colorado Springs. Dale went on to serve as the District Director where he was responsible for coordinating all events, outreach, and constituent services strategy for 5th Congressional District.

Dale was particularly adept at connecting with community leaders, mentoring the staffers under his command, building a team that reflected my values, effectively and compassionately serving our constituents, and faithfully representing me in the district. Keeping his finger on the pulse of the district and being proactive to meet the district's needs are some of Dale's many strong points, and one that he excellently performed throughout his time as District Director. In 2018, Dale became my Chief of Staff, bringing to D.C. his extensive experience and knowledge of the district to accurately and purposefully lead my combined staff in service of our constituents.

One of my early campaign promises was to establish a National Cemetery to provide a final resting place for our Nation's bravest heroes. The 10-year journey that culminated in establishing the Pikes Peak National Cemetery was at times arduous and difficult. Throughout the process, Dale was instrumental in building momentum, keeping morale high, and strategically crafting the plan which ultimately insured that the Pikes Peak region was able to honor our Nation's finest—including Dale's father, Mr. Gary Anderson.

Perhaps the most pivotal moment in recent memory for the 5th Congressional District came in 2023 when it was announced that U.S. Space Command was to be permanently based in Colorado Springs. This basing decision was the culmination of years of work, much of it led by Dale Anderson. Dale was vital in organizing a combined and unified advocacy campaign which reinforced the principle that any basing decision should be made only with national security in mind. In addition, Dale ensured that my office was proactive in speaking out about the importance of U.S. Space Command being based in Colorado Springs, as well as utilizing media outlets, legislative measures and processes, and high-profile meetings. These steps ensured that national security and the 5th Congressional District were kept at the forefront of every piece of the decision-making process.

The Black Forest fire in 2013 was one of the most devastating natural disasters in the Pikes Peak region. The fire killed 2 people, burned over 500 homes, and destroyed over 14,000 acres of land. While the destruction was immense, without the determination and persistence of Dale Anderson, I fear that the damage to life and property could have been worse. I directed Dale to call the National Inter-Agency Fire Center to coordinate getting the nearest firefighting planes in the air to help fight the fire. Dale immediately jumped into action, staying up through the night to ensure that our community was taken care of, and every resource was deployed to save as many lives as possible. Dale's actions that day and in the crucial days following proved that his connections, know-how, and persistence were invaluable assets in a time of crisis.

Many of these same qualities of his were also evident in how our office provided help in the wake of the destructive Waldo Canyon Fire of 2012.

Dale and his wife Jennie live in Colorado Springs and continue to put the 5th Congressional District before themselves in everything that they do. I would also like to thank Jennie, who gave her unwavering support for her husband, without which he could not have been as effective in his service to the district. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating, honoring, and celebrating the eighteen years of dedicated service by My Chief of Staff, Dale Anderson, to the 5th Congressional District of Colorado and to the Nation.

HONORING CHERI WILLIAMS FOR HER SERVICE TO WASHINGTON'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Cheri Williams—and to give my sincere thanks to her for serving as Director of Constituent Services on my team.

For over three decades, Cheri has devoted her life to helping Washingtonians. In fact, thousands of folks back in my neck of the woods have had their problems with the federal government solved by Cheri and her dedicated team. Cheri has worked to ensure that

every person in our region who reached out was treated fairly by the federal government. Over the years, she has been vital to a simple mission—make government work better for the people. But that was more than a tagline. It led to real impacts for real people.

She helped seniors get access to Social Security and Medicaid so they could retire with dignity. She helped shipyard workers and other public servants resolve issues with their benefits and pensions to ensure they could get what they've earned. She helped reunite families and ensure immigrants in our country could continue to contribute meaningfully to the fabric of our society. She helped newlyweds go on their honeymoon when they didn't realize they didn't have an up-to-date passport. She helped small businesses get access to federal funding to get back on their feet during and after the pandemic. She helped veterans get the benefits and recognition that they deserve for their extraordinary service.

Cheri is not only known in every corner of our district; she is loved in every corner of our district. And there's a very simple reason.

It's because Cheri Williams is a difference-maker.

I am so grateful to her for being a part of my team, a mentor to members of our team, and the definition of a public servant. As I complete my time in office, I want to commend Cheri and her family for all that they have committed to our community. And I want to thank Cheri for her service to folks in our region and to making life better for Washingtonians.

I thank Cheri, on behalf of the people of Washington's Sixth District.

CONGRATULATING ST. BERNARDS HEALTHCARE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of St. Bernards Healthcare, which celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2025. St. Bernards, based in Jonesboro, Arkansas, began caring for patients in 1900, in response to a malaria fever epidemic. A group of Olivetan Benedictine Sisters received a request to care for the sick, and they purchased a six-room house to be converted into a hospital. That house is now a hospital that stands as a 454-bed regional medical center, the largest of its kind in eastern Arkansas and southeast Missouri. Every year, 625,000 patients across 23 counties depend on St. Bernards's 100 locations and more than 4,700 team members to provide exceptional care.

St. Bernards strives to uphold the mission set by its founding Sisters, who still sponsor it today—"to provide Christ-like healing to the community through education, treatment, and health services."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating St. Bernards Healthcare's 125th anniversary.

CELEBRATING STEPHEN PECK

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Stephen Peck, a Marine Corps Veteran and non-profit leader who has dedicated his career to serving his fellow veterans. After 28 years of service, 14 years in which he led the organization, Stephen is retiring as Chief Executive Officer of U.S. VETS, an organization dedicated to preventing and ending veteran homelessness nationwide. Stephen leaves a lasting legacy as a veteran leader who has devoted his efforts to empower veterans and families through housing, comprehensive services and advocacy.

Born in 1946 to Greta Kukkonen and actor Gregory Peck in Los Angeles, Stephen grew up in Southern California and went on to graduate from Northwestern University. After graduation, he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps, serving as a First Lieutenant in the 1st Marine Division and forward observer outside Danang during the Vietnam War.

After completing his service in Vietnam, Stephen returned home, attended the graduate film school at the University of Southern California and worked on a number of television shows and became a documentary filmmaker. After making *Heart of the Warrior*, a documentary about Vietnam War and Soviet-Afghanistan War veterans returning to the countries they fought in and *Far From Home*, a documentary about homeless veterans in Venice, California, Stephen returned to USC and earned a master's degree in social work.

While completing his degree, Stephen began working as a social worker at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center, assisting his fellow veterans. Stephen found his true passion in this work and in 1996, he joined the United States Veterans Initiative, a non-profit that provides homeless veterans with temporary housing, counseling and wrap-around services. In 2010, Stephen was named CEO of U.S. VETS, expanding the organization's work in several states. During his leadership, the organization has grown tremendously, and offers services to veterans across Southern California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, Texas and Washington, D.C.

After the West Los Angeles Leasing Act was signed into law, giving the Department of Veterans Affairs the authority to develop supportive housing and services for homeless veterans, U.S. VETS was selected by the VA as part of the principal developer team for the site. Dedicated to ending veteran homelessness in Southern California, this project co-led by U.S. VETS is building new supportive housing for veterans, social work and community space and at its full build out will house a minimum of 1,200 units of supportive housing and a community dedicated to veterans in Los Angeles County. In 2023, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society awarded U.S. VETS with its Community Service Award for demonstrating the values epitomized by the Medal of Honor.

Stephen's decades of service to our veterans returning from combat, are commendable and his work to help house and support them has reverberated in Southern California and beyond. I am confident that his work will

continue to benefit veterans throughout our Nation and will inspire others to continue the fight to finally end veteran homelessness in our country.

HONORING THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Phoebus High School Football Team from Hampton, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 4 State Champions.

The Phoebus Phantoms won the Class 4 state championship game against the Varina High School Blue Devils with a score of 23-6. This is the fourth year in a row Phoebus High School has claimed a state championship title following two consecutive victories in the Class 3 division. Led by Coach Jeremy Blunt, the championship makes the Phoebus Class of 2025 the second to win four state titles in a row, or "4 peat," and its 49 consecutive wins are only three short of the 2012 class, which also won four state crowns from 2008 to 2011. Phoebus High School closed the season undefeated, with a record of 14 wins and 0 losses.

The Phantoms scored first with a field goal, but the Blue Devils scored the first touchdown, taking a 6-3 lead. The Phantoms had not trailed their opponents for much of the 2024 season, but sophomore Quarterback Maurikus Banks ended the Blue Devils' lead when he threw a 54-yard touchdown pass to Romeir Smith for a 9-6 halftime lead. The Phantoms defense shut out Varina for the rest of the game. Offensive Lineman Markus Hopson recovered a fumble into the end zone and gave the Phantoms a 16-6 lead and then Banks added a rushing touchdown for the final score of 23-6.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate the Phoebus High School Football Team and thank Coach Blunt, the parents, and the entire Phoebus High School community for supporting these students throughout this remarkable season and now a second "4 peat" in school history with their state championship win. They have made all of us incredibly proud. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERSH GOLDBERG-POLIN

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of love, light, and peace that Hersh Goldberg-Polin built throughout his 23 years of life.

Hersh was a loving son, devoted brother, and beloved friend to many. He was born on October 3, 2000 to Rachel Goldberg and Jon Polin, and he was the loving older brother to