

he held for 26 years. Richard is a Life Member of the Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York (VFPASNY), currently serving as president. He was also Chairman of the Seminar Committee for 15 years, Editor of the VFPASNY Newspaper and a trainer in multiple counties for the Fire Police Review Class for 12 years.

Richard is a Life Member of the Oneida County Volunteer Fire Police Association where he served as President for 12 years and has held various other positions including the role of Chaplain. Additionally, Richard contributed to the work of the New York State Chaplains Association, conducting memorial and funeral services, and to the Oneida County Volunteer Firefighters Association, where Richard is currently the Chaplain and Sergeant at Arms.

In addition to these many accomplishments, Richard has been a member of the American Legion Post 66 in Camden, New York for 26 years, and is a member of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY).

Richard has received various awards including the George Woodman Award for Excellence, seven President's Awards for Community and Fire Police Leadership, and the VFPASNY Fire Police Officer of the Year. These, along with several other certificates and plaques reflect Richard's many contributions.

On behalf of New York's 22nd District, I am pleased to recognize the service and accomplishments of Richard Duerr, Sr. I thank him for his dedication to our community and our country.

CELEBRATING THE 2024 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPION UNIVERSITY OF DENVER'S MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a momentous achievement by the University of Denver's men's hockey team. Over the weekend, the Pioneers secured their 10th NCAA national championship title. This year's national championship marked not only their second title in three years, but also helped the team break the record for the most national championships in history.

During my time in Congress, I've had the distinct pleasure of celebrating five championship wins from this remarkable team. Each time, it fills me with immense pride to be a Denverite and to join our community in celebrating the excellence and dedication of DU's hockey team.

Under the exceptional leadership of Head Coach David Carle, this victory marks the second championship win during his tenure, with the last one coming in 2022. Denver now stands alone as the most decorated program in college hockey history, surpassing esteemed rivals like Michigan and North Dakota.

The final game was a testament to the Pios' skill and determination. Sophomores Jared Wright's and Rieger Lorenz's second-period goals, combined with the exceptional goaltending of Junior Matt Davis, secured a decisive 2-0 victory over the top-seeded Boston College.

Davis's performance throughout the tournament was nothing short of outstanding, stopping 35 shots with 23 crucial saves in the game's third period alone. Even Coach Carle described his performance as "superhuman." Davis was named the NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player with 138 saves, only allowing three goals.

Saturday's victory over Boston College followed DU's overtime victory against Boston University in the semifinals, Cornell in the second round, and the University of Massachusetts in the first round.

The championship win was not just about the individual capabilities of these players; it represented the values of hard work, teamwork, and dedication of the Pios. The team played a remarkable game, showcasing the pure talent of their student-athletes. The team's impressive talent not only led to their championship win, but to their incredible winning season overall—finishing with a record of 32-9-3.

I extend my congratulations to Coach Carle, the DU hockey team, and the entire DU community on this incredible, well-deserved achievement. They have not only made Colorado proud but made history in college hockey, and I look forward to supporting their future championship victories.

I congratulate once again the 2024 NCAA men's hockey champions—the University of Denver Pioneers. Or, as we say in Denver, "Go Pios."

RECOGNIZING STEVE SPRATLIN'S 33 YEARS OF SERVICE AT SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Spratlin's 33 years of service on the occasion of his retirement from Southern Union State Community College.

Mr. Spratlin began his career with the College in 1991 as Special Activities Coordinator, serving as an external liaison for the college. As a result of diligence, skill, and dedication, he advanced to the positions of Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Development in 2002 and Associate Dean of Instruction in 2009, the position he currently holds. Mr. Spratlin has spearheaded the SACSCOC reaccreditation efforts of the college for many years, and has served on numerous committees. His significant contributions to Southern Union and his dedication to serving exemplify his profound influence within both the college and the broader community.

Mr. Spratlin is highly respected among his colleagues, known for his wise counsel, sound judgement, and love and dedication to SUSCC. He has been instrumental in helping the college earn numerous awards for excellence and receive grant funds from local, state, regional, and national organizations. The inspiring leadership and guidance he has displayed throughout his tenure at the college will be dearly missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Steve Spratlin's tireless years of service to

Southern Union State Community College and wishing him the best in his retirement.

HONORING BRUCE PARSONS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bruce Parsons on the occasion of his retirement as Principal of Plymouth Regional High School.

Bruce first came to New Hampshire as the principal of Wentworth Elementary School in 1991. Soon after, Bruce transferred to Plymouth Regional High School as Assistant Principal and was promoted to Principal in 1993. He has held that position ever since—more than 30 years. Among his many accomplishments, Bruce's colleagues have called him an effective leader, creative problem solver, and passionate educator. I commend Bruce on his retirement after three decades with Plymouth Regional High School and his unwavering dedication to our state's students.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Bruce for his years of service to our community and for being a part of what makes the Granite State such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Bruce on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL ERIK PETERSON'S SERVICE AND RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Representative FULCHER and Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH to recognize the retirement of Lieutenant General Erik Peterson for his 38 years of exemplary service to our nation.

Lieutenant General Erik Peterson's journey began in Idaho, where he received his education from elementary school to university, ultimately graduating from the University of Idaho's College of Mines and Earth Resources in 1986. Upon graduation he received his Army commission as a Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Idaho's Chrisman Battalion.

Nonetheless, his educational career did not end there. He earned Master's Degrees in Business Administration and National Security Strategy. In addition, as part of his professional military education, he completed the Aviation Officer Advanced Course, and attended the Combined Arms Service Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

Throughout his career Lieutenant General Erik Peterson held key command and leadership roles, including four tours with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. He served as the Director of the Flight Concepts Division at Fort Eustis, Virginia, and held roles

as Brigade Commander of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and Chief of Staff for the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. Additionally, he assumed responsibilities as Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Cadet Command in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and later as Commanding General at U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His tenure included service as Director of Army Aviation at the Pentagon and Commanding General of Division West of First U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas, which oversaw five brigades and two mobilization sites nationwide. Furthermore, he served as Director of Force Development in G-8.

His military awards and decorations include: 4 Distinguished Service Medals, 4 Legions of Merit, 6 Bronze Star Medals, 5 Meritorious Service Medals, 5 Air Medals Valor Device, the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Master Aviator Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

His foreign military awards include: the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea Order of National Security Merit Cheonsu Medal, the Australian Parachutist Badge, the Honorary Republic of Korea Master Aviator Badge, and the Honorary Swedish Parachutist Badge.

In addition, he is the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield's first recipient of the Award for Meritorious Military Service in Protection of Cultural Property and was inducted into the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Hall of Fame in 2016.

Upon his retirement as Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, after 38 years of service, Lieutenant General Erik Peterson leaves behind a legacy of honor and dedication, whereas he will retire with the distinction of being the highest-ranking U.S. Army Officer in the history of the state of Idaho.

It is our greatest honor to recognize Lieutenant General Erik Peterson for the outstanding contributions he's made to the people of Idaho and the Nation through his distinguished military service and commitment to the defense of our Nation. We thank him for his service and wish him well in retirement.

HONORING MIKE DUNCAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my trusted advisors and friends, Mike Duncan, who paved a path with business and political expertise from rural Martin County, Kentucky, all the way to the White House.

Over the last five decades, Mike has served as a remarkable political strategist, dressed sharply in the armor of wisdom, confidence, and patriotism, commanding the respect of our peers at the highest ranks of the Republican Party. He has served on six Presidential campaigns, served as Chairman and General Counsel of the RNC, and was elected as a Kentucky delegate to eleven Republican National Conventions. There is no place for timidity or fear when preserving the foundation of

our conservative values, and I applaud Mike's staunch advocacy of the GOP year after year.

In fact, his stalwart leadership has been commissioned by a multitude of organizations and the Nation's foremost leaders, including President George H.W. Bush, President George W. Bush, and President Donald J. Trump. He served as Chairman of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors and was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Tennessee Valley Authority. There is no higher honor in the United States than serving our Commander-in-Chief, yet he also dedicated time to mentor rising leaders at Alice Lloyd College, and serve on the boards of nonprofit organizations, like the Christian Appalachian Project and The Center for Rural Development.

When I embarked on a mission to establish The Center for Rural Development (The Center) for Southern and Eastern Kentucky in 1996, I invited Mike to serve on the Board of Directors, harnessing his financial expertise, his visionary mind, and his passion to raise up the next generation of leaders. He conceptualized the youth programs at The Center, including my namesake Rogers Scholars Program to provide opportunities for our rising students in the mountains to earn college scholarship awards, learn leadership skills, expand their horizons, and interact with local and regional business owners, leaders, and educators. Since inception, more than 1,300 students have graduated from the Rogers Scholars program, earning more than \$11 million in scholarships from 19 participating colleges and universities.

Mike's legacy is the epitome of what we need to replicate among our future generations: sons and daughters of Eastern Kentucky who choose to use their talents and energy to make our region, our state, and our great Nation a better place to live.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT REVEREND JOHN JENKINS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. of Notre Dame, Indiana and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Fr. Jenkins serves as the 17th President of the University of Notre Dame, and he has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and leading our community. He will step down as president in June 2024.

Since 1990, Fr. Jenkins has been a member of Notre Dame's Department of Philosophy, specializing in theology. He is a distinguished graduate of Notre Dame and holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University. Additionally, Fr. Jenkins graduated from the Jesuit School of Theology with a Master of Divinity and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

In 2005, Notre Dame's Board of Trustees elected Fr. Jenkins to serve as President. Under his leadership, the university has made monumental advances in academia and strengthened its important connection to faith. Additionally, Notre Dame has committed to ensuring its students can receive the financial

aid they need to stay in school and be successful. Through Fr. Jenkins' hard work and effort, Notre Dame has transformed into one of the fastest growing research universities nationwide. It was invited to join the prestigious Association of American Universities in 2023, becoming the only religiously affiliated university in the United States to receive this honor.

Fr. Jenkins is a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Commission on Presidential Debates, which has commended his leadership on the topic of civil discourse. He has advocated for common ground and understanding with individuals across the aisle, particularly when it comes to our faith and views. I am proud to recognize Fr. Jenkins today for his excellence and the impact he has made on countless lives.

It is an honor to bestow Fr. Jenkins with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation. I am certain this will not be the end of his accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHARLES HURSEY FOR BEING NAMED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR-B-Q HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend Charles Hursey of Hursey's Bar-B-Q on being inducted into the inaugural class of the North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame.

With all the divisiveness and partisanship impacting our nation today, it is refreshing to see the new North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame bringing together all sides of the great divide—Eastern and Lexington style barbecue.

Very few things exemplify North Carolina more than barbecue, and last month the North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame inducted its first class. I was thrilled that Charles Hursey, owner of the legendary Hursey's Bar-B-Q, is part of this esteemed class. As a frequent patron of Hursey's Bar-B-Q, I can personally attest to the quality of the food and friendliness of the employees of this great North Carolina institution.

Hursey's Bar-B-Q was founded by Sylvester and Daisy Hursey, Charles' parents. In fact, Hursey's Bar-B-Q was one of the first barbecue wholesalers to ever be licensed by the state of North Carolina back in 1949. As he grew, Charles began learning the business and, in 1966, took over the family's Burlington location. Eventually, Charles would go on to run the whole operation. Charles maintains this role today and, following the Hursey family tradition, continues to operate four restaurant locations and a catering facility alongside his wife, children, and grandchildren.

In North Carolina, barbecue is one of our most cherished and almost sacred traditions. It is a labor-intensive art that requires great skill and hard work on the part of the pitmaster. At the same time, it is an art that stresses the importance of family and passing down practices and recipes from one generation to the next. I cannot think of anybody who embodies these attributes better than Charles.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Charles Hursey on being named to the