

showcased his brilliance and unwavering commitment to advancing technology and science.

In 1985, Miguel's expertise and leadership were further recognized when he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to serve as a member of the National Science Board for the National Science Foundation. This prestigious appointment underscored his significant contributions to the scientific community and his influence on national science policy.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Miguel's leadership at the National Center for Genome Resources (NCGR) in Santa Fe, where he served as Chairman of the Board and Interim President/CEO, was transformative. His work in bioinformatics and computational biology has left an important mark on the field, contributing to advancements that will benefit future generations.

I was privileged to work alongside Miguel on the National Genome Resource Center, where his insights into the role of science in shaping New Mexico's economy were invaluable. His passion for both science and community was truly inspiring, and I learned so much from him.

Miguel was not only a brilliant scientist and leader but also a loving husband, father, and grandfather. His deep love for his wife, Maria Estela de Rios, is legendary. I will always remember their smooth dancing to the tango, the cumbia, and other mainstays of his Latino cultural heritage. His love for his family (familia)—Miguel III, the late Benjamin Tomas, Eva Angelica, Magdalena Anastacia—and his grandchildren was evident in all he did.

His family is in my thoughts and prayers. May Miguel's spirit continue to guide and watch over them. His passing is a profound loss not only to his family but also to the scientific community, to our civic community, and to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Miguel's legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

HONORING COLONEL ALAIN G. FISHER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Alain G. Fisher, the sixty-third Commander of the Watervliet Arsenal.

Alain Fisher selflessly served his country through years of distinguished service in our military, where he played a crucial role in defending our Nation and protecting our interests around the world. Alain enrolled in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Early Commissioning Program at Kemper Military Junior College where he was commissioned in 1998. After graduating from the University of Central Florida in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, he entered active duty as a Quartermaster Officer. His first assignment was with the 725th Main Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. There he served as a Supply Platoon Leader, Battalion S1, and S4 until 2003. Upon attending the Captain Logistics Career Course at Fort Lee, Virginia COL Fisher served with the 19th Theater Support Command G4 at Camp Henry in South Korea.

In 2005, he was reassigned to 7th Special Forces Group and served as a Support Operation Plans Officer during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006. COL Fisher commanded the Service Detachment in the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), deploying again in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2007 to Afghanistan. He returned to the 7th Special Forces Group to serve as the Battalion Operations Officer until 2008. COL Fisher was reassigned to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as the Quartermaster Captain's Assignments Officer and Future-Readiness Officer.

After attending the Air Force Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, COL Fisher served with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia as the 703rd Brigade Support Battalion's Executive Officer, Support Operations Officer, and the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's S4. Fisher was then assigned to the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy in Spoliate Olona, Italy, serving as the Corps Information Knowledge Management Officer. He has served as the 63rd commander of the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, New York since July 22, 2022.

For his distinguished and lengthy military service, COL Fisher was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (with two bronze oak leaf clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with silver oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (with two bronze oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement medal (with three bronze oak leaf clusters), the Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize Colonel Alain G. Fisher for his exceptional record of service to the United States, and I wish him continued success as he continues his military career at Fort Liberty in North Carolina.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE FIRE CHIEF MIKE STARR

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor a remarkable leader, Fire Chief Mike Starr, who has dedicated 27 years of his life to serving and protecting the citizens of Southlake, Texas. In 1997, Starr joined the Southlake Fire Department, working as a firefighter and paramedic. As a result of his unwavering dedication and commitment, he rose through the ranks, taking on the positions of driver, engineer, and captain of operations. Then, in 2008, Starr earned the title of Fire Chief, a role he has used to make a lasting impact in North Texas.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Mike Starr led the department through a period of significant growth and transformation. Under his leadership, the department expanded its personnel from 45 to 74 members and oversaw the openings of Station 1 DPS Headquarters and the Station 3 North training facility. Chief Starr's vision and commitment to excellence have been the driving force behind these achievements, ensuring that the fire department not only meets but exceeds the needs of

our growing community. Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Starr has embodied what it means to be a true leader. His dedication and hard work have been recognized through numerous honors, including the Teamwork Award in 1998 and the Director's Award in 2006. In 2007, he was named Firefighter of the Year, a testament to his outstanding service.

Chief Starr has always focused on leading and developing a department that models best-in-class service delivery. In the Fire Department's 2023 annual report, Chief Starr highlighted the importance of continuous improvement through daily "quick drills" for line personnel, ensuring operational effectiveness and preparedness. His leadership has been invaluable, and as Southlake City Manager Alison Ortowski noted, his guidance has been instrumental in navigating the challenges of growing a fire department while maintaining the highest standards of service.

As Chief Starr prepares to retire at the end of August, it is both an honor and a privilege to recognize his 27 years of exemplary service. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for his contributions and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the success of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the State of Missouri. This new initiative increases literacy and education among our state's youth and will foster an invaluable love of reading for our state's precious youth. I express my deepest gratitude to Dolly Parton and the State of Missouri for bringing this program to the youngest constituents in my district.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library delivers books monthly to children's homes from their birth until their fifth birthday. For the children and their families receiving the books, the program is completely free. In Missouri, this program thrives thanks to the generosity of Dolly, nearly 60 affiliates and legislation passed by the state to establish and administer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for all children in Missouri 0 to 5 years old.

In 1995, Dolly Parton—already an award-winning and chart-topping artist—established an Imagination Library in her home county in Tennessee, inspired by her father who could not read. Since then, the program boasts recipients from five countries around the world. As of this year, it has delivered over 250 million books to over 3 million young children. Dolly is an incredible philanthropist, and her record of community service is as vast and acclaimed as her career as an international musical phenomenon. We are thankful to have our very own Imagination Library here to continue inspiring future generations of leaders through literacy.

Though Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been an "Unlikely Angel" in helping our state advance early childhood literacy, the establishment of the Missouri Imagination Library

ensures that in terms of having young children eager to read, there's "More Where That Came From". I am grateful for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and promise to continue doing "All I Can Do" to advance this noble cause—even if it means working past "9 to 5". After all, there is little else more important than instilling a love for reading within the minds of children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the impact and service that Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will continue to have in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and the rest of the "Show-Me" State. I speak with the voice of Missouri's entire Fifth Congressional District as we say a heartfelt "thank you" to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library as we celebrate and congratulate them on all their current achievements and those to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HARRISON FREER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harrison Freer, the Ward 2 Town of Queensbury Board Member, a retired Air Force Colonel and pilot, community activist, and avid environmentalist. Harrison Freer was a community leader known for his dedication and commitment to each endeavor he undertook.

Harrison served in the United States Air Force for 24 years, retiring as a Colonel. Following his distinguished military career, he began working for Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems in 2000 as a Systems Engineer and later served as the Director of Space and Intelligence Systems.

A passionate pilot, Harrison owned a Pipistrel Alpha Trainer and was a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He was also active in the local chapter of the National Experimental Aircraft Association and the Glens Falls Pilot Club.

Harrison's passion for aviation extended beyond his personal interests, he worked with children at Warren County Airport through the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Young Eagles flying program where he inspired children's excitement about flying. Additionally, Harrison played a crucial role in the EAA's scholarship program, increasing access to pilot training for many aspiring aviators. Harrison's enthusiasm for teaching was evident in his work as an instructor where he was most proud to teach his granddaughter how to fly. He was also an innovative advocate for electric planes pushing the boundaries of sustainable aviation technology.

Harrison had been on the Queensbury Town Board since 2020, and his contributions to his community and country are truly remarkable. Harrison became the president of the Feeder Canal Alliance on July 1st of this year. His collaborative spirit and passion for environmental preservation were always evident in his work.

Harrison Freer passed away on August 1st, leaving behind his wife Tricia along with a legacy of service, leadership, and passion for the skies. His impact on his family, the commu-

nity, and the field of aviation, will be felt for generations to come. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize his extraordinary life.

RETHINKING AMERICA'S NUCLEAR POSTURE: A QUESTION OF WHY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to address the future of our nuclear posture.

In 1985, Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev, two cold warriors at the head of the world's largest nuclear arsenals, declared that nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. That declaration was regularly repeated and reaffirmed by the leaders of all five Nuclear Weapon States in 2022. This recognition should be the start and end of every conversation on nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, nuclear powers, since the advent of the Cold War, instead seem to have concluded that deterrence requires more nuclear weapons of every kind than the adversary. Today, because of this logic, we find ourselves engaged in a three-way nuclear arms race with Russia, China, and the U.S., each blaming the other for starting it and continuing it. Each nation, fearing an adversary may outflank them, continues to build nuclear infrastructure: nuclear silos in China's western deserts, nuclear weapons on satellites, and replacement ICBMs. As each nation seeks to strengthen its own hand, on and on it goes . . . a constant buildup where a country asks, "How can we build faster?" or "What can we target" but ignores the most important question: Why?

Leadership requires the rigorous use of that three-letter word, "Why." We must avoid blind adherence to yesterday's decisions. In today's discussion, that means asking what is sufficient for nuclear deterrence. Looking at past strategies and relying on past assumptions isn't enough. Old cold-war mentalities will create unacceptable costs, rob us of alternatives, and place us in even greater danger. Instead, we must think boldly and not repeat the problems of our history.

With this in mind, I bring this question of "why" to us all.

I know full well that we face a hostile world with numerous aggressive adversaries. We also know that we are now engaged in a nuclear arms race with China and Russia. Other nations are also known to have nuclear weapons, and others seek them. In this dangerous environment, deterrence must consider far more than just a great-power nuclear exchange.

We have also seen the threat to use nuclear weapons to deter non-nuclear aggression. Putin has used irresponsible nuclear threats to try and prevent our support for the Ukrainian people in the defense of their country.

Of course, no one has yet used these weapons, a fact that I know we are all grateful for, but with every threat comes the risk of use. No matter who has them, the prevalence of nuclear weapons places the world at risk. Today, we must think not just in terms of the threat but also in terms of the future.

So, let us ask a foundational question: Why does America need nuclear weapons? If it

does, how many and what kind? Proponents often justify nuclear weapons for two reasons: (1) to deter and fight a strategic nuclear exchange between major powers, and (2) to deter non-nuclear aggression.

Focusing on the first category, deterring an opponent from using strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, history would indicate that the strategy has worked for more than 70 years . . . but that record understates how close we came to causing our own destruction. Several near-disastrous incidents motivated leaders to back away and undertake several treaties to reduce weapons and risks. Leaders like Reagan, JFK, Eisenhower, Carter, and Obama knew that nuclear weapons could end civilization and, with those heavy moral and ethical considerations in mind, negotiated significant safety measures and a serious reduction in nuclear weapons.

These leaders demonstrated vision and commitment. They knew that war was not an option, so they had to create a vision for a safer future. Unfortunately, too many today shrug their shoulders and say the time for negotiations is not now. Which brings us to yet another question: Why not try? Over the next 30 years, we will spend almost 2 trillion dollars on our nuclear weapons. What if we spent just 1% on diplomatic and risk reduction efforts?

The second category of limiting non-nuclear aggression carries its own risks. Proponents of using nuclear weapons suggest that we could use "tactical weapons" in some limited way. However, once a nuclear option starts, when and how does a tactical exchange proceed? In the chaos and fog of war, would this tactical nuclear option just open the way to full-scale devastation? Many "think tanks" have studied this, and to this day, the result is "do not open Pandora's Box."

Despite their limitations, both categories are also how we continue to justify our spending on our massive nuclear arsenal. Some even use them to justify larger and larger expenses. But this brings us to another why question: Why have we chosen to spend our defense dollars on modernizing every element in the current nuclear systems?

This question will become increasingly important as timelines slip and costs grow in our nuclear modernization programs. For example, fresh off its first Nunn-McCurdy review, the Sentinel Program will now cost at least \$140 billion, not including a new bomb for another \$30 billion or the unknown costs of plutonium pit production.

We have an obligation to ask why. Not only 'why the extraordinary cost increases', but far more importantly, why are we doing the Sentinel program at all? Is there no alternative that would deter adversaries more effectively?

History is an important guide in this matter. In the 1950s and 1960s, our nuclear enterprise developed ground-based ICBMs, and we have continued them through the years. Today, members of Congress, without scrutiny, repeat a mantra that 400 ground-based ICBMs are necessary. But 40 years after the advent of the SSBNs and 20 years after stealth bombers, why are these ground-based ICBMs necessary? These missiles sit in their silos, not too far from you, in the heart of America, whose locations are known to cow hands, sheepherders, and targeting personnel in the bunkers of our adversaries.

If, in a nuclear crisis, adversaries chose to target out missile fields, they will launch early