

it gives families so that they can care for loved ones knowing that their jobs will be waiting for them.

THANKING GORDON BEAUDOIN
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on February 28, 2013, we would like to thank Mr. Gordon Beaudoin for his twenty-three years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Gordon has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Gordon began on the Hill in 1990 as an on-site Voice Service Manager with an outside contractor. He was responsible for all telephone services for the House, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. He retired from the company in 2000, and became a full-time employee for the House on April 16, 2001.

Gordon's first responsibility as Manager of the Voice and Video Branch was to sustain existing systems and ensure the best level of voice service was provided to the House community. After September 11, 2001, Gordon's team was tasked with identifying and resolving vulnerabilities in the voice systems necessary for Congress to perform its duties.

Gordon directed the development of a voice network recognized by industry experts as one of the most reliable and sustainable in the country. His team completely revamped the voice system hardware and software to provide multiple backups and redundancy. Additionally, he directed his team to completely redesign the network used to transport phone calls. It was an amazing improvement to reliability of service and one in which Gordon is extremely proud to have been a part.

Then, Gordon's responsibilities focused on the tracking and implementation of new technology in the House community. Gordon had the foresight to initiate projects which will continue to provide House customers with the world class service they expect from the CAO. Based on his vision, the voice network is being converted to an IP based system in order to provide many benefits now as well as in the future. Additionally, the voicemail system is being upgraded to provide new features and functions allowing customers to communicate in more collaborative ways.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Gordon Beaudoin for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many great years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WELFARE
INTEGRITY ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of Washington ending the cycle of drug abuse by allowing states to perform random drug tests to receive the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

The time is now to stop the cruel cycle of drug abuse. Currently, Washington enables people who are addicted to drugs by allowing them to participate in the TANF program while still abusing drugs. This program was designed to provide a safety net for families and children in their time of need. Instead Washington is enabling the drug abuse cycle to continue because Washington does not demand folks who use the program to be drug free.

If Washington wants to help families move toward economic stability it must end the cycle of drug abuse and encourage individuals to become healthy. By allowing for random drug checks, it can ensure that families receiving TANF benefits use the funds for the intended purpose of feeding, clothing, and providing shelter for children while cutting the ties that enables the cycle of drug abuse.

The Welfare Integrity Act of 2013 requires each state participating in the TANF program to certify that applicants and current recipients are being randomly tested for illegal drug use. In order to pass constitutional muster, the Welfare Integrity Act of 2013 requires states to provide a consent and waiver form where applicants are given the choice to waive their Fourth Amendment Rights and submit to a random drug test. The Supreme Court has ruled several times individuals have the right to waive their Fourth Amendment rights. Bottom line, the choice is yours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support me in passing the Welfare Integrity Act of 2013 to eliminate abuse and ensure the benefits are used for the purpose intended, to protect children.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN KRISTIAN
P. BIGGS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF
SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES
NAVY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Kristian P. Biggs for thirty years of dedicated service in the United States Navy. Captain Biggs will retire as the Director of Missile Defense and Integration in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ships.

Captain Kris Biggs was born on July 23, 1961 in Jacksonville, Florida. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics (Departmental Honors) and Mathematics at Jacksonville University, where he received a commission in April 1983 as an Ensign, via the NROTC program, into the Restricted Line (En-

gineering Duty Officer). He holds a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Acoustics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and is a graduate of the Advanced Program Manager's Course from the Defense Systems Management College in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

After completing the Surface Warfare Officer School Basic Course in Coronado, California, he reported to the USS *Lang* (FF-1060) where he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer while serving as Antisubmarine Warfare Officer, Assistant Navigator, and Personnel Officer. In September 1986, Captain Biggs entered the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and graduated in December 1988 with a Masters Degree in Engineering Acoustics. After attending the Engineering Duty Officer Basic Course in Mare Island, California, Captain Biggs reported to Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as the Operational Test Director for the AN/SQQ-89(V) ASW Combat System from 1989 to 1993. During this time he completed the Engineering Duty Officer Qualification Program and participated in the planning and execution of the USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51) Operational Evaluation. Captain Biggs' next assignment was Combat Systems Officer on USS *NASAU* (LHA-4) in Norfolk, Virginia, where he reported in 1993 following the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Course in Newport, Rhode Island.

Captain Biggs reported to Program Executive Officer for Undersea Warfare in Crystal City, Virginia in the fall of 1995. His initial assignment was as an Assistant Program Manager in the Naval Signal Processors Program Office (PMS 428). Following the Advanced Program Manager's Course at DSMC in 1997, Captain Biggs was assigned to the Undersea Weapons Program Office (PMS 404) where he worked on advanced technology. He was selected to become a member of the Acquisition Professional Community and completed his Level III Program Management qualification. In 1998, Captain Biggs was assigned to the Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants where he served as the Navy Area Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD) Test and Evaluation Branch Head in the Navy Area TBMD Program Office (PMS 451). From August 2000 to July 2002, he served as the Navy Area TBMD Systems Engineering Branch Head.

In August 2002, Captain Biggs reported to Program Executive Officer for Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS) Detachment Huntsville, Alabama where he served as the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) Deputy Project Manager (Navy) in the Army Program Executive Officer for Air, Space and Missile Defense. He went to Afghanistan in 2003 and Iraq in 2004 in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He was promoted to Captain in July 2004.

In October 2004, Captain Biggs became the 11th Commanding Officer of Aegis Technical Representative in Moorestown, NJ. Under his leadership, the command earned ten field activity excellence awards (five from PEO IWS and five from Aegis BMD) and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its critical role in the historic "Satellite Shootdown." He reported to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ships in August 2010.

Captain Biggs' personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, Navy Commendation Medal with three gold stars, Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and various service related awards and campaign ribbons.

Captain Biggs is married to the former Marina Reese. The Biggs' have four children; Justin, Eric, Juliana, and Joshua.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Kristian P. Biggs for his thirty years of service to our country. Captain Biggs has demonstrated a deep commitment to the security of our nation. His exemplary career is a testament to the level of dedication exhibited among our men and women in the armed forces. I would like to personally wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Americans affected by Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders across the country.

As February marks National Marfan Awareness Month, it is important to raise awareness to this rare genetic condition. About 1 in 10,000 Americans carries a genetic mutation that impacts connective tissue throughout the entire body. Patients often have disproportionately long limbs, a protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints. However, these are not what most concern Marfan syndrome patients. Internal organs have connective tissue and in Marfan patients the aorta, the large artery that carries blood away from the heart, is weakened and prone to enlargement and potentially fatal rupture.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act. While we have made great strides in addressing rare conditions since the Orphan Drug Act first became law, we must not lose sight of the work that still needs to be done. Patients with Marfan syndrome and related disorders rely on us to provide investment in critical research activities so that treatment options can be improved and, most importantly, so that cures can be found.

I am proud to represent the nation's foremost organization working to support the Marfan community, the National Marfan Foundation, based in Port Washington, New York. The Foundation was founded in 1981 by Priscilla Ciccariello, and since then the Foundation has worked to improve the lives of those affected by Marfan syndrome and related disorders by promoting research, raising awareness, and providing support to those afflicted with Marfan.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Marfan Awareness Month. I look forward to working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to make critical investments in medical research and treatment to save the lives of people across the United States.

RECOGNIZING COOK COUNTY
SPELLING BEE CHAMPION ALIA
ABIAD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alia Abiad, winner of the Cook County Spelling Bee.

Alia Abiad is a 7th Grader at McClure Junior High School, and a resident of my hometown of Western Springs, IL. In addition to being a skilled tennis player and violinist for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, her recent performances in local Spelling Bees have demonstrated that she is an extremely dedicated and talented young woman.

Alia diligently practices her spelling independently and with her parents every day. She also gains her edge by reading books intended for an audience well beyond her age.

Alia initially won the title of best speller at McClure Junior High, and then went on to win the Cook County Regional Spelling Bee. In these competitions she maintained a perfect record, spelling every word correctly. Alia will be representing her school and her peers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC this upcoming May.

This victory is a reminder of how preparation, practice, and perseverance produce solid results, even when facing difficult challenges. I call on all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alia Abiad for her tremendous accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN RIGBY AS
THE 2014 ESCAMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Rigby as the 2014 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rigby has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and our community; and I am honored to recognize her success and achievements.

In 1983, Mrs. Rigby graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in Business Management, and in 2005 she earned a master's degree from the University of West Florida in Clinical Teaching and Special Education. However, Mrs. Rigby's passion for teaching began well before 2005. Since 1989, Mrs. Rigby has served the students and community of Northwest Florida, both in the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County school districts. Mrs. Rigby initially served an ESE Teacher Assistant and Substitute Teacher for the Escambia County School District from 1989 to 1999. Since then, she has served twice as an ESE Teacher for Pine Forest High School, Math Teacher for Navarre High School, and is currently the an Algebra 1A Co-Teacher at Pine Forest High School.

The superb quality and effectiveness of the schools in Northwest Florida can no doubt be

credited to educators like Susan Rigby. Mrs. Rigby understands the invaluable role teachers play in the lives of their students, and she possesses an unwavering commitment and fervor. She is an exemplary teacher who believes encouraging her students to reach their highest potential is most crucial to the learning experience. The enthusiasm demonstrated by Mrs. Rigby's students is truly a testament to her dedication and desire to see her students achieve both in and out of the classroom.

Aside from her involvement at Pine Forest High School, Mrs. Rigby dedicates her time to various community events such as Relay for Life, We Believe in Children 5K, as well as projects that benefit underprivileged classrooms. Mrs. Rigby's efforts and devotion have not gone unnoticed, and she has been honored for her years of teaching secondary education. In 2004, she was awarded the University of West Florida, Outstanding College of Education Student. She was also the recipient of the Pine Forest High School Teacher of the Year, as well as the Walmart Selection Teacher of the Year in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Susan Rigby as the 2014 Escambia County Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Rigby, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act, along with my colleague Congressman LARSEN. Green Mountain Lookout, located in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, was built in 1933 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project. During the Second World War, the lookout was used to detect fires and to spot enemy aircraft. It is no surprise that with such a rich history, the Green Mountain Lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately, severe weather caused the Green Mountain Lookout to fall into disrepair, and the U.S. Forest Service began taking steps to preserve the historic structure for future generations. However, a group based out of Montana filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service for using machinery in order to conduct repairs, and a U.S. District Court ordered the Forest Service to remove the lookout. This legislation would protect the Green Mountain Lookout, one of the few surviving fire lookouts in the West, by allowing critical maintenance while keeping this iconic structure in its original home.

The Green Mountain Lookout represents a significant piece of the Pacific Northwest's history and it deserves to be protected for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy today and in the years to come. I urge my colleagues to preserve a part of our Nation's history by supporting this bill.