to engage its members in regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategic planning, emergency preparedness planning, environmental planning and education, and intergovernmental review. Furthermore, the Council provides assistance in grant-writing, project management, technical planning, and data analysis.

Due to its collaborative nature, the Council naturally recognizes the importance of an all-of-community and region approach. To that end, it welcomes and encourages citizens throughout the Gulf Coast to become engaged in the process to actively address and solve problems of the growing region.

Over the past five decades, the Council has dedicated their efforts to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Northwest Florida. Their contributions have helped ensure that the Emerald Coast remains a top tourist destination and a place where thousands live like millions wish they could.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of its members for their devotion to service and wishing them and the Council all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD FraZIER MACIVER, JR., CHAMPION OF LGBT VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Donald Frazier MacIver, Jr., who has dedicated his life to serving his country, his community, and his fellow military service members and veterans. Donald’s service began as a Senior Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army’s elite 5th Special Forces Group. In Vietnam, Donald showed the depth of his commitment to service by participating in extraordinarily hazardous missions behind enemy lines as a member of the covert Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

In the last fifty years, Donald has worked tirelessly to advance the dignity and equal treatment of GLB service members and veterans. In 1993, Donald was arrested at the White House for his nonviolent civil disobedience in protest of the implementation of the U.S. military’s discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. Donald has also served as a volunteer consultant on proper treatment and disposal procedures for veterans’ records as a Senior Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army’s elite 5th Special Forces Group. In Vietnam, Donald showed the depth of his commitment to service by participating in extraordinarily hazardous missions behind enemy lines as a member of the covert Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Dr. Scott Gerald Borg of Fairfax Virginia, for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal in the career achievement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal annually to pay tribute to America’s dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate the U.S. Government workforce that has achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country.

Today, Dr. Borg serves as the head of the Section for Antarctic Sciences within the National Science Foundation’s Division of Polar Programs. According to the Partnership for Public Service, under Dr. Borg’s direction, the National Science Foundation’s Antarctic research program has become one of the most esteemed and comprehensive on the continent. Today, Dr. Borg plays a critical role in guiding the U.S. Antarctic science program that supports cutting-edge research in a range of topics, including climate change, the origins and nature of the universe, and the discovery of new species of extinct dinosaurs.

The work being facilitated by Dr. Borg and his colleagues is truly groundbreaking research. For example, Dr. Borg’s leadership is credited with overcoming numerous technical and logistical challenges that enabled the National Science Foundation to complete the West Antarctic Ice Sheet drilling project, which captured 18,000 years and represents the highest-resolution record of climate obtained to date. Further, Dr. Borg also oversaw the development of clean drilling technology that retrieved the first-ever pure water samples from an Antarctic lake a half mile below the surface of ice. These samples are estimated to have been sealed under the ice for approximately 15 million years, and may enable researchers to understand what types of life can survive on other worlds.

Being named a finalist by the Partnership for Public Service is just the latest honor in Dr. Borg’s outstanding and celebrated career that has made tremendous contributions to the global research community and elevated the prestige of Federal scientific research over the past two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dr. Scott Gerald Borg for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Medal. Dr. Borg and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than $1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Dr. Borg and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia’s 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our thanks and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN ROBERT “BOB” RAMMUSEN, USN (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize retired Navy Captain Robert “Bob” Rasmussen for his lifetime of honorable service and dedication to our great Nation on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola.

A native of Sacramento, California, Bob was born on May 26, 1930, and entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1951. He excelled in flight training school at NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola, both located in Northwest Florida, and was assigned to a fighter squadron in San Diego, California, where he deployed on multiple occasions to the Western Pacific aboard the carrier USS Philippine Sea. In 1956, he was selected to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels. For three years, he was responsible for inspiring millions of Americans flying flight demonstrations that have now spanned four decades. Bob continued his tours at sea in Fighter Squadron 33 aboard the USS Intrepid and as a Flag Lieutenant to