

his career as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Throughout his service as a senior military leader, Admiral Winnefeld has provided this body, and in particular the House Armed Services Committee, with invaluable testimony and candid military advice. Over the last four years, Admiral Winnefeld has served as the ninth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I think I speak for all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee when I say his vast experience, knowledge, outstanding leadership and professionalism combined with his deep respect and consideration for all of our service men and women will be greatly missed.

During his tenure as Vice Chairman, he provided military advice to not only the legislative branch, but also to the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a wide range of complex military and national security issues during an extremely challenging period in our country's history.

In this challenging fiscal and security environment, Admiral Winnefeld helped lead our military through global events and threats to include the Department of Defense's rebalance to the Pacific, Iraq troop withdrawal, Afghanistan transition, the global threat of ISIL, instability in Syria and Russia's provocative actions in Eastern Europe. In addition, the Vice Chairman played key roles in advising our nation's leaders on and formulating plans for various counterterrorism efforts.

As Vice Chairman, he led the development and implementation of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, an effort that involved thousands of senior leadership man-hours. Pivotal to his role as the Vice Chairman he also chaired the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (or JROC), where he worked tirelessly to transform the requirements processes to become more agile, transparent and inclusive. He focused its efforts on the immediate capability needs of the Combatant Commanders and the most pressing military issues of the Joint Warfighter. As co-chair of the Defense Acquisition Board, Admiral Winnefeld worked to link the requirements, resource and acquisition communities in developing programs to deliver appropriate capabilities to the Joint Warfighter at the right time and for the right price. Admiral Winnefeld's work as a co-chair of the nuclear weapons council ensured our military's nuclear enterprise and number one priority remained viable and relevant as a strategic deterrent to our nation's adversaries.

Admiral Winnefeld graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology and received his commission from the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He subsequently served with three fighter squadrons flying the F-14 Tomcat and as an instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School. Admiral Winnefeld's unit commands at sea include Fighter Squadron 211, USS *Cleveland* (LPD 7) and USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65). He led "Big E" through her 18th deployment, which included combat operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom immediately after the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, 2001. As Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO/Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, he led Task Forces 50, 152 and 58 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and maritime interception operations in the Arabian Gulf. He also served as

Commander, United States SIXTH Fleet, Commander NATO Allied Joint Command Lisbon and Commander Striking and Support Forces NATO.

His shore tours include service in the Joint Staff Operations Directorate (J-3), as Senior Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as Executive Assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. As a flag officer he served ashore as director, Warfare Programs and Transformational Concepts, United States Fleet Forces Command, as Director of Joint Innovation and Experimentation at United States Joint Forces Command and as the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) on the Joint Staff. Prior to becoming the Vice Chairman, Admiral Winnefeld served as the Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM).

As the Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM, Admiral Winnefeld led historic advances in the working relationship between USNORTHCOM, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs and Border Protection and the National Guard, specifically with the Dual-Status Commander concept. In addition, he led the U.S.-Mexican military-to-military relationship to a historic level of collaboration and brought very tangible results to our Nations' important struggle against the fast-growing transnational criminal organizations. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Admiral Winnefeld culminated a long and distinguished career in the service of our nation and his tenure leaves a lasting positive legacy to the Armed Forces. I appreciate his extraordinary reflected great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, and the Department of Defense.

For nearly forty years Admiral Winnefeld has performed his duty professionally, honestly and with great dedication. Our nation will miss his leadership and expertise.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing him and his family all the best as he moves to the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING COL. CHUCK
HODGES' SERVICE TO JOINT
BASE LEWIS-McCHORD AND THE
UNITED STATES

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend and Commander of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, U.S. Army Colonel Charles Hodges, Jr.

COL Hodges will leave command next month after a tremendously successful three years at JBLM. He has played a critical role in the implementation of joint basing and has proved the success of the program to both the Department of Defense and the Army. In addition, his partnership with the surrounding community is unprecedented. He has strengthened an already robust relationship between the base and community by finding creative solutions to issues such as traffic congestion and noise abatement.

COL Hodges has also been instrumental in ensuring our separating troops can pursue job

training and career opportunities. He has worked to develop resources in the surrounding community and at the state and federal levels to provide transition assistance for all veterans.

The Army will be losing a strong leader when COL Hodges retires later this year after a long and impressive career in the Army. He started his service in the summer of 1985 when he enlisted in the Florida National Guard as an 11B Infantryman. After being commissioned as an Infantry Officer and Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Central Florida (UCF) he completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School and Ranger School. He was then assigned to Germany and 3-5 Cavalry in the 3rd Armored Division. While there he participated in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After returning from Germany and completing the required military schooling, he commanded A Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (ASSLT) in the Republic of Korea; and Company H, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) in Arlington, Virginia.

In 2001-2002, COL Hodges attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth and was then assigned to Fort Lewis, where he served as a Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, (Tomahawks); and as the Operations Officer of 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. While there, he was part of the team that certified the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team and deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served as the Chair of the Military Science Department at Duke University. In 2007, he returned to Fort Lewis and took command of 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. He commanded the battalion for three years, and he deployed it to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After command, he was selected to serve as the Director of Training, G3, for I Corps. After attending the United States Army War College, COL Hodges took command of the newly created Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in August of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize COL Hodges' successful and decorated career. I commend him for his service, leadership, and dedication. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by his family including his wife Kathy and their children Shelby and Sam.

The State of Washington and our country owe COL Hodges a debt of gratitude for his work and dedication to our country. We thank him for his service to our country and congratulate him as he begins the next chapter of his career.

COMMENDING UNITED STATES-
TURKEY MILITARY COOPERATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the announcement made last Thursday that Incirlik Air Base in Turkey will now be made available for both unmanned and manned airstrikes