

and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006–2007. He has also served on the staff of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Strategic Initiatives Group, and the Marine Corps Forces Central Command Coordination Element forward deployed in Bahrain. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, the Air Medal with 6 strike device, the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, as well as numerous campaign and service awards.

While serving, Colonel D'Haiti also made numerous civic contributions and is a leader within his community. After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti in 2010, Colonel D'Haiti volunteered for nearly a month with the Haiti Micah Project, working to provide hot meals and shelter to street children in Mirebalais. Colonel D'Haiti is married to the former Maxine Hall of Sharon, MA, and loving father to Elizabeth, Grace, and Benjamin.

On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress and the thousands of sailors and marines you have led and mentored, thank you. Your life and service are the hallmark of the American Dream and will be an enduring inspiration for generations of young men and women after you. I wish you fair winds and following seas in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NEIL SMIT

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I want to recognize a constituent of mine, Neil Smit, for his service to our country, volunteer work in the community, and accomplishments in the business world. Earlier this year, Neil stepped down as president and CEO of Comcast Cable after 7 years with the company, but he will continue to work for the Comcast Corporation in his new role as a vice chairman.

Many know Neil for his business success and acumen, but his impressive career began as a member of the Armed Forces. Neil served on Active Duty with the Navy SEAL teams for over 5 years and retired from the service as a lieutenant commander. Neil never forgot the actions of his fellow servicemembers, which is why he championed Comcast's pledge to help Active-Duty servicemembers find jobs and make the transition into the civilian workforce. In particular, Neil spearheaded Comcast's commitment to hire 10,000 veterans, Reservists, and their spouses, as well as improving the company's military leave policies.

Neil is active in community service, both nationally and in the Philadelphia region. He currently sits on the executive committee of the board of trustees for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and he serves on the board of directors of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association and C-

SPAN, which broadcasts the Senate's proceedings nationwide.

As CEO of Comcast Cable, Neil developed and implemented significant changes aiming to improve cable and broadband services across the country. Comcast has a strong and well-known presence in Pennsylvania, both in terms of delivering television programming and Internet service to customers and in employing thousands of hard-working individuals across a variety of careers. Under Neil's leadership, Comcast Cable accelerated its commitment to job creation and innovation, developing new products that changed how customers consume telecommunication services. Prior to his time at Comcast, Neil displayed the same leadership and dedication to teamwork while serving in senior leadership positions at Charter Communications, AOL, Pillsbury, and Nabisco.

Today I congratulate Neil Smit on his leadership and an impressive career. I thank him for his service to our Nation and wish him well in his new role.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL H. MICHAEL EDWARDS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and commend Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, who retired on March 31, 2017, after 43 years of exceptional leadership and service to our country, including 36 years in the Colorado Air National Guard.

For almost a decade in the position of the adjutant general for Colorado, General Edwards was responsible for the command administration of over 5,300 Army and Air National Guard members.

He also served as the executive director of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and was a member of the Governor's cabinet.

He had responsibility for the Colorado National Guard's primary missions of national defense and State emergency response. In addition, he was responsible for supporting the missions of the Civil Air Patrol's Colorado Wing.

General Edwards received his commission in 1973, after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and earned his pilot wings in 1974 at Reese Air Force Base, TX.

He served as an F-4 pilot and AT-38 Fighter lead-in instructor pilot at Osan Air Base, Korea, and Holloman Air Force Base, NM, respectively.

General Edwards joined the Colorado Air National Guard in August 1980. He has served in numerous assignments in flying and operations, as well as command positions at squadron, group, and wing levels—culminating as the adjutant general for Colorado.

During his tenure as adjutant general, more than 6,000 Colorado National Guard citizen-soldiers and citizen-air-

men have mobilized in support of overseas contingency operations.

He also oversaw the Colorado National Guard's record-setting response to some of the worst natural disasters impacting Colorado, including the High Park fire and the Waldo Canyon fire during 2012, followed by the Black Forest fire and historic flooding along the Colorado Front Range in 2013.

Furthermore, General Edwards was instrumental in bringing a new National Guard cyber protection team to Colorado, bolstering the State's cyber defenses. He also diversified the Colorado National Guard through the appointment of its first female general officer.

Over a period of 10 years, General Edwards significantly grew the Colorado National Guard's enduring relationships with the Republic of Slovenia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the National Guard State Partnership Program.

These military-to-military exchanges have supported combatant command security cooperation objectives, promoted regional stability, and increased partner capacity and interoperability.

General Edwards has also overseen the missions of the Civil Air Patrol's Colorado Wing, consisting of more than 1,600 volunteers. Under his leadership, the Civil Air Patrol took on a bigger role in State response, flying fire watch, and conducting flood damage surveys.

Colorado's Civil Air Patrol was first to fly support of the U.S. Army's on-base unmanned aerial systems operations.

General Edwards has flown over 4,600 mishap-free flight hours in a variety of aircraft to include the AT-38, A-7, C-21, F-4, F-16, T-37 and T-38.

Of note, he has achieved the distinction of the wing's "Top Gun" award on five separate occasions in his decorated flying career.

Major Edwards has received numerous military decorations, including two Legion of Merit awards and three Meritorious Service medal awards, along with many others from the State of Colorado.

General Edwards' operational experience, charismatic leadership, and unyielding patriotism have served him well in a lifetime of military service, both in the Colorado Air National Guard and abroad.

Today we honor his distinguished service to our Nation as one of the most accomplished adjutant generals in Colorado history.

We offer our heartfelt appreciation to his family for their countless sacrifices and selfless support to our country spanning over four decades.

On behalf of the Senate and a grateful nation, I congratulate Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards on a job well done and wish him the very best as he begins a hard-earned retirement in the great State of Colorado.

I look forward to our continued friendship. Thank you.●