

war veteran Gerald Marreese Richmond, North Tazewell, VA; and two veterans who served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars: Johnnie Lewis Gordon, Sr., USA, Princeton, WV; and MSgt Reese Williamson Moore, USAF, Bluefield, WV.

The Vietnam veterans participating are Samuel "Sam" J. Connor, USN, Princeton, WV; CPL William "Bill" Cox, USA, Bluefield, WV; Sergeant Marion "Mario" E. Deskins, USAF, Iaeger, WV; CPL Donald R. Dinger, USMC, Bluefield, WV; SGT James "Jim" W. England, USA, Bluefield, VA; Jackie W. Estep, USMC, Yukon, WV; SPC Carl A. Lane, USA, Pineville, WV; Sergeant Marshal G. Mann, USAF, Princeton, WV; SGT Owen C. Neff, USA, Summersville, WV; PO3 Donald "Donnie" W. Noel, USN, Salem, VA; CPL Raymond C. Palmer, USA, Mabscott, WV; SGT Ronald Pennington, USA, Princeton, WV; PFC Jackson Phillip Thompson, USA, Bluefield, WV; SPC Larry Malone Saunders, USA, Madison, WV; PO1 Alan Brett Sexton, USN, Princeton, WV; SPC James Buck Tunnell, USA, Bandy, VA; CPL Ricky D. Williams, USMC, Beckley, WV; and CPT Jerry Sheffield, USA, Lavelette, WV.

Other veterans include PFC Willis Lee Helmandollar, USA, Rocky Gap, VA; and SrA Grover C. White, Jr., USAF, Princeton, WV.

This year, we are also proud of the ROTC cadets serving as escorts for our veterans, including Jacob Aaron Krabbe, Montcalm High School, Princeton, WV; Miaha Thompson, Montcalm High School, Rock, WV; and Lamont Devon Johnson, Bluefield High School, Bluefield, WV.

These young cadets are proof of West Virginia's continuing tradition of military service and are the next generation of brave men and women that serve our country with bravery and pride.

A great debt of gratitude is also owed to Dreama Denver, president of the Denver Foundation and Little Buddy Radio. These nonprofit organizations, which were founded by Dreama and her husband, Bob Denver, established the Always Free Honor Flight Network in West Virginia.

I am so proud of the service and sense of duty that defines West Virginians and, indeed, all Americans. We all benefit from their selflessness and courage, and one of the most sacred tasks we hold is properly honoring the dedication of our veterans. In bringing them together with the powerful monuments that recognize their sacrifice, we can express our unyielding gratitude while demonstrating our lasting commitment to preserving their memory. One of the greatest honors of serving in the U.S. Senate is representing citizens who have given so much to their country. I take seriously the duty of ensuring that their sacrifice is honored with the same steadfast conviction with which they defended the rights and freedoms of every American. Today I

ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming and thanking these exceptional West Virginia veterans.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DANIEL B. ALLYN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to recognize GEN Daniel B. Allyn for his exemplary dedication to duty and service to the U.S. Army and to our Nation. For the last 3 years, he has served as the 35th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and is planning to retire next month.

General Allyn is a fellow New Englander from Berwick, ME. He was commissioned as an infantry officer from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1981. General Allyn and his family were also fortunate to make a midcareer return to New England while he was a student at the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

General Allyn has commanded troops from the platoon through corps level and served as commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, along with myriad other staff assignments. He served an overseas assignment in Korea and operational deployments for Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, two peacekeeping deployments to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, Operation Desert Spring in Kuwait, two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Unified Response in Haiti, and one tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During a recent interview, General Allyn reflected on his time in uniform by saying "the only legacy we leave behind is the leaders that we develop on our watch." The U.S. Army is fortunate to have leaders like General Allyn, and those who have served under him have no doubt benefitted immeasurably from the mentorship he has provided. We should all be thankful for the generations of Army leaders who will follow in his footsteps and, in so doing, positively contribute to the security of our nation.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending GEN Daniel B. Allyn for over 36 years of service to our country. We wish Dan and his wife, Debbie, the very best in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL H. MICHAEL EDWARDS

• Mr. GARDNER. 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 and 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 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.●

RECOGNIZING 77TH ANNUAL PIKES PEAK OR BUST RODEO

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, an important part of the Western culture and history of the Pikes Peak Region. This year marks the 77th rodeo, making it one of the oldest and most prestigious in the county.

The Pikes Peak Region plays a significant role in our American history. For centuries, this area was home to Native Americans, pioneers, miners, farmers and ranchers, and other explorers. The Pikes Peak region became a prime location for trade and, eventually, the home of the "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold rush in 1857. Thousands of prospectors scrambled to the area for their piece of the gold fortune. This area became the pinnacle of the American frontier, which spurred development and innovation.

Today community-wide events, including the Pikes Peak or Bust rodeo, celebrate the adventurous spirit of the Pikes Peak region and its Western heritage. In addition, the rodeo donates all proceeds to charities that support military members and their families, such as the Fort Carson Outreach Program and the U.S. Air Force Academy's Operation Warm Heart. Thank you to the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo leadership and entire El Paso County community for keeping these longstanding traditions alive.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.