

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE FESTUS HIGH SCHOOL ROCKET CLUB ON THEIR FIRST PLACE WIN REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ROCK-ETRY CHALLENGE IN PARIS, FRANCE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of high school students from my district, the Festus High School Rocket Club on their first place win representing the United States in the International Rocketry Challenge in Paris.

Members of the team include Grace Basler, Ed Bohnert, Cydney Breier, Ryan Brown, Christopher Carden, Ashton Croft, Joel Marler, Rylie Martin, Jacob Rozner, and the club president Timothy Ruesche. They are coached by Devin Lorenz, a former member of the Festus Rocket Club himself.

In May of this year the Festus High School Rocketry Team participated in the annual Team America Rocketry Challenge's (TARC) Final fly-off in The Plains, Virginia. They were awarded first prize over 100 other teams from across the United States, which included a combined \$20,000 in scholarships and a trip to Paris, France to compete in the International Rocketry Competition. At the International Rocketry Challenge, Festus High School, representing the United States, bested competing teams from France, Great Britain, and Japan to take first place.

TARC is the aerospace and defense industry's flagship STEM program that is sponsored by the National Association of Rocketry, the Aerospace Industries Association, and numerous industry partners including Raytheon Company, Boeing Company and Thales USA. Raytheon Company has sponsored Team USA's attendance in the international competition for 12 years and running. In the age of technology, exposure to STEM education and opportunities is a national priority in order to ensure our workforce is equipped for the challenges of the 21st century. TARC has provided more than 65,000 middle school and high school students an opportunity to be engaged in hands-on experience that allows them to develop skills to assist them in future careers in STEM and aerospace.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Festus High School Rocket Club for their extraordinary accomplishment on behalf of the United States.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DEMARCK WIMBERLY'S TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY AND HIS HONOR-ABLE RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sergeant First Class Demarck Wimberly on his retirement from the United States Army after 20 years of faithful service to our country. An esteemed and respected member of the U.S. Army, Sergeant First Class Wimberly most recently served as a senior operations Non-commissioned officer and trainer for the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization. In this capacity, he was instrumental in the training and preparation of hundreds of personnel from across the Armed Forces as they prepared to deploy to some of the most dangerous places in the world.

SFC Wimberly's distinguished career began with the 4th Squadron 7th Cavalry Regiment, Camp Garry Owen South Korea. Sergeant First Class Demarck Wimberly's duty stations include, Fort Riley Kansas, Fort Hood Texas, Fort Richardson Alaska, Fort Bliss Texas, Fort Carson Colorado, Fort Campbell Kentucky, and finally the Pentagon where he was inducted into The Order of Saint Maurice. During these many duty stations, Sergeant First Class Demarck Wimberly deployed with 2nd Battalion 8th Infantry Regiment (4th Infantry Division) from Fort Hood Texas for the invasion of Iraq in 2003 where he received the Soldier's Medal for heroism, he also deployed with the 172nd Stryker Brigade in 2005 from Fort Richardson Alaska and to Djibouti Africa in 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

SFC Wimberly's awards and decorations include the Soldier's Medal for heroism, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation medal (6th award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (5th Award) as well as numerous unit awards and service medals. Through his distinguished service, SFC Wimberly has also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and Expert Infantryman badge. SFC Wimberly has also received the Order of Saint Maurice for his significant and long-lasting contributions to the infantry community.

As SFC Demarck Wimberly embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Army. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES ARMY COLONEL THOMAS TICKNER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of Colonel Thomas Tickner who is coming to the end of his assignment as the Chief of the Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army.

Tom is a native of Wayne, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1990, his Masters of Civil Engineering Degree from University of Colorado at Boulder in 1999, and a Masters of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School, National Defense University in 2013.

Over the last year, Tom has made significant and lasting contributions while liaising with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide critical resources for Army Warfighters. Tom and his liaison team worked closely with every appropriation office in Congress; ensuring accountability to Congress and our Nation's taxpayers.

Through 26 years of active duty, Tom has served in a variety of tactical, operational, and strategic assignments. In 1989, Tom was commissioned a Distinguished Military Graduate through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. He began his military career in the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) followed by an assignment to the 84th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he held company command. Following graduate school he served in various assignments with the Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from January 2000 to July 2002, to include a deployment to lead the Los Alamos Fire Recovery Office. From June 2003 to May 2005, Tom served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for the 52nd Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), Fort Carson, Colorado, where he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From June 2005 to June 2008 he served as an Engineer Branch Assignment Officer at the Army's Human Resources Command followed by command at the Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from June 2008 to July 2010. Tom worked as the Military Assistant for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) from July 2010 to July 2012. After graduating from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, Tom commanded the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from July 2013 to June 2015. Most recently, Tom returned from a one-year tour in Afghanistan serving as the Engineer Director for the Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan.

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