

Leandro Jasso, an Army Ranger who grew up in Leavenworth, WA and was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Sgt. Jasso was killed in Afghanistan during his 3rd deployment protecting and defending our country. The men and women who serve in the military are the very backbone of our nation. The freedoms we as citizens enjoy would not be possible without the courageous sacrifices Sgt. Jasso and countless others have made. Sgt. Jasso's commander stated that he was "a humble professional who placed the mission first, lived the Ranger Creed and will be deeply missed." In other words, he had the heart of a servant. While it is with incredible sadness that I make this statement, it is also with immense gratitude for the life of service he lived, the people he touched, and the sacrifice he made. We will be forever grateful.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on November 27, 2018 for Roll Call Vote 421 and Roll Call Vote 422. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 421 and Yea on 422.

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HONORING THE 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals who served on the 6th Congressional District Agriculture Advisory Committee.

The members of the Advisory Committee met with my team regularly to discuss emerging agriculture issues in Indiana. Agriculture has played a critical role in Indiana's economy throughout our state's history. Indiana is home to nearly 60,000 farms that produce a wide variety of crops and livestock. The Committee's valuable insight helped me better represent Hoosier farmers' priorities in Congress.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Committee, including Angie Steinbarger, David Howell, Mark Bacon, Matt Chapman, Elaine Gillis, Jim Douglas, Gerald Guack, Leah Beyer, Brett Glick, Harold Cooper, Jeremy Russell, Eugene Whitehead, Kari Steele, Jonathan Sparks, Ed Yanos, Andrew Fix, Clark Jordan, Tom Chalfant, Tyler Silveus, Christian McCray, Bryan Fischer, Scott Logue, and Tobe Forshtay.

I appreciate their service on the Committee and their dedication to making Indiana a better place to live for all Hoosiers. I wish all of them continued success in whatever God has in store for them and their families.

PROMOTION OF MAJOR MARISOL ALTAGRACIA CHALAS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major Marisol Altagracia Chalas on the occasion of her well-deserved promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. Marisol began her outstanding military career 28 years ago as an enlisted soldier and has broken barriers on behalf of women in this country ever since. Most notably, in 2001 she had the distinction of becoming the first Latina National Guard Black Hawk pilot in the United States. Throughout her career, she has held the position of Battle Captain and Platoon Leader during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Aviation Liaison under the Combined Joint Task Force in the Dominican Republic, Lean Six Sigma Advisor, and Force Management and Exchange Officer with the Canadian military. Marisol also has outstanding corporate experience, having worked in management positions at General Electric and Booz Allen Hamilton.

Marisol's commitment to public service is not limited to serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It extends to helping her community as well. Marisol started a leadership lunch and learn program for children at Fort Bragg, took part in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, and currently serves on the board of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. She also received the USCIS Outstanding American by Choice award in 2017, which highlights and celebrates the experiences and work ethic that immigrants contribute to the United States.

As an Army Congressional Fellow in my office, Marisol brought a unique perspective to my staff. Her long and distinguished career in the military added invaluable insight while we considered the Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Appropriations legislation. The policy and funding measures she worked on helped to improve the lives of U.S. service members around the world. Additionally, Marisol oversaw the State and Foreign Operations and Homeland Security appropriations portfolios during her year in the office. Whether it was meeting with constituents, staffing day long Appropriations Committee markups, or debating important issues with staff, Marisol always conducted herself with the utmost professionalism and respect.

Marisol's service and dedication to our nation truly upholds the U.S. Army's core values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Thank you, Marisol, for your service to our nation and for your service to the people of the Fourth District of Minnesota. We wish you nothing but success in the next chapter of your life.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on roll calls 421 and 422, I am not recorded. Had I

been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 421; and Yea on Roll Call No. 422.

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HONORING THE 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION BOARD

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals who served on our 6th Congressional District Military Service Academy Nomination Board.

As a Member of Congress, I have the honor of nominating young Hoosiers from Indiana's 6th Congressional District to the United States Military Service Academies. Each Member of Congress may nominate up to ten candidates for each available vacancy to the Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy.

Each year, the members of the 6th Congressional District Military Service Academy Nomination Board work with my staff and I to evaluate the applications of young men and women from our District who are seeking admittance to a military academy. During my time in Congress, we have nominated more than 90 young men and women to these academies. Many of them have since graduated and are currently serving our country.

I want to thank all of the members of the Nomination Board, including, Nate LaMar, Jan Frazier, Robert Morrow, David Martin, and Kelly Poltrack for their service. The Board's insight and experience has always been helpful to me and my staff.

I appreciate their service on the Committee and their dedication to our country. I wish all of them continued success in whatever God has in store for them and their families.

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IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICE OF MAJOR SINDI ANNE CONNELL

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Major Sindi Anne Connell of the United States Army for her extraordinary dedication and service to our Nation. Major Connell will soon transition from her current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to attend Army Intermediate Level Education and return to duty as an Army Military Intelligence Officer.

With an impressive and proven record of leadership, including a combat tour in Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division and company command in the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade in the Republic of Korea, Sindi was chosen to serve as a Defense Fellow in a Congressional Office in 2016.

Major Connell's outstanding work there led her to be selected as a Congressional Liaison in the United States Army House Liaison Division. Her first-hand knowledge of the military,