

for human rights, particularly international religious freedom and combating the disturbing rise in antisemitism around the world. As the security landscape has evolved and new threats have emerged for the United States and our allies in Europe, such as the increasing aggression from Russia and its use of unconventional and hybrid attacks, countering violent extremism and thwarting terrorist attacks against our allies, cutting off sources of funding and other support for Hezbollah and advocating for action to combat the trafficking of persons for the gruesome removal of their organs—Sarah has dedicated her time to drawing attention to and combatting these challenges.

As well as being a dedicated member of my staff, Sarah is also devoted to her family: her husband Paul, and their three children, Seth, Anneliese and Caroline. In all things, I have found that she has worked diligently in service to her country and her family. I wish Sarah all the best as I depart Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MELISSA DRISKO

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, our nation is blessed with many hardworking professionals who work in the defense and intelligence communities, keeping our people safe and safeguarding American national security. Often they cannot talk about what they do, even among their family and close friends. And yet, some of the best and brightest in our country commit their lives to this dedicated service.

One of those individuals has unfortunately been taken away from us too soon, but her passing enables the public to get a glimpse of the critical roles she has played as an outstanding leader in our intelligence community.

Melissa Drisko most recently served as Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. The daughter of a U.S. Army Officer, she graduated from University of Virginia on an ROTC scholarship and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy in 1981. Her assignments in the Navy included watch officer, intelligence officer, Soviet submarine analyst, and aid to the Director of Naval Intelligence, where she met her beloved husband, Phil Kosmacki. She went on to work at the Department of State and as Flag Aide to the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Following her Naval service, Melissa continued her distinguished career as a civilian with leadership positions in several agencies including Office of Naval Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence. For the past 14 years, Melissa served at the Defense Intelligence Agency, culminating in her position as Deputy Director.

The Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieutenant General Ashley called Ms. Drisko “brilliant, determined, and among the finest intelligence officers of her generation.” A quiet and visionary leader, she encouraged others to speak their mind, always with an eye to the greater good.

Melissa was known for her intelligence, her inquisitive mind, and her integrity. Those clos-

est to her also recognized her kindness, her quick sense of humor, and her way of being fully present in any given situation, qualities that were woven throughout her life.

While she was serving the nation as a national security professional, the center of her life was her family, as a spouse to her husband, Phil, and as a mom to their children, Alison, Rachel, and Jackson.

Like most of her colleagues in the Intelligence Community, Melissa served humbly and selflessly, directing accolades away from herself to those with whom she worked. She knew that she was part of a team, and she made that team better. The focus of that team and the professional calling of Melissa’s life were to protect her fellow citizens and defend the United States of America. That is among the highest calling to which any of us can devote our lives.

Melissa passed away on November 14 after a two-year battle with cancer, which she faced with characteristic strength and dignity.

Day after day, year after year, Melissa Drisko served her country, setting a standard of excellence that made our country safer and stronger. May we all draw inspiration from this full, meaningful life well lived. And may we all use her passing to give thanks for the service of such an outstanding and dedicated professional.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT WALL
CHINESE ACADEMY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Great Wall Chinese Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. On Sundays, classes on Chinese language and culture, to include fitness classes, are taught at the Great Wall Chinese Academy to serve the entire Denver Metropolitan area. It is my honor to recognize the achievements of this vital part of our community here in the United States House of Representatives.

Originally founded in 2004, the Great Wall Chinese Academy offers classes to students of all ages, as well as adults, in various subjects, from Chinese dances and martial arts, to sports and educational tutoring. Every class is open to students from all backgrounds as the Great Wall Chinese School strives to achieve its mission of, “preparing our students to better face tomorrow’s challenges by offering Chinese language lessons, cultural enrichment, and life-long skill training, all in an environment that promotes positivity, encouragement and sense of community.”

I would also like to recognize President and co-founder Dongqing Wei, and Principal and co-founder Shaomei Cheng for all their work at the Great Wall Chinese Academy. Their leadership has guided the Great Wall Chinese Academy to be an excellent school, and valuable asset to the state of Colorado that it is today. I look forward to and wish the Great Wall Chinese Academy continued success in its future.

HONORING CRAIG KUNKLE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Craig Kunkle, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

I’ve known Craig for more than two decades and during that time, he has become a close friend and trusted adviser. Craig has proven himself to be one of our state’s top political minds. There’s no doubt that I wouldn’t be where I am today without Craig’s counsel and help every step of the way.

On a personal note, Craig is a talented leader and loyal friend. He has already impacted our state in extraordinary ways. But, I am certain that his biggest impact is yet to come. I want to thank Craig for his friendship and dedication to our work. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
RONALD KIRKLIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Ronald Kirklín, a dedicated and distinguished veteran of the U.S. Army.

Major General Kirklín is a Distinguished Military Graduate from Mississippi Valley State University in the class of 1987. With a master’s degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University and in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College he has shown many that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” as stated by Nelson Mandela.

MG Kirklín’s military service began from 1988 to 1991 in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fulda, Germany, where, he served as a Platoon Leader, General Supply Officer, and Squadron S4, Combat Support Squadron. After graduating from the Advanced Course, he was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division, at Fort Polk, Louisiana, from 1992 to 1993, as a Class IX Accountable Officer. From 1993 to 1996, he was assigned to the 124th Main Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, at Fort Hood, Texas, as the Supply and Services Officer, Support Operations Officer, and later as the Light Maintenance Company Commander. After completion of Company Command, he served as the Task Force XXI Combat Systems Manager, 4th Infantry Division.

From 1996 to 1999, Kirklín was assigned to Hohenfels, Germany, where he functioned as the Combat Service Support Observer/Controller on the Grizzlies and Timberwolves Maneuver Teams, and later as the Operations Group S4. From 1999 to 2000, he was a student at the Command and General Staff College, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Kirklín was then assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, from 2000 to 2002, where he was the Executive Officer in the 215th Forward