

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

Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and 1st Cavalry Division DISCOM S3. His following assignment was as the Course Director, Combined Captains Career Course, at Fort Lee, Virginia, from 2002 to 2004.

In 2004, Kirklin returned to Fort Hood, and was again assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division DISCOM, a Deputy Commander while deployed to Taji, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After re-deployment in March 2005, he assumed command of the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, at Fort Hood, on 14 July 2005. As commander, he deployed the battalion to Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006–08, Diyala Province, Iraq, and then recovered the unit back to Fort Hood.

After relinquishing Battalion Command in March 2008, he attended the U.S. Army War College, at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. After graduating from the War College in 2009, Kirklin returned to Fort Hood, and assumed command of the 4th Sustainment Brigade on 14 July 2009. He deployed as the 4th Sustainment Brigade to Tallil, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn in February 2011. Kirklin redeployed the Brigade from Tallil, Iraq, in December 2011, after serving as the final Sustainment Brigade to close out sustainment and retrograde operations to end Operation New Dawn. In January 2012, Kirklin was assigned to the United States Central Command J4, in Tampa, Florida, as Chief of Current Operations.

Kirklin became the 53rd Commandant of the Quartermaster School on 9 June 2014–June 2016. He was promoted to Brigadier General on 5 December 2014.

In June 2016 MG Kirklin was assigned as the Director of Operations, G–4 3/5/7, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–4 at the Pentagon, Washington, followed by assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff, G–4 U.S. Army Forces Command.

MG Kirklin was decorated and received many awards which includes: the National Defense Service Medal; Legion of Merit (2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Bronze Star Medal (2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Meritorious Service Medal (4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Commendation Medal (2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Achievement Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War of Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War of Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Army Overseas Service Ribbon; Combat Action Badge; and Parachutist Badge. MG Kirklin was also recognized in a journal article: Top Black Officers in the U.S. Military: US Black Engineer and Information Technology; Vol. 41, No. 4 (WINTER 2017), pp. 240–75; Published by the Career Communications Group.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Major General Ronald Kirklin for his amorous, dedicated and superior loyalty to our community in the 2nd Congressional District, the U.S. of America and U.S. Army since 1988 to the present. We salute Major General Ronald Kirklin for his accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING COACH DALE GILDEHAUS OF ST. FRANCIS BORGIA HIGH SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON, MISSOURI ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Dale Gildehaus of St. Francis Borgia High School in Washington, Missouri on his well-deserved induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach Gildehaus has a longstanding career of 32 years as head football coach at St. Francis Borgia High School. Throughout the years, Coach Gildehaus has approached football as much more than just a game about wins and losses. It's about faith, family, his players and coaches, and the entire Washington, MO community. As a graduate of St. Francis Borgia, Coach Gildehaus has the unique connection to the town and understands the importance of a coach who cares about his team on and off the football field. His ultimate goal is to teach positive leadership and influence his team to also develop positive leadership mindsets to carry into their personal lives and help them be successful in whatever they choose to do.

As Coach Gildehaus enters his 32nd year, he boasts a whopping 252 wins. Among those wins is a Class 3 state championship in 1993. In 1995, he was honored with the Jimmy Conzelman Coach of the Year by the National Football Foundation. Despite his impressive record, Coach Gildehaus often credits the many coaches who have impacted his life: Coaches Rinne, Scanlan, and Flanagan each demanded discipline, respect, and hard work—the same lessons that Coach Gildehaus instills in his football players today.

After high school, Coach Gildehaus went on to play football at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri where he earned induction to the Truman State Hall of Fame. After graduating he spent four years at Union High School before moving to his current position at St. Francis Borgia. This impressive football career has been acknowledged by the Missouri Football Coaches Association in 2007 with an induction into their Hall of Fame. In 2014, the Missouri Football Coaches Association also honored him with the Pete Adkins Power of Influence in Football Award.

Throughout the years, Coach Gildehaus has always been supported by his loving wife, Beth, and their children, Christopher, Sandi, and Stacy. His granddaughter, Anna, said it best: “whether it is on the field, around school, at home, or around town you can always count on Grandpa to have a smile on his face”. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Gildehaus on his incredible career and induction to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

RISE: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE AT THE PASSING OF OUR 41ST PRESIDENT PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem by Albert Carey Caswell:

Our tears are deep
In hearts of the love which speak
As no longer upon this earth to keep
You, as its for you Timber Wolf we now so weep
With sadness and tears of joy so sweet
For heaven is full of such men of grace
Who stand strong in all of their love and courage, and in all their service and faith, in what they've faced
And for whom our Nation have so bled, for that old Red, White, and Blue each day they wake in how they've led
Who give, not take
For you George,
America Son our Lord holds so a place
As an Angel who will watch over us, because of your service and faith
“A Patriot's plane was shot from the sky”
“Would this brave heart live or die?”
“What was to be?”
“When, the Lord reached down and pulled this man from the sea”

George, Rise

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Rise up to heaven with tears in your eyes
To be with your family, and to watch over us as another “point of light”, by our Lord's side
As Ronald, George, Abraham, Martin, Thomas, Rosa, Sonny, Lee, and Jack are looking forward to having with you such quality time
Sadly, with us your time on Earth is over, realized
But, left behind is your life Mr Incredible, a remarkable legacy which can't be denied
As a Patriot of Peace, who to do his best always strived
Armed with a golden heart of strength, to conquer every mountain you had to climb
And a resume second to none history will find
But, to you your greatest accomplishment of all, was as a Husband, as a Father, as a Son, and as a Grandfather we saw
Just look at your magnificent family standing there in awe
As you children were so blessed, for a child to become whole, to bring peace and love to their soul, they need a Father's Love
But, right now history is in our face, and as it moves away from us, one of the greatest Presidents will stand in its place
Bringing down that Berlin Wall in Europe, and the cold war to communism erase
Drawing that line in sand “this aggression shall stand” in evil's face
As you knew when to stop to save precious lives, all part of your grace
While, carrying the heaviest of all burdens of life and death, a President must face
When Bush Comes To Shove, as precious lives you would not waste
While, domestically too such a high place
And though you were a giant in stature so very great, it was your kind and humble heart above all the others we placed