

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHRISTOPHER J. SCOLESE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, just before the July recess, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Dr. Christopher J. Scolese to serve as Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO. I doubt there is any individual more qualified for the job. I supported the nomination, but it was bittersweet because Chris has left his post as Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. Chris was the longest serving Director in Goddard's illustrious history.

Chris is well-suited to run the NRO. To put the matter simply, he knows how to put stuff into space and make it work. I will provide just one example: the Terra mission. Chris was the project manager. Terra was supposed to be a 5-year Earth science mission that has now lasted 20 years. Terra explores the connections between Earth's atmosphere, land, snow and ice, ocean, and energy balance to further our understanding of our home planet.

I know the NRO is headquartered in Virginia, but with Chris at the helm, we Marylanders will consider it part of our State, just as we consider the Wallops Flight Facility to be part of Maryland. I was down at Wallops on April 17 for the successful commercial resupply services, CRS launch to the International Space Station and I visited Goddard on March 4 to discuss the impact of the 35-day government shutdown and the budget picture going forward with Chris and the Goddard workforce.

Chris certainly has the academic credentials for the job. He holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical and computer engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and he earned a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering and a Ph.D. in systems engineering from George Washington University. After Chris earned his bachelor's degree, ADM Hyman Rickover personally selected him to serve at Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVSEA, where he worked on the development of instrument and multi-processor systems for the U.S. Navy and the Department of Energy. I think anyone who could pass muster with Admiral Rickover can handle just about anything, including running the NRO.

Chris's stint in the Nuclear Navy from 1978 to 1986 was just the beginning of a long, distinguished career in public service. In 1987, he joined Goddard's Earth Science team and became Earth Science Program Manager and Deputy Director of Flight Projects. Later, he moved to NASA Headquarters as Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Science for 3 years before returning to Goddard where he rose to become Deputy Director. Chris then returned to NASA Headquarters, first as Chief Engineer and then as Associate Administrator, which is the top civil servant at the Agency. He served as Acting Administrator from January to July of

2009. He went back to Goddard, where he became Director in 2012.

I think that moving over to the helm of NRO is a natural fit for Chris since Goddard manages many of NASA's space telescope programs, including the Hubble Space Telescope and the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope, WFIRST, that have a technology heritage from NRO's satellites.

I have enjoyed getting to know and working with Chris over the past several years. He developed great relationships with the Maryland delegation and with local officials. He is a subject matter expert and an excellent manager. He has an upbeat, amiable, and collegial personality that brings out the best in the people who work with him. Goddard employees from custodians and bus drivers to Nobel laureates felt free to engage with Chris. He listens and relates to everyone as a colleague. Former Dodgers' manager Leo Durocher famously said that nice guys finish last. He didn't know Chris. Chris is a genuinely nice guy who has come out on top, and deservedly so.

Chris instituted a culture of diversity and inclusion at Goddard, and I am sure he will do the same at NRO. He is committed to inspiring the next generation. He has a great interest in STEM and talking with students. Goddard hosted over 500 interns every year while Chris was Director. He routinely referred students and young adults whom he met to Goddard's education director so they could learn more about working at Goddard. He has been committed to early career professionals and always included their voice in senior staff retreats. Above all, Chris is a dedicated public servant with the accolades and awards to prove it, including the 2018 American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics Von Karman Award, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, and the NASA Distinguished Leadership Medal, among many others.

Whenever we talk about public servants, it is important to mention their spouses and other family members whose own sacrifices enable and support that service. I would be remiss if I failed to mention Chris's wife, Dianne, and their children: daughter Jenni and her husband Mark; son Dan and his wife Maura and their daughter Maddie who is Chris and Dianne's granddaughter; daughter Lauren and her fiancé Ian; and daughter Anna.

Chris may be from New York, and he may live and now work in Virginia, but we Marylanders will always consider him as one of our own, and we are grateful for his distinguished service to our Nation. I have no doubt that he will be a superb NRO Director.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL BARBARA R. HOLCOMB

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor MG Barbara R. Holcomb for her 32 years of service in our Armed

Forces, most notably, as the first female commanding general at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command at Fort Detrick and chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Major General Holcomb grew up in the small town of Miles City, MT, and joined the Army Reserve Officer Training Corp, ROTC, following her first year of nursing school at Seattle University. She completed her education as a distinguished military graduate with a bachelor of science in nursing. She continued her exceptional career with service to our country and continued Montana's proud heritage of military service and firsts in female leadership.

Major General Holcomb goes above and beyond as a leader and, as such, was chosen to speak at the 2018 Women in Leadership Summit at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. She shared her experience in finding balance as a leader and the importance of a leader getting to know themselves and their peers. Even though she was not allowed to serve in a battalion commander position as a cadet in ROTC, she became a commander as a captain and commanded at every rank thereafter. It is this commitment to strong leadership and personal growth that has led her to a long and successful career in the Army and distinguishes her as an exceptional Montanan.

It is not without good reason that Major General Holcomb has received many awards, including a Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, and membership in the Order of Military Medical Merit. Between her focus on the personal, human aspect of healthcare, her commitment to continued education, and the selfless passion with which she serves her country, Major General Holcomb embodies what it means to be an outstanding leader and individual.

Upon her retirement, the U.S. Army will be losing one of their most valuable assets; however, the example of leadership that she has set for so many will leave a lasting impact on the quality of this nation's Army Nurse Corps and, consequently, the quality of care that our Nation's soldiers will receive. Montana is proud to call her one of our own.

I would like to recognize Major General Barbara R. Holcomb, her personal accomplishments, and contributions to this country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BLOM

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career and service of David P. Blom, who will retire later this month after serving as the president and CEO of OhioHealth since 2002. Under David's leadership, OhioHealth has grown its legacy of providing high-quality care to patients across central Ohio, including residents of my hometown, Mansfield.