

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.

In the 17 years since David became CEO, OhioHealth has tripled in size. David spearheaded initiatives like the OhioHealth Research & Innovation Institute, which makes significant contributions to the field of research around new drugs, medical devices, and procedures. His focus on installing new technology has helped to drastically reduce errors in medication and patient identification across the OhioHealth system.

During David's tenure as CEO, OhioHealth has been named one of the top 100 places to work by Fortune Magazine for 12 consecutive years. In 2016, David was honored with the Columbus Award, and in 2009, he was inducted into the Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame. He currently serves on the boards of the Columbus Foundation, Columbus Downtown Development Commission, Columbus Partnership, Vizient, and Healthy Roster. But beyond all that, it is David's commitment to the communities OhioHealth serves that truly sets him apart as a leader.

David was instrumental in establishing Wellness on Wheels Women's Health, a mobile health clinic which provides prenatal care to women in high-risk communities. This program has been invaluable in saving the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

In 2015, David was selected as one of 15 members to serve on the Veterans Affairs Commission on Care, a task force that developed critical reforms to veterans' healthcare. Out of this came the VA MISSION Act, which aims to improve veterans' access to effective and timely health care. These reforms would not have been possible without David's expertise and sense of service.

We are fortunate to be able to count David among the ranks of great Ohioans. His innovative leadership has touched lives in my State and across the Nation. I wish David all the best in his retirement and thank him for his years of service in central Ohio.●

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the career and accomplishments of David Blom, retiring CEO of OhioHealth.

David began his career with OhioHealth in 1983. Working through various roles in the health care system, he was named CEO of OhioHealth in 2002.

In his first year as CEO, after several tough years with losses, David led OhioHealth to report a \$23 million profit. Over the last 17 years at the helm, he has presided over expansion in and beyond central Ohio. OhioHealth has nearly tripled system revenue and has grown its central Ohio market share while working to unite the culture of multiple hospitals, outpatient sites, and physician practices.

Today, OhioHealth is a \$4 billion system of 12 hospitals and more than 200 outpatient sites. The organization has 29,000 associates, 3,600 physicians, and 3,000 volunteers across 48 counties in Ohio.

Under David's leadership, OhioHealth has become a major central Ohio employer and economic driver.

David also cares deeply about the central Ohio community that he has called home for so many years. He has served on the boards of the Columbus Partnership, the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, and the Columbus Foundation. He was also instrumental in creating Columbus 2020, the economic development arm for central Ohio.

Under David's leadership, OhioHealth has had a substantial positive impact in Ohio, and I want to thank him for his service and leadership.

I wish David the best in the next chapter of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOEL WARHURST

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today, I wish to honor COL Joel Warhurst as he relinquishes command of the Anniston Army Depot, effective on July 25, 2019. In July 2017, Colonel Warhurst became the 35th commander of the depot. His command tenure oversaw an annual \$850 million operating revenue and led a workforce consisting of 2,800 people. He has devoted over 20 years of loyal service to our country and has acquired important leadership positions and notable recognitions along the way.

Colonel Warhurst is a graduate of the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at Fort McNair, VA. He holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology from the Technical University in Cookeville, TN, and a master of science degree in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. He is decorated with a Bronze Star Medal, which is the fourth highest individual military award.

Thank you, Colonel Warhurst, for your dedication to our Nation and for a job well done serving at the Anniston Army Depot. Your tenure as commander will be remembered by your remarkable leadership. The commitment you have shown during your time in Alabama is inspiring, and your command serves as an example for Alabamians, as well as Americans, from all across the country.

I join Colonel Warhurst's friends, family, and colleagues in wishing him the best of luck as he transitions into a new chapter of his life, and I thank him for his commitment to Alabama and to the United States.●

RECOGNIZING THE DAKOTA ALLIANCE SOCCER CLUB'S 14U GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Dakota Alliance Soccer Club's 14U Girls soccer team.

On July 14, 2019, the Dakota Alliance Soccer Club, DASC, 14U Girls won the U.S. Youth Soccer, USYS—National Presidents Cup in Murfreesboro, TN.

Their 1-0 overtime win over Century V East 05 from Pennsylvania-West secured South Dakota's first ever USYS national championship at any level or age group.

The DASC 14U Girls went undefeated during the 2019 National Presidents Cup, with wins over teams from Pennsylvania, Texas, and California. Impressively, the team did not surrender a single goal throughout the tournament, while tallying 13 goals in just four games.

For their outstanding play throughout the tournament, DASC players Tessa Van Overbeke, Elsie Odney, Mia Mullenmeister, and Hailee Christensen were given Best 11 honors. Additionally, Cambell Fisher received the Golden Glove award as outstanding goalkeeper, and midfielder Hailee Christensen received the Golden Boot as the competition's top goal scorer.

The DASC 14U Girls earned their spot at the National Presidents Cup by winning the Midwest Presidents Cup, attaining wins over teams from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In May, they won the South Dakota Youth Soccer State Cup, with a pair of wins over the Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club.

While a perfect postseason record of 11-0 is certainly notable, it is also important to highlight this team's entire 42-member roster. As a group, these ladies spent considerable hours together for practice sessions, community service projects, and competitive tournaments throughout their successful 2018-2019 season.

DASC 14U Girls Championship Team: Hailee Christensen, Chloe Dondlinger, Addison Fawcett, Cambell Fischer, Torre Gulseth, Cassidy Jennings, Ashlyn Kelliher, Mia Mullenmeister, Elsie Odney, Ella Ready, Taite Scheafer, Anni Sjovold.

Alternates: Lainey Bream, Alexa Brockmueller, Isabella Moe.

Team Members: Madison Baatz, Avalon Brenner, Sophie Ernster, Laura Gruhn, Chloe Hansen, Kiera Heinz, Charity LeMier, Kyra McIntyre, Hadley Meier, Reyna Moss, Ella Parks, Stella Peterson, Lily Raysby, Arianna Schlekeway.

Head Coach: James Oppenheimer.

Assistant Coach: Makayla Grady.

Team Manager: Trecia Gulseth.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)