

CAPT Mike Vitali began his naval career as a midshipman in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Captain Vitali was commissioned as an ensign upon his graduation from Purdue in 1994 and then went to the Pensacola, FL, where he earned his naval flight officer wings of gold on August 16, 1996.

As a newly minted naval flight officer, Mike earned his initial qualifications in the S-3B Viking at Sea Control Squadron Forty-One, VS-41, and then joined the VS-35 Blue Wolves at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, CA. Captain Vitali went on to complete two deployments aboard the USS *Abraham Lincoln* in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT FOX in the skies over Iraq. In October 2000, he returned to VS-41 as an instructor where he trained replacement pilots and navigators in S-3B operations and tactics. As a result of the Viking Sundown program, Captain Vitali led the fleet's transition program and completed training in the P-3C Orion at Patrol Squadron Thirty, VP-30, in Jacksonville, FL. He completed tours with the VP-16 War Eagles in Jacksonville and VP-4 Skinny Dragons in Kaneohe Bay, HI, where he conducted antisubmarine, maritime interdiction, counterdrug, and counterterrorism operations while deployed to Sicily, Djibouti, El Salvador, the Philippines, and Okinawa.

From 2008-2010, he served at the U.S. Special Operations Command, where he coordinated the update of SOCOMs memorandums of agreement with the military departments. On May 25, 2012, he assumed command of the VP-45 Pelicans in Jacksonville, FL, and successfully led the squadron through a rigorous work-up cycle and SEVENTH Fleet Deployment to Okinawa where the squadron supported 17 detachments and logged over 3,200 flight hours.

After command, Captain Vitali reported to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, serving as Deputy Director of the Senate Liaison Office, where he supported several of my colleagues and their staffs on congressional delegations around the world. In May 2015, Captain Vitali reported to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, serving as the Director of Senate Affairs advising the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs on all matters pertaining to the U.S. Senate, especially the confirmation process. He was directly responsible for the Senate confirmation of 68 Presidentially appointed civilian positions within the Department of Defense across two administrations to include the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, three Service Secretaries, four Under Secretaries to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, three Service Under Secretaries, and numerous Assistant Secretaries of Defense. His solid relationships and unmatched credibility with senior officials were indis-

pensable in maintaining a high level of support and dialogue with Senators and their staffs.

Throughout his career, Captain Vitali has logged over 2,570 flight hours and 267 carrier landings.

I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and CAPT Mike Vitali's family and friends in saluting this distinguished officer's many contributions and sacrifices in defense of our great Nation. It is fitting that the Senate today publicly recognizes his service and wishes him, his wife Tracy, and their children Gabrielle, Isabella, and Michael health, happiness, and success in the years to come. Congratulations, Captain Vitali, on completing an exceptional and exemplary career.●

RECOGNIZING BIOLOGIQ

● Mr. RISC. Mr. President, It is easy for me to brag about Idaho's small businesses because they are consistently making national news for their innovative ideas. Just last month, the Office of Advocacy announced Idaho ranked third in the Nation for the fastest growth of small businesses, creating jobs and economic opportunity across the State in 2018. Globally, Idaho is renowned for our "Famous Idaho Potatoes," and recently, Idahoans have begun using their vast knowledge of the potato to innovate. As a result, new market-altering products are emerging, such as BioLogiQ, Inc.'s sustainable bioplastic resin. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my pleasure to recognize BioLogiQ, Inc., as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for September 2019.

BioLogiQ of Idaho Falls was founded in 2011 by an Idaho native, Brad LaPray. Like so many Idahoans, LaPray spent a lot of his youth playing and working outdoors and developed a passion for nature and the agriculture industry. He moved away for a while and developed an interest in bioplastics, but eventually came back home to Idaho where he saw an opportunity to use his interest in bioplastics and his passion for the agriculture industry to create a business. LaPray understood that a percentage of all potatoes is turned into starch and not used for human consumption. His company, BioLogiQ, uses excess potato starch to create a sustainable bioplastic resin.

LaPray created BioLogiQ to provide people with environmentally friendly plastic products made from renewable resources and reduce plastic waste globally. As stated on their company's website, "BioLogiQ, Inc. is a plant-based manufacturer focused on bringing sustainable packaging solutions to brand owners, retailers, and the plastics industry. Using its proprietary process, BioLogiQ's makes a low moisture content plasticized starch resin pellet called NuPlastiQ. We make NuPlastiQ in pellet form so plastic product manufacturers can use them

like other traditional plastic resin pellets using their standard production equipment. BioLogiQ's NuPlastiQ pellets are designed to be blended with conventional petroleum-resin pellets to make BioBlends that increase the sustainability of all plastic products." NuPlastiQ technology makes it possible to reduce the thickness of plastic bags and is most widely seen in TaterMade Bags at retailers such as Walmart and Sam's Club.

Through their hard work, expertise, and desire to make a difference, BioLogiQ is now an industry-leading sustainable bioplastic resin provider. BioLogiQ is reshaping the bioplastic market, and I have full faith they will continue to be successful. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Brad LaPray and all of the employees at BioLogiQ, Inc., for being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for September 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING DR. THOMAS MOSS

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of Dr. Thomas Moss, a great South Carolinian who touched the hearts and minds of countless people across our State. While Dr. Moss passed away in 2004, his legacy lives on today in many ways and deserves to be honored still.

Dr. Moss was an Orangeburg, S.C., native and attended Morris College in Sumter before being drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in the Korean war. He was a lifelong advocate for education and civil rights and devoted his life to the betterment of his community and State. He was truly a servant leader, and in every capacity he held, he worked tirelessly to make life better for everyone around him.

At the age of 41, Dr. Moss became the first African-American staffer in the South Carolina congressional delegation and one of the few in Congress as a whole. He served as a field representative for U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond for 30 years, during which he was a strong voice for education, civil right, and social justice.

Dr. Moss has been recognized through countless awards and honors, including the NAACP Freedom Fighter Award, the United States Senate Loyal Service Award, and the Order of the Palmetto. His legacy lives on today through the Thomas Moss Civic Leadership Award, through the portion of Highway 301 in Orangeburg that bears his name, and through the hearts of every South Carolinian whose life he helped improve.

Dr. Moss's integrity, dedication, and commitment should serve to inspire us all, even today. He will not soon be forgotten, and I am certain our State will benefit from his labors and accomplishments for years to come.●