

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING NAVY QUARTERBACK MALCOLM PERRY ON HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE 120TH ARMY-NAVY GAME

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Malcolm Perry of Clarksville, Tennessee for his extraordinary performance as the quarterback for the Naval Academy in the 120th Army-Navy game.

From the time he was a student at Kenwood High School, Malcolm knew he wanted to play college football and join the military. As the star quarterback at the Naval Academy, he has the rare opportunity to do both. The son of two career Army enlistees with over forty combined years of service, Malcolm enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy, and he will commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps after graduation.

As the senior quarterback and team captain for the Midshipmen, Malcolm capped off the regular season with a spectacular 31–7 win against Army, rushing for a career-high 304 yards—the most rushing yards by any player in the history of the Army-Navy game.

With his outstanding performance in this game, he set the school records for rushing yards (1,804) and yards of total offense (2,831) in a season—quite a feat considering the many great teams that the Naval Academy has fielded in its long and proud history of athletic excellence.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating this young man on his outstanding leadership and accomplishments at the Naval Academy, and we wish Malcolm great success in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING AMERICA'S
NEWEST CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on January 10, 2020. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals

realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On January 10, 2020, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Melissa June Licupa Pineda, Alexis Almaraz Fierro, Katelyn Alyousif, Rosaura Virginia Gonzalez, Blanca Carrasco, Maria Guadalupe Murillo, Jacqueline Angelica Terry Palacios, Jovanny Las Pinas Minton, Samuel Obiora Izuora, Alicia Cerda, Brenda Cerda, Ignacio Cerda Avalos, Horacio Joseph Vazquez, Kelly-Sue Stone, My Thi Hoa Pham, Maria Elisa Tirado, Arturo Miranda, Jr., Komo Yawa Ouattara, Victoria Izuora, Olena Gorbatenko Therrien, Yulia Vladimir Vorobiev, Alexander Nicholas Vorobiev, Oscar Esteban Magallanes, Liz Chacon, Gerardo Miranda, Edsys Nohemy Yoder, Nga Thu Pham, Myra Espinosa O'Lena, Gertrude N. Manda, and Carl Peter Zmijewski.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on January 10, 2020. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOC (SEAL)
EDWARD GALLAGHER, USN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, since the inception of our great Nation, our freedoms were conceived and protected by those willing to defend it with their own blood. It is in the spirit of those warriors that I rise today, to celebrate 20 years of distinguished and faithful military service by one of the greatest warriors our Country has ever known, Special Operations Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Edward Gallagher, USN.

In 1999, Gallagher enlisted into the United States Navy from Fort Wayne, Indiana, grad-

uating from Basic Training at Navy Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois. After successfully completing Navy Hospital Corpsman "A" school in 2000, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marines Company, 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He also graduated from the Marines Corps Scout Sniper Course in 2002. While assigned to the Marine Corps, Gallagher completed two deployments that included service in Africa, Albania, Iraq and Kosovo.

Always desiring to push himself beyond the normal limits of others, Gallagher joined Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) class 252 in 2005 for 24 weeks of arduous training. After BUD/S, he immediately attended SEAL Qualification Training and Special Operations Combat Medic Course. Upon completion of those courses, Gallagher earned his Navy SEAL Trident and was selected to be stationed at SEAL Team ONE. Later, he was hand chosen to train new SEAL candidates as a BUD/S Instructor at Naval Special Warfare Center. This was followed by orders to be stationed at SEAL Team SEVEN, where he was promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. For his service in the Naval Special Warfare community he has received two Bronze Stars with "V" for Valor, a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals with "V" for Valor, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and a Combat Action Ribbon.

In 2017, Chief Gallagher returned home after completing his eighth combat deployment. Instead of receiving a hero's welcome, he became the target of a tyrannical witch-hunt. This witch-hunt was led by a few junior SEALs, a completely incompetent NCIS Agent and Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) lawyers that were hoping to make their careers off court-martialing Gallagher. Despite the numerous illegal and underhanded tactics by the prosecution, Chief Gallagher was found not guilty of all major charges by a jury of his peers on July 1, 2019. Later, President Donald Trump personally intervened to stop the Navy's harassment towards Gallagher and restored his rank to Chief Petty Officer. Realizing the poor treatment and errors that they had made, the United States Navy allowed Chief Gallagher to officially retire on November 30, 2019.

While no one could blame Chief Gallagher if he was angry about the horrible manner in which he was treated at the end of his career, he instead has decided to live free of anger and has forgiven the individuals who have wronged him. I believe this is due to Eddie's faith in God and an amazing woman that keeps him grounded, his loving wife, Andrea. She and their three beautiful children, Treven, Ava and Ryan, have faithfully supported Eddie throughout his numerous deployments and were his biggest advocates during the Navy's foolish witch-hunt. Their love along with his brother, Sean Gallagher, and his parents, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joseph and Melissa Gallagher have strengthened Eddie throughout his military service; and I congratulate them as well on this special occasion. I

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

am proud to share in the celebration of Special Operations Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Edward Gallagher's military career and as he and his family step into the next chapter of their lives, I ask my colleagues in this chamber to join me in wishing the Gallagher family fair winds and following seas.

IN HONOR OF JAMES PURTEE,
CITY MANAGER

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, after 31 years of public service, Palmdale City Manager James "Jim" Purtee announced his retirement effective at the end of 2019. Jim began his diverse career in public service with the City of Simi Valley in 1988. He spent over 27 years working for several city departments in Simi Valley and was involved in improving access to affordable housing, ensuring continued economic development, and contributing to city planning efforts. In addition, Jim spent his free time doing community services.

In July 2012, Jim was named as the City of Simi Valley's Assistant City Manager, where he was responsible for intergovernmental relations and served as the City's public information officer. While serving as the Assistant City Manager, Jim obtained S&P rating upgrade of AAA for the City of Simi Valley. He sponsored a \$5 million citywide investment in replacing technology services and turned a \$2.4 million budget deficit to a \$2.4 million budget surplus in just three years. Jim took the lead on working with city departments to complete a biogas fueling project for the City's transit buses and implement a \$15 million energy savings and production project. During his time in public service, Jim managed a \$160 million investment portfolio and increased investment returns by 400 percent over the benchmark and earned an additional \$9.7 million on City funds over a six-year period. Jim was instrumental in securing \$780,000 in grant funding to invest in citywide energy efficiency programs and oversaw countless affordable housing programs to benefit thousands of families.

In October 2015, Jim became the City Manager for the City of Palmdale. While serving as City Manager in Palmdale, Jim amassed a number of significant achievements and successes. As City Manager for the City of Palmdale, Jim obtained an S&P rating upgrade to AA- and engaged in community partnerships, which contributed to reducing the City of Palmdale's Part 1 crime rate by over 40 percent in just 5 years. Under Jim's leadership, the City of Palmdale was named as the 44th Safest City in the US, was ranked in the top 15 percent of fiscally responsible cities in California and as a top 25 city in the U.S. to Live the American Dream.

Jim implemented initiatives to assist thousands of families in obtaining safe, decent, and affordable housing. He carried out fiscal and legislative actions that provided over \$100 million in positive fiscal impacts to communities and worked on cutting edge sustainability projects such as waste to energy, groundwater recharge, and acquisition/conversion of 18,000 Streetlights to LED.

During his career, Jim served on multiple boards governing water, transportation, medicine, and regional planning. He served on the League of California Cities Fiscal Transparency, Revenue and Tax, and City Manager Committees. Jim supported the success of Air Force Plant 42 through maintaining strong relationships with all stakeholders. Jim worked tirelessly to ensure Palmdale, California will be California's High Speed Rail connection to the Western U.S. and partnered with academic stakeholders to educate and train the next generation of aerospace employees.

Jim obtained over \$300 million in grants, tax credits, and other financial resources to invest in transportation, housing, water, energy, and quality of life improvements for the City of Palmdale. He oversaw the development of strategic plans for increasing access to public arts, encouraging economic development throughout the city, and restoring air service to Palmdale. While serving as City Manager, Jim invested in local parks, building the City of Palmdale's first dog park, developing new City parks, and improving existing parks.

Jim was honored by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the premier local government leadership and management organization, at its annual conference in Baltimore earlier this year for his significant contributions and achievements in the advancement of local government administration for 30 years.

An avid supporter of military veterans, Jim has volunteered countless hours with local veteran organizations. He is also an advocate for supporting mental health programs, especially with our local youth population, and has also served on the Board of Directors for Palmdale Regional Medical Center. Jim holds both a bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Northridge, and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education for senior executives in state and local government program.

Jim has been happily married for the past 33 years to Tina, whom he has known since high school, and they are the proud parents of four children: Erika, Elyssa, Ariana, and Ethan.

REGARDING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S TARGETED KILLING OF MAJOR GENERAL QASEM SOLEIMANI, HEAD OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, I rise to address the Trump Administration's targeted killing of Qasem Soleimani, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, and the impact of this decision on American national security interests and the safety of American armed forces personnel and civilians in the region and around the world.

The decision to kill Major General Qasem Soleimani, the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, may have rid the world of a major architect of terror but leaves unanswered the critically important question of why the action was taken at this time.

In addition, we do know whether the action taken was the product of a carefully developed geopolitical strategy developed after extensive discussion within the national security apparatus of the short and longterm consequences for the security of the region and our nation and its people.

Similarly, we do not know whether it was taken in consultation and agreement with our regional and international allies; and whether there is now in place a strategy to ensure that the action taken does not lead to a greater escalation of tensions between Iran and the United States or in the worst case, another war in the Middle East placing at risk the lives and safety of millions of persons.

Qasem Soleimani appears to be the apparent mastermind behind last week's attack on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

Soleimani as long-time chief of the Quds Force, the elite special forces battalion of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), assisted Syrian strongman Bashar al Assad slaughter hundreds of thousands of his own people in the Syrian civil war.

Soleimani also incited the Houthis in Yemen's civil war and oversaw the brutal killing of hundreds of Iraqi protesters recently demonstrating against Iranian influence in their country.

Iran's Quds Force, under Soleimani's leadership, has long been suspected by the U.S. Government of involvement in a 2011 plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of State, Soleimani was responsible for the 608 Americans killed by Iranian proxies since the 2003 inception of the war in Iraq.

But Qasem Soleimani was more than a military leader, he was a highranking political leader, second only in power and influence to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In fact, Soleimani was regarded as a future president of Iran.

It was foreseeable that the killing of Soleimani by American forces was likely to invite retaliation by Iran putting at risk American military and civilian personnel, as well as its allies in the region and across the globe.

That is why it was essential that the Administration have in place a sound and well-considered and meticulously developed strategy for managing disputes with Iran.

That does not appear to be the case.

There is no evidence that the Administration consulted with Congress or the Gang of 8, no evidence that it enlisted or even consulted our allies in NATO or the region, no evidence that the Administration has a working and well-functioning national security council apparatus.

This is a critical Pottery Barn failure in dealing with the Middle East for as former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated before the Iraq War, "If you break it, you bought it."

Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has vowed that a "harsh retaliation is waiting" for the United States as a consequence of the action taken yesterday by the Administration.

It is imperative that the Administration have in place a strategy to counter and deescalate any Iranian response and have in place measures to protect the safety of Americans residing or travelling abroad and to protect the security of the homeland.

We must be prepared and ready because the assassination of Qasem Soleimani has the potential to be the most consequential assassination of a political leader since the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand Carl