

Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, NERACOOS. During his 10 years at NERACOOS, Dr. Morrison has been a visionary in the world of ocean observing for the people of New Hampshire, the Northeast, and this country. I know I speak for so many others when I say that we are deeply grateful and thank him for his service.

Originally from Scotland, Ru became a true advocate for New Hampshire when he began his position as an assistant research professor at the University of New Hampshire in 2003. During his tenure at UNH, Ru was an inspirational teacher whose work advanced the science of remote sensing. A primary focus of his efforts centered on building a better understanding of Great Bay, a resource that many in New Hampshire consider to be a cornerstone of our coastal environment.

When Ru transitioned to NERACOOS in 2009, he brought with him his extensive knowledge of marine science and technology, the coastal and ocean environment, and, most importantly, his collaborative nature, which was instrumental in establishing a successful regional ocean observing system. NERACOOS, 1 of 11 regional associations of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System—IOOS—addresses the ocean monitoring and forecasting needs of the people of the Northeast.

As executive director of NERACOOS, Ru's charisma and outgoing nature, coupled with his ocean science expertise, allowed him to bring together scientists, resource managers, fishermen, NGOs, and the public into a system notable for its esprit de corps. My staff and I all have many fond memories of joining him for boat rides on Great Bay to get a firsthand look at NERACOOS's work on the estuary. Anyone who's worked with Ru can attest to his warmth, wit, and self-deprecating sense of humor, which made working with him and NERACOOS a real pleasure.

Over the past decade, Ru has grown the organization's prominence and expanded collaborations among its many users. Even more impactful, though, is a decade's worth of Ru's infectious enthusiasm, which invigorated the organization and its stakeholders alike. Under Ru's stewardship, NERACOOS became a morning ritual for fishermen preparing for their day at sea, and with the formation of the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network—NECAN—NERACOOS has become a national leader in facilitating regional responses to changing ocean chemistry.

Ru's influence extends far beyond his backyard. He is the past chair of the IOOS Association; a member of the IOOS Federal Advisory Committee; councilor of the bi-national Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment; board director of the Marine and Oceanography Technology Network; and science advisory board member for the Lake George Jefferson Project. I was pleased to invite him to Capitol Hill in 2016 to testify before the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach

Committee to share his expertise with Congress. I and my staff are greatly indebted to him for all of his advice and counsel over the years. It is truly difficult to overstate the breadth and significance of his service.

Ru would be the first to say that the foundation of his success is his family: his wife Ann Michelle and their children, Alistair and Marin. I know that everyone at NERACOOS and throughout the ocean observing community joins me in thanking Dr. Morrison and his family for his instrumental leadership and vision. We wish him all the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH D. WALL

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. Joseph "Joe" Wall has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform. A leader and expert communicator, he has provided distinguished service to our country while assigned to the Air Force Senate Liaison Office. He is an outstanding leader and has been the perfect airman to represent the Air Force on Capitol Hill. Joe is a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in the T-37B, T-1A, and KC-10A aircraft with over 100 combat and combat support missions, supporting operations over Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and the Horn of Africa.

Throughout his career, Joe has demonstrated his exceptional abilities; he was a ROTC distinguished graduate at the University of Miami, graduate of the Air Mobility Command Phoenix Mobility program, and he is an Olmsted Scholar fluent in German. Prior to his current assignment, Joe had the privilege of leading airmen as a squadron commander for the 79th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. As a legislative liaison in the Air Force Senate Liaison Office from June 2018 to July 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Wall performed his duties well and without reservation. His strategic thinking and foresight helped to strengthen and improve our national security. Joe accomplished this utilizing his in-depth Air Force knowledge with numerous engagements between Congress and the Department of the Air Force.

During this assignment, Joe conducted congressional engagements to provide Members of Congress and staff insights into the development of the "Air Force We Need" plan required to support the National Defense Strategy. He also actively engaged Members of Congress regarding the fielding and production of the KC-46A Pegasus Tanker. Last year, Joe led the effort to make sure that the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation was front and center to receive the first KC-46A at Pease Air National Guard Base.

Joe organized dozens of direct engagements between senior leaders at the Department of the Air Force and Members of Congress in order to convey important information on behalf of the Air Force. All of these conversations and engagements helped stakeholders understand the defense equities and the impact on national security. Due to his direct involvement, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensure the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced.

After serving in this important role for the past 2 years, Lieutenant Colonel Wall will move to his next assignment, the Dwight D. Eisenhower School at the National Defense University. Joe, his wife Trysta, and their son Tavin have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Joe's service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past 2 years on issues important to the State of New Hampshire and this great Nation. I salute him, an American patriot whose service has kept our country safe and strong. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING HYDRA ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business known for its excellence in industry and environmental stewardship. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Hydra Engineering and Construction, LLC, of Crawfordville, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2008, Leslie Hope established Hydra Engineering after she left her position as a partner in an engineering firm to pursue her dream of being a small business owner. After graduating from the University of South Florida, Leslie started planning how to open her own engineering company. Leslie turned to her local Small Business Development Center where she enrolled Hydra Engineering in the U.S. Small Business Administration's 8(a) business development program. This program provides resources, mentorship, and training to help small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged persons compete for government contracts.

Over the next 12 years, Leslie rebranded her enterprise as Hydra Engineering and Construction to reflect its growth and expansion. She completed the 8(a) program, was certified by the State of Florida as a Minority Business Enterprise and as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Hydra Engineering has worked for several Florida private companies and