

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING BRIGADIER
GENERAL DAVID A. PIFFARERIO

HON. DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brigadier General David A. Piffarerio for his admirable dedication and selfless service to our Nation. BG Piffarerio will retire from his assignment as Commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB), Florida on August 2, 2020. BG Piffarerio first took command of the 482nd Fighter Wing at HARB on September 9, 2018. BG Piffarerio's tenure as Commander has marked everlasting change in the City of Homestead.

BG Piffarerio was commissioned to the United States Air Force in 1994 as an honor graduate. BG Piffarerio has served as a command pilot with over 3,500 flying hours making him one of the most proficient pilots in aircrafts such as the F-15E. His devotion to flying led him to a major milestone, becoming the first pilot in the Air Force to log 1,000 hours in the F-22 Raptor. BG Piffarerio has dedicated over 13 years on active duty in a variety of F-15E Strike Eagle and F-22 assignments. He was selected as part of the first cadre to test the F-22 during follow-on evaluations in 2002. Shortly after, BG Piffarerio was named program manager and F-22 test director at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. BG Piffarerio was also a part of the initial cadre who stood up the 477th Fighter Group in 2007. He served as the Commander of the 302nd Fighter Squadron, Air Force Reserve Command's 477th Fighter Group, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Prior to assuming command of the 482nd Fighter Wing, BG Piffarerio was the Command Center Director at Joint Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command.

This admirable work ethic, experienced operational knowledge, and excellent leadership made him a respected and honorable Commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing. For the community in Florida's Congressional District 26, and the devoted men and women at Homestead Air Reserve Base, BG Piffarerio embodies superior professionalism. He led his members with courage and consistency. Under his respected role, BG Piffarerio commanded over 2,500 personnel members, stemming from active duty Air Force association personnel, traditional reservists, Air Reserve technicians, and full-time civilians. BG Piffarerio also managed wide-ranging tenant units that include the Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing, Detachment 1 Alert Force, Headquarters, Special Operations Command, South (SOC SOUTH), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST 91114), the Florida Army National Guard's 50th Regional

Support Group, and members of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

BG Piffarerio's impact reaches far beyond the work at HARB, ensuring the Homestead community benefits as well. He led efforts in enacting positive change within the community by partnering with local businesses, Homestead Hospital, Veterans Affairs, Military Affairs Committee (MAC), the South Dade Chamber of Commerce, and many other community organizations. It has been an honor to have someone of exceptional caliber serve as Commander. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today and congratulate General Piffarerio for a lifetime of service. We wish him, his wife, Jennifer and his son, Bryce, the best wishes on his new journey as Deputy Commander, U.S. Alaskan Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SHIMKUS

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my good friend and mentor, Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS of Illinois' 15th District.

For 23 years, JOHN has served here in the House of Representatives, leading our delegation and making his mark on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Before his service in Congress, JOHN served our country in the United States Army and the United States Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

For his district and his country, JOHN has served with great honor, integrity, and conviction. He has changed the game with his work on our nation's energy portfolio and chemical safety measures, especially with the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which became law in June 2016 and formally outlined how we use and dispose of chemicals.

This was a major undertaking and the success of this legislative achievement is one of many you'll find throughout JOHN's career.

In Congress, he was a champion for finding safe nuclear waste repository solutions and reducing greenhouse gases and sulfur emissions.

He introduced legislation that would streamline permits to enable efficient broadband infrastructure, recognizing the needs of underserved communities.

He also championed the 1999 legislation that officially designated 9-1-1 as the universal emergency telephone number within the U.S.

Yes, that's right—JOHN SHIMKUS made 9-1-1 the official emergency number and we should ALL be grateful. His effort to create and establish this comprehensive emergency communications infrastructure has undoubtedly saved countless lives.

During his time in the House, JOHN's legislative accomplishments ran the gamut—from the 9-1-1 legislation and his impressive (and expansive) energy policy portfolio, to improving child safety measures through Anton's Law and others, securing funding for rare cancer research, protecting veterans and our communities, and leading countless biofuel and telecommunication provisions.

The bills he championed have been signed into law by three different presidents, showcasing the prowess JOHN has in legislating and working across the aisle to get things done for the American people.

It's this ability to find common ground and work together with his colleagues to get the job done that has made JOHN so successful as a Congressman and so well-respected as a colleague.

His leadership has been critical over the years, and I know without question that this institution is better because of his service and that I am a better Member of Congress because of his guidance.

JOHN SHIMKUS is more than a colleague, he's a true friend and a patriot. His impact on Members like me has been incredibly profound and I know his legacy of servant leadership will continue to serve as a model for incoming Members of Congress for years to come.

Madam Speaker, the hometown hero of Collinsville, Illinois has served this chamber well and is most deserving of this recognition here today. We are going to miss our good friend JOHN SHIMKUS in the People's House, but we wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SHIMKUS

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a good friend and esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, JOHN SHIMKUS.

Congressman SHIMKUS has been a true statesman and a devoted public servant for the people of his district.

He's a testament to hard work, commitment to the job, and dedication to serving the United States of America.

JOHN and I have served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee together and share a passion for energy and environment policy.

We have fought for Yucca Mountain and for the promise of a permanent geological repository for our nation's nuclear waste, something that impacts both South Carolina and Illinois.

We have fought for the advancement of nuclear energy as part of our all-of-the-above energy matrix and a carbon-free source of electricity.

We fought for these things and more—and his efforts in these fights will be truly missed.

• 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.