

accepting an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy as a member of the class of 1981. She was a member of Annapolis' second coeducation class.

As a new Ensign, Lilia sailed for the Naval Communications Area Master Station Western Pacific in Guam, the first of three overseas assignments. While in Guam, Lilia was deployed to the Indian Ocean aboard the submarine U.S.S. *Proteus*, with only a handful of women. After crossing the Equator, she was proudly initiated as a Trusty Shell back in a time-honored sea faring ceremony.

European assignments followed and, while stationed in England as a Navy-Air Force Liaison Officer at RAF Mildenhall, Lilia and two other Annapolis classmates saved the life of an elderly Briton. During their evening of liberty, they discovered the Briton who had collapsed from a heart attack. Next, Lilia served at the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany as the Officer-in-Charge of the Navy-Marine Corps Elements at the headquarters' manpower and personnel directorate. While in Stuttgart, she provided crucial after-action reporting and personnel support in the wake of a terrorist murder of our Navel Attache in Greece and the U.S. Marine Baracks bombing in Beirut.

After five years, Lilia returned to the Washington D.C. area to serve in several assignments, including: the Navy Telecommunications Center at Crystal City, which was the Navy's largest message center; the Navy's Bureau of Personnel, where she was personally involved in assigning a record number of women officers to pursue advanced technical degrees at the Naval Postgraduate School; the Joint Chief of Staff's Command, Control and Communications Systems Directorate. While on the Joint Staff, Lilia coordinated the installation of command and control systems in the field offices of Customs, DEA and the North American Air Defense Command as part of our national anti-drug policy.

In 1990, Lilia was assigned as Officer-in-Charge of the Personnel Support Detachment at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, in the State of Washington. In this tour, she was responsible for the pay, travel and career advancements matters of 8,000 service members and their families. Lilia returned to the Washington, D.C. area again in 1992, where she served as the base-commander of the Naval Communications Unit Chetentham, a 230-acre facility in rural Maryland. At Chetentham, 300 personnel and 19 tenant commands were under her jurisdiction. She also environmentally protected the wetlands at her base and hosted the local Boy Scout Troop.

In 1994, Lilia began a tour in the Secretary of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. Lilia was responsible for representing the command, control, communications and tactical intelligence programs to the defense and intelligence committees of both the

House and Senate. In addition to numerous informational visits to the Naval communications and intelligence facilities throughout the United States, Europe and Japan, Lilia escorted Congressional delegations to the refugee camps in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and later to the national elections in Nicaragua. In 1997, as a member of the team from the U.S. Naval Academy, she visited Peru to advise the Peruvian Navy on integrating women into their naval academy.

As the first U.S. Naval woman to attend the Inter-American Defense College, Lilia again helped blaze a trail for all women. Named as the ambassador of the U.S. Navy, she combined her native Spanish fluency and experience in nation security affairs to impress her Latin American counterparts. She forged lasting relationships with key civilian and military leaders of Latin America and left them with enduring, positive memories of women as military professionals.

Lilia's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards).

The United States, as a nation, owes a great debt of gratitude to Lilia Ramirez whose example will inspire women, Hispanics and all Americans seeking public service and whose work will have a lasting impact on our armed forces for years to come. While we will miss her distinguished career in uniform, we will no doubt continue to enjoy her commitment to her community and Nation. I wish to recognize her entire family, including her father Alvaro, her mother Ana (whom we lost this year to cancer), her brothers Michael and Henry and her sisters Angela and Ana Tulita who are all great American success stories of their own right. Best wishes to Lilia, her husband Randall Lovdahl (Commander, U.S. Navy) and her children Bianca and Beau as they mark this special milestone.●

DELAYING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 110 OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I am opposed to implementing section 110 of the Immigration Reform Act of 1996. Its implementation would create widespread chaos and lead to untold congestion at our Northern borders' checkpoints, potentially creating havoc with our largest trading partner, Canada.

Each year, more than eight million trucks cross the eastern United States-Canada border carrying a variety of goods to market. In addition, the Eastern Border Transportation Coalition estimates that over 57 million cars cross that border each year. Sixty percent of these are day trips—people crossing the border to go to work or school, attend cultural events or to

shop. The remaining forty percent of auto border crossings were by vacationers.

If implemented, an automated entry-exit system along the northern border would hamper both trade and tourism. This is not inconsequential. The United States-Canadian trade relationship is the largest in the world, totalling \$272 billion in 1995. Compare this to \$256 billion in trade for the entire European Union during that same period and one gets an idea of how important this relationship is and why it must remain unfettered by chaotic checkpoints.●

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today having learned of last night's unanimous consent request on S. 1677—The Wetlands and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1998.

As you know, S. 1677 reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) for the next five years. Mr. President, over its eight year history NAWCA has been a lynchpin in our nations efforts to preserve habitat and protect wildlife.

NAWCA has been a very good program for wildlife, for conservation, and for American taxpayers. For every one dollar of federal money, the program obtains on average a match of another two dollars from private partners. According to Ducks Unlimited, over 550 projects nationwide have been initiated with NAWCA funding. In 1996, 76.9 million individuals took part in wildlife-associated activities, creating over \$100 billion in expenditures for our economy. Additionally, in 1996, over 40 million sportsmen and women spent over \$70 billion in recreational expenditures and millions more Americans spent billions in non-sport activities associated with wildlife.

My home state of Minnesota, in particular, has benefited from NAWCA. Over its eight-year life, NAWCA funding of \$18.4 million has stimulated private partners to contribute over \$25 million more to habitat projects. In 1996, 1.6 million Minnesotans participated in wildlife-associated activities, creating \$3.6 billion in expenditures throughout the state.

But beyond the economic benefits NAWCA provides are the important environmental aspects to the program. The decline in duck, geese, and other waterfowl populations in the early 1980s created the catalyst for the program. By protecting nearly 3.7 million acres of habitat since its creation, NAWCA has helped restore waterfowl populations to their highest level in half a century. In fact, state and federal surveys this past year counted 42 million breeding ducks, the highest level since surveys began in 1955, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I was proud to join my colleagues this past April in cosponsoring S. 1677. I am even more proud to come to the