

Now, Marine Lieutenant Colonels, even those of us no longer on active service, aren't in the habit of referring to Generals as friends—particularly when the General in question is the top Marine. And we sure don't offer a public critique of his performance as Commandant of all Marines. It just isn't done.

But in this case, somebody needs to do it. Because when Chuck Krulak takes off his Dress Blues with those four stars on the shoulders for the last time as he will at the end of this month, the conscience of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will have retired. And in this town, that kind of moral authority is going to be missed more than most people realize.

For four years, Chuck Krulak has been "the General who tells it like it is"—in public and in private. Whether in testimony on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon's "tank" where the Joint Chiefs of Staff meet, or at the White House, Chuck Krulak could be counted upon to tell the truth—whether they wanted to hear it or not. His reputation for integrity in a city that too little values this virtue is unparalleled—and a credit to the Corps of Marines he has led through some of the most tumultuous events in our history. His steadfast devotion to his 174,000 Marines is evident in all that he has said and done as Commandant. And very little of it endeared him to an administration hell bent on downsizing, feminizing, and de-"moralizing" America's Armed Forces.

When General Krulak was appointed Commandant in 1995, the Clinton White House was busy taking an axe to America's defense establishment. By the time these draconian cuts were done, the Army would lose eight active combat divisions. The Air Force and Navy would lose 20 air wings—and 2,000 combat aircraft. Another 232 strategic bombers, 13 ballistic missile submarines, four aircraft carriers, all of our battleships, and more than 100 other combat vessels would be sent to the boneyard. Only the Marine Corps was able to withstand Commander-in-Chief Clinton's quest for a mothballed military.

And it didn't stop there. The Marines were badgered to make their boot camps co-ed. General Krulak said no. The Corps was told that it should put women in ground combat assignments in their expeditionary forces. Again, the top Marine said no. When the Pentagon started talking about relaxing the standard on sexual misconduct, Chuck Krulak just said, no. And when a Clinton political appointee responsible for "feminizing" the military decried the Marines as "extremists," the Commandant fired back a blistering response that yes, they were, "extremely fit, extremely faithful and extremely patriotic." In every case he was right.

And he didn't give an inch when the vaunted Clinton "National Security Team" acted as though the Marines had done so much for so long with so little that they could continue to do everything with nothing forever. Faced with unprecedented global commitments and the prospect of declining readiness, Krulak pulled no punches. He told the House and Senate Armed Services Committees that the Marines were ready to perform Mission Impossible—but that they needed to be better armed and equipped. He got what he wanted.

While the other branches of our Armed Forces struggle to meet recruiting and retention goals, lower their entrance standards, ease training requirements and try to make military service less "military"—the Corps has done exactly the opposite. Krulak extended boot camp—adding his "Crucible Training" to the already rigorous initiation into the Corps. His Marines loved him for it, and the Corps has thrived.

The power brokers in Washington, who favor "yes men" over honest men, probably won't miss Chuck Krulak very much. But his Marines will. And I will—mostly because I remember him as a young Captain of Infantry, thirty years ago, when we served together in a corner of hell called Vietnam. He was then, as he is today, a warrior and a man of principle, integrity and character. He embodied then, as he does today, the guiding ethos of the Marines—Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I believe you can see how fitting it is that this article be included in the RECORD.●

MEREDITH GARDNER

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Meredith Gardner, long unsung contributor to the identification of spies. Described by the FBI's Robert Joseph Lamphere as "the greatest counter-intelligence tool this country has ever known," Gardner was the National Security Agency's leading enabler of the reading of thousands of enciphered cables intercepted from Soviet foreign intelligence in the 1940's. The NSA, under its various names, spent four decades deciphering what Moscow intended to be an unbreakable Soviet cipher. Gardner and his team painstakingly worked on these messages in a project which came to be known eventually as "VENONA." The resulting VENONA decrypts, which were finally revealed publicly in 1995, detail the Soviet's espionage efforts in the United States during and after World War II.

Gardner has a genius for learning languages, and is fluent in German, Spanish, French and Russian and has had courses in Old High and Middle High German, Old Norse, Gothic, Lithuanian, and Sanskrit. He taught languages at the Universities of Texas and Wisconsin before being recruited by the U.S. Army's Signals Intelligence Service (the precursor to the National Security Agency) shortly after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The Army wanted people fluent in many languages to work on breaking German and Japanese codes. Until 1955 Gardner worked at Arlington Hall, a former girl's school located 10 miles outside Washington, which served as the Army's headquarters for code-breaking operations. Gardner soon added Japanese to his repertoire of languages. By chance, he became the first American to read in an intercepted message the Japanese word for atom bomb, "genshibakudan."

When the war with Japan ended, the NSA phased out its Japanese section. Gardner learned that there was a section working on Soviet Union messages (its existence was kept secret) and he transferred into it. Gardner insists that the most arduous efforts to make the messages readable had already been done before he came along. First, the messages had to be sorted into at least four varieties, each used by representatives of separate Soviet government departments. It had also been discov-

ered that some messages could be paired as having been "randomized" by the same pad and page carrying random additive digits (and hence were solvable).

Such mixed pairs were worked on by a small group of women led by Katurah "Katie" McDonald. This group had already produced a remarkable amount of code text, and the code-groups that had appeared so far had even been indexed in context by a card machine. The material was just awaiting the appointment of a linguist, and Gardner "appointed himself" to be it. It was the easy stage, but without it all the preparatory work would have been for nothing.

Gardner's reconstruction of the foreign intelligence (VENONA) code book was slow at first, but gained momentum. Because some recruits were named in the messages and given cover names, it became obvious that the FBI ought to receive translations of the cables. Special agent Robert Joseph Lamphere was assigned to be the (very efficient) link between the NSA and FBI. The next is history.

Gardner spent 27 years working on the "Russian problem" before retiring in 1972. He and his wife of 56 years, Blanche, who also worked for the Army Security Agency, now spend part of their time teaching Latin to a small group of students. I commend Mr. Gardner for the invaluable assistance he has given to our country, which we are only now beginning to realize and understand. I salute Mr. Gardner for his dedicated and important service.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. LARRY STOLTE, ON HIS RETIREMENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and commend Mr. Larry Stolte as he retires from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Larry's career in New England began as a fisheries biologist in 1969 with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, working on the introduction of Coho salmon in the Great Bay area. In 1975, he joined the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and became the Atlantic Salmon Planner for New England. Larry took the lead in developing an Atlantic salmon strategic plan for southern New England, and chaired the state committee that developed the Atlantic salmon plan for Maine's rivers.

While working to restore Atlantic salmon to New England's waterways, Larry began researching the "king of gamefish" in the Merrimack River. He documented his research in a book titled "The Forgotten Salmon of the Merrimack," which was published in 1981 and is recognized by many as the most accurate record of the history of the Atlantic salmon in the Merrimack River.

For the past 15 years, Larry has been the Fish and Wildlife Service's coordinator for anadromous fish restoration in the Merrimack River. He has also