

HONORING COLONEL JOAL
EMERSON WOLF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Joal Emerson Wolf of the U.S. Army Reserves for his dedicated service to the United States of America. Colonel Wolf's colleagues, family, and friends gathered on January 20, 2006 at Bolling Air Force Base to celebrate his promotion to the rank of Colonel.

Colonel Wolf has dutifully served our Nation's military since 1983. Most recently he distinguished himself as the Commander of the 3401st Military Intelligence Detachment, and Staff of the Iraq Intelligence Task Force and the Iraq Working Group of the Joint Staff at the Defense Intelligence Agency. Colonel Wolf honors his family's military legacy with his selfless commitment to the security of the American people. He comes from a distinguished family of military tradition: both his father, the late Dr. Alan Emerson Wolf, and his mother, Phyllis Marie Clairmont, served in military intelligence. I am honored to be married to Colonel Wolf's sister, Camille Spinello Andrews, and to say that he represents our family—as well as our Nation—with great honor and integrity.

Colonel Wolf is an inspiration to service members everywhere, and to all citizens of our great Nation. I commend and congratulate Colonel Wolf for his promotion to such an esteemed rank in the U.S. Army Reserves. We are all safer because of his service.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD BRAKE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Brake, who has played a vital role in the development of the Charles E. Brake Company of St. Thomas, Pennsylvania, since he joined them in 1954. Started by his father, Charles, in 1924, Harold has carried on the company's excavating duties until this day.

I have had the privilege of watching the Charles E. Brake Company succeed in expanding their business operations into other areas of Pennsylvania, and even into Maryland. Today, the company has over 100 employees who have contributed to their community for over 75 years. Mr. Harold Brake saw the company develop through its most profitable years, as it grew from only six employees in 1954 to the 120 workers who are a part of the company today.

After serving for more than 50 years in the family-owned corporation, Harold Brake will soon retire from his duties as the Chairman. Although Harold will no longer be the official head of operations, his son, Randy Brake, is certain that Harold will always be involved in the family business. I owned a small business for years and I understand, along with many others across Pennsylvania, the day-in and day-out work it takes to succeed. I applaud Harold for his commitment to his community and his business.

As our economy continues to move in the right direction, our small businesses are the driving force. These businesses make up our communities, neighborhoods, and towns. The Pennsylvanians who have benefited from the efforts of the Charles E. Brake Company as a result of Harold's continued hard work would certainly join me in thanking Harold for his contributions to the community and the economy, as well as serving as an inspiration for the spirit of chivalrous virtue.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SHARON B.
WRIGHT, UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE NURSE CORPS, ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a great American and a true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 26 years in the Air Force Nurse Corps: Colonel Sharon B. Wright. Colonel Wright has a long history with the Air Force. She was born at Travis Air Force Base, California, and graduated from Hillcrest High School, Sumter, South Carolina, when her father, Chief Master Sergeant Edward J. Wright, was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. Colonel Wright followed the career path of her father, a 30-year Air Force Chief, and her mother, a licensed practical nurse, both natives and current residents of Charleston, South Carolina. In 1980, she was commissioned through ROTC, and she was then assigned to Mather Air Force Base, California. Experienced and desiring to make a difference, she next served at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, where she deployed to Honduras with the U.S. Army.

In each assignment she excelled and was rewarded with greater responsibilities and opportunities. In 1988, she became the Chief, Nurse Recruiting Branch, at Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama. A proven leader, she was the Top Recruiter in 1988 and 1991, and she received the Recruiting Standard of Excellence award in 1990. In 1991, she assumed duties as the Coordinator of Maternal Health Services at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. In 1994, Colonel Wright was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as a Nurse Utilization Officer. During her tenure she completed over 2000 assignments, managed five commands, and maintained staff levels at an unprecedented 95 plus percent.

In 1998, Colonel Wright assumed her first command at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. As the Squadron Commander, she also assumed the roles as the Chief Nurse Executive and Deputy Group Commander. Incirlik presented significant challenges. Three weeks after arrival, a devastating 6.3 earthquake hit. Colonel Wright took charge as the on-scene Medical Group Commander. After her stellar performance at Incirlik, she went on to her second assignment as Squadron Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in 1999. Her astute leadership led to her appointment as Deputy Program Executive Officer at the Joint Medical Information Systems Office and Force Development Program Manager at the Office

of the Surgeon General, at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC.

Colonel Wright's last assignment brought her back to Texas as the Chief, Nurse Utilization and Education Branch, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In this position, she was responsible for managing assignments, career progression, and sponsored educational opportunities for 3,700 Air Force nurses. Colonel Wright is a meritorious leader, administrator, clinician, educator, and mentor. Throughout her career she has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Air Force Medical Service. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of a grateful nation for her over 26 years of dedicated military service. Congratulations, Colonel Sharon B. Wright. I wish you Godspeed.

GULF COAST DISASTER
RESPONSE, TRIBUTE AND THANKS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to commend the residents of the Seventh Congressional District and the people of southeastern Pennsylvania for their generosity and compassion toward the people of the gulf coast in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As vice chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I visited Louisiana 5 days after the storm hit, and witnessed the strength and resolve of the citizens and those working to save lives and restore order. This weekend I am pleased to host gulf coast first responders in my district to recognize their indomitable spirit and their great relief efforts. In the days and dark nights that followed the hurricane disasters, these first responders worked around the clock with remarkable resiliency in moving forward a person, a house, a building at a time.

More than 6 months have passed since the most devastating natural disaster in American history. In that time, as has been the case in every time of national crisis, the citizens of my region have opened their hearts to their fellow citizens.

Displaced residents were welcomed to our communities, schoolchildren held fundraisers, supplies were donated, prayers were said and communities sent their fire and EMS personnel to aid neighbors in towns hundreds of miles away, that were unknown to them weeks earlier. College students from my district are spending their spring break in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama assisting with the recovery and rebuilding effort.

To this day, our local citizens continue to donate money, time and effort to help rebuild this devastated part of our country. This spontaneous generosity—great and small, emotional and financial—of all of my constituents in the wake of this tragedy has been remarkable. I have never been more proud to represent the Seventh Congressional District. The extraordinary efforts of the residents of Delaware, Chester and Montgomery Counties are exemplary of the spirit of service that has made our Nation great.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their resources, to the recovery effort along the gulf coast. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, kindness and generosity of southeastern Pennsylvanians whose invaluable dedication to helping our Nation deserves our special recognition.

RECOGNIZING DAVID CRISSEY AS
SANTA ROSA DISTRICT TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize David Crissey as Teacher of the Year for the 2005–2006 school year.

On January 30, 2006, David Crissey was announced Teacher of the Year in the Santa Rosa County School District, a district he has proudly served since 1995. Mr. Crissey is an alternative education teacher with the Exceptional Student Education Department's Students Achieving Independent Learning, SAIL, Program at the Berryhill Administrative Complex in Milton, FL.

The SAIL program serves students who have been removed from their home schools due to a zero tolerance offense or for a long pattern of chronic disruptive behaviors. It takes a special person with an abundance of patience to teach these students not only academics, but also how to succeed socially in society. Stemming from his love for helping children to become successful, over the past 10 years David Crissey has developed an innovative resiliency training program, which teaches students to bounce back from the life stressors they have faced in their lives. Not only an educator for his students, he has presented his resiliency training program as well as other innovative alternative education programming at several international, national, regional and State level conferences to help prepare his colleagues for the behavioral challenges that will face them in the classroom.

The Teacher of the Year recognition highlights 1 year of teaching, but the proof of greatness lies beyond the title; it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. Undeniably, each day walking into the classroom, David Crissey positively shapes the lives of his students.

Through his hard work and dedication in the field of academia, the impact he has had on his students and the difference he has made in their lives has proven him to be among the great teachers in Northwest Florida, and Santa Rosa School District is honored to have him as one of their own.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize David Crissey on this outstanding achievement for his exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District.

H.R. 3380, GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROMOTION AND KINSHIP SUPPORT ACT: TO PROMOTE SAFE AND STABLE HOMES FOR ALL CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, across the country, there are more than 6 million children living with their grandparents, aunts, uncles or other relatives. In my State of Illinois, 9 percent of the children live with nonparent relatives. Children enter relative care for many reasons: death of a parent, neglect, abuse, military deployment, or poverty. But regardless of the reason, every child deserves a safe home and an opportunity for a good life. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes, often at great personal sacrifice. Supportive programs like subsidized guardianship help children exit foster care into the permanent care of nurturing relatives.

Recently, the Pew Commission on Children and Foster Care noted that permanent guardians offer the best hope and future for many of these children. After extensive study, the Pew Commission recommended permanent guardians receive financial assistance in the form of subsidized guardianship. A 2004 study by the University of Illinois showed that States with federally funded subsidized guardianship through IV–E waivers are much more effective in both reducing their foster care rolls and achieving permanence. Subsidized guardianship provides the financial support to make it possible for relative caregivers to provide a permanent and loving home for children, while giving guardianship to the relative instead of the State.

The Guardianship Assistance Promotion, GAP, Act, H.R. 3380, introduced by my colleague Representative DANNY K. DAVIS, is designed to support children living with legal guardians by allowing subsidized guardianship and expanding eligibility to children who are eligible for foster care payments. I urge my colleagues to join this important effort to encourage safe and permanent homes for children in foster care.

Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed. Today, I offer my deep appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our children.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DENNIS WIESE

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to an individual who has earned a reputation as one of the most important and influential agricultural leaders in my home state of South Dakota. Very recently, the longtime president of the South Da-

kota Farmers Union, Dennis Wiese, retired from that position and passed the torch to the next generation of farm leaders. It is on this occasion that I would like to recognize and honor the valuable contributions that he has made to the South Dakota Farmers Union and to South Dakota agriculture.

Dennis first began his involvement in agriculture as a young boy on his family's farm near Flandreau, South Dakota. After graduating from high school he began farming. As he immersed himself in the operation of his farm, Dennis became increasingly interested in agricultural and rural issues that he saw affecting family agriculture. This led to active participation in farm policy debates. In 1993, this interest culminated in his election as the president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, one of the most influential farm organizations in our state. In that role, Dennis served as a staunch and effective advocate for public policy on behalf of the state's farmers and ranchers. He earned a reputation as an honest and valuable source of information, and a fountain of new ideas for positive policy change. He also simultaneously served as a member of the board of directors of the National Farmers Union Property and Casualty Insurance Companies.

During his time as president of the South Dakota Farmers Union he met with national leaders, including President Bill Clinton on several occasions, to discuss issues affecting rural America. Dennis counseled many members of Congress on agricultural matters, including Senators TIM JOHNSON, Tom Daschle, Larry Pressler and JOHN THUNE, and Congressman Bill Janklow and myself, among others. He also has served on national agricultural panels with other prominent rural leaders and he has testified before the Senate and House agriculture committees on numerous occasions.

I had the great good fortune to work with Dennis in another of his important endeavors; one that I think will be one of his finest legacies. In 2003, he was the driving force behind the creation and success of the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization that conducts education programs that teach youth, young adults, farm families, and others about cooperatives and other issues important to family farm agriculture and our rural communities. I was fortunate enough to be the first executive director of that worthy organization and was able to see first hand the talent and dedication that Dennis brings to all of his efforts to assist South Dakota and rural America.

Dennis announced in January of 2005 that he would not seek re-election after serving 12 years as president of the 14,000-member South Dakota Farmers Union. He was replaced in an election in November of last year by another impressive agriculture leader in my state, Doug Sombke. Since Dennis' retirement, he has started a government affairs and economic development consulting firm in his home town of Flandreau, South Dakota. He is now putting his full energies into expanding that business. He is working on many significant and important projects, including the expansion of South Dakota processing company that produces and markets locally grown premium Hereford beef.

It is because of the leadership of bright and dedicated men and women like Dennis Wiese that the challenges facing farmers and ranchers across the country receive the attention