

Established in 1866, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District encompasses the 13,000-square-mile Delaware River Basin and the Atlantic coast from New Jersey's Manasquan Inlet to the Delaware-Maryland line. Within its boundaries are more than 8 million people in eastern Pennsylvania, western and southern New Jersey, most of Delaware, New York's Catskills region and part of northeastern Maryland. It also includes two State capitals—Trenton, NJ, and Dover, DE—and the Delaware River ports complex from Philadelphia and Camden, NJ, to Wilmington, DE.

Just in the First State alone, Lieutenant Colonel Ruch's accomplishments during his 2-year tour of duty have been impressive. They include completion of major storm damage reduction projects at Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach and Fenwick Island, considerable progress on a new \$70 million air freight terminal complex at Dover Air Force Base, partnership in a promising program to restore oyster populations in the Delaware Bay, commencement of a long-awaited project to reduce flood damages in the town of Elsmere, development of a trail concept plan to provide recreational opportunities along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and even removal of an old abandoned shipwreck from the historic Christina River—not to mention a host of other successful projects in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, or the fact that all this was carried out while many of his Philadelphia district employees were deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq or helping out down south after the Nation's worst-ever hurricane season.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1986, Lieutenant Colonel Ruch began his military career with the 7th Engineer Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, Mechanized, at Fort Polk, LA, as a platoon leader and company executive officer. Follow-on assignments included liaison officer and company commander with the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Castle, Republic of Korea, and the Live Fire Engineer Trainer for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. He then worked as an operations officer in the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, before moving on to Fort Riley, KS, as S3 of the 1st Engineer Battalion, and then of the 937th Engineer Group, Combat. And just before coming to Philadelphia, Lieutenant Colonel Ruch served with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium, as the senior staff officer for NATO Infrastructure in Crisis Response Operations dealing with operations in Afghanistan and in the Balkans.

Lieutenant Colonel Ruch holds a bachelor of science in geo-environmental science from Shippensburg University and a master's in engineering management from St. Martin's College. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses and of the

U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Superior Unit Award.

After turning over the command of the Philadelphia District to LTC Gwen Baker on July 7, 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Ruch will move on to Fort Hood, TX, as division engineer of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division.

I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Ruch for a distinguished career and to offer my special thanks for his enthusiasm, competence and effectiveness in serving the State of Delaware and the Greater Philadelphia Region.

We will miss him in the Delaware Valley and on the Delmarva Peninsula. We wish him and his family all the best in the years to come, including, as we say in the Navy, "Fair winds and a following sea."•

TRIBUTE TO PALDEN GYATSO

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President today, in honor of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, one of my Minnesota constituents, Michael Pittman, has asked that I recognize Tibetan monk Palden Gyatso.

Palden Gyatso was born in a Tibetan village in 1922 and became a Buddhist monk by age 10. In 1959, during the Chinese invasion and occupation of Tibet, Mr. Gyatso was jailed for protesting along with thousands of religious Tibetans. Mr. Gyatso spent more than 30 years of his life in prisons and labor camps, where he was a victim to religious and class oppression. He was tortured by various methods, which included being beaten with a club ridden with nails, shocked by an electric probe, which scarred his tongue and caused his teeth to fall out, whipped while being forced to pull an iron plow, and starved.

Despite these inhumane conditions and cruel tortures, Palden Gyatso was able to survive with remarkable courage and resilience. During his torture sessions, he would practice a technique he learned while studying at a Buddhist monastery, the practice of tonglen, which is a method for connecting with suffering and awakening compassion. He would receive the anger and hatred of his torturer and would exchange it with love and compassion.

During his imprisonment, Palden Gyatso drew inspiration from elder prisoners, who told him that if he were ever to escape, he should take action to stop the torture. He has done exactly that: He has traveled to Europe and North America over 25 times and has written a book to tell his story. He has also testified before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and before the U.S. Congress.

Palden Gyatso's testimony helped secure passage of the International Reli-

gious Freedom Act of 1998, which was sponsored by Representative FRANK WOLF and Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN and Don Nickles, and was signed into law by President Clinton. Palden Gyatso was also awarded the 1998 John Humphrey Freedom Award of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

The courage and dedication to freedom which Palden Gyatso has demonstrated serve as a powerful inspiration to everyone.●

TRIBUTE TO BG JAMES D. HITTLE

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, during most of our lives, we encounter an individual who lived a remarkably fine personal and professional life. Such is the case of BG James D. Hittle, USMCR, whose anniversary of his death, June 15, recently passed. General Hittle's death received very little press coverage at the time, and I would like to share with my colleagues what this man achieved in his life time in the words of a former Commandant of the Marine Corps, GEN P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.)

I ask that the eulogy given by General Kelley be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The material follows.

A TRIBUTE TO BGEN JAMES D. HITTLE, USMC (Ret.)

(By Gen Paul X. Kelley, USMC (Ret))

BGen James Donald Hittle—devout Christian—great American—Marine officer—gentleman and gentle man—loving husband—caring father—always a friend indeed!

Commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in 1937, Don Hittle was a "plank owner" when MajGen Holland Smith activated the 1st Marine Division for World War II—was G-4 for the 3d Marine Division under MajGen Graves Erskine on Guam and at Iwo Jima—and after the war commanded 2d Battalion, 7th Marines in the occupation of North China.

After serving his Corps for 23 years, Don Hittle's future life could easily qualify him as a quintessential "Renaissance Man."

He was Director of National Security and Foreign Affairs for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, syndicated columnist for Copley News Service, commentator for Mutual Broadcasting System, Special Counsel for both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, a founder and Director of the DC National Bank, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Senior Vice President for Pan American Airways, consultant to the President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, advisor to several Secretaries of the Navy and Commandants of the Marine Corps—and the list goes on and on and on.

Col Don Hittle came into my life during the summer of 1956 when MajGen Jim Riseley dragged me kicking and screaming from a cushy tour in what was then the Territory of Hawaii to the labyrinthian corridors of Headquarters Marine Corps. As many of those here today will recall, this was the long, hot summer of Ribbon Creek, and Don Hittle was Legislative Assistant to Randolph McCall Pate, our 21st Commandant. I was a young eager, starry-eyed captain, very naive in the arcane world at the Seat of Government—but I was soon to learn. My first lesson was negative one—that