

and commitment as a leader in his state. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRIAN W.
LAURITZEN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize COL Brian W. Lauritzen, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. As a Member of Congress who represents Fort Belvoir, I know firsthand that Colonel Lauritzen has served with great competence, tireless determination and constant communication with the community during a time of great transition for his installation.

Colonel Lauritzen took command of Fort Belvoir, one of our Nation's largest and most diverse military installations, in July 2005 with major challenges awaiting him and even more on the horizon. Fort Belvoir was already engaged in master planning for redevelopment to expand the number of Department of Defense tenants and stretch the functions of the already busy installation. Then, just a few months into his tenure, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's final recommendations doubled the size of Fort Belvoir's incoming workforce by 2011.

The BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir, among the most substantial of BRAC 2005's mandates, will transform the installation into the major support center for the Nation's most senior military leadership. Ensuring a successful transition has brought with it the great challenges of working with both the Department of Defense and the local community. These challenges include timely and transparent planning, assessing the environmental and societal impacts of absorbing more than 19,000 new employees, managing the transportation infrastructure in an area already burdened by traffic, and ensuring that all of Fort Belvoir's defense tenants can still perform their vital national security missions.

Colonel Lauritzen has ably met these daunting challenges with the superb attitude that, in order to be successful, Fort Belvoir must continue to be receptive and responsive to the concerns of all of the surrounding communities. His early promise to the community that there would be "no daylight between us" has held true. Colonel Lauritzen established the BRAC Board of Advisors, a first-in-the-nation group bringing together members of the Army, incoming agencies, and the region's elected officials and local civic activists to identify development issues and keep open the lines of communication.

I have always found Colonel Lauritzen to be the consummate consensus builder. He personally has made more than 150 appearances and presentations before community groups to keep them apprised of the BRAC expansion, Fort Belvoir's other missions, and their impact on the community. Similarly, he built strong communication coalitions with and between the major commands headquartered at Fort Belvoir in support of their people and their global missions through the Installation Senior Leadership Council.

More than just communication, Colonel Lauritzen continues to facilitate progress, even when progress is difficult. He worked directly with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Army Corps of Engineers to address some of the many transportation challenges facing the region. Especially noteworthy is his personal involvement to secure an agreement to complete the extension of the Fairfax County Parkway, a vital connection across the Fort's Engineer Proving Ground, something that had festered unresolved for more than 10 years.

Inside the perimeter of his base, Colonel Lauritzen has steadfastly insisted that our Nation's Soldiers and their families deserve the highest quality of life. Fort Belvoir has one of the Army's most successful Residential Community Initiative programs that has revitalized the approach to military housing and neighborhood centers, creating first-class communities for those who serve our Nation in uniform.

On a more personal note, Colonel Lauritzen and his staff have eagerly addressed questions or constituent concerns that my office has brought to their attention. Regardless of how complicated or involved these requests may have been, I have always found his door to be open to discuss the issues and, more often than not, find compromise to difficult situations.

Madam Speaker, at Fort Belvoir's Change of Command Ceremony on Tuesday, July 2, Colonel Lauritzen—West Point graduate, Soldier, and extraordinary officer—will retire from the Army and enter a new chapter in his life. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and wish him all the best as he pursues new endeavors. He has truly served Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and our Nation with the highest standards of leadership expected from the very best of our military commanders.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth yesterday shocked Michigan when it released its unemployment figures. Michigan's unemployment rate has risen from 6.9 percent in April to 8.5 percent in May. This is the highest rate in our State since October of 1992. Regrettably, we are now one month away from recording our eighth straight year of payroll job losses.

It is in this context that my constituents are hearing the news that Congress is debating providing additional unemployment benefits which are desperately needed by too many working families in my State. Last week this House passed H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act, with nearly 2/3 of the Members of the House voting in favor. This bill would provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to unemployed workers in every State. Unemployed workers in States with exceptionally high unemployment rates, like Michigan, would receive an additional 13 weeks of benefits beyond that. Unfortunately, the provision granting

workers in States like Michigan an additional 13 weeks of benefits, which received very strong bipartisan support in the House just last week, is not included in this supplemental appropriations bill.

The unemployment benefits provision in this supplemental provides just 13 additional weeks for every State. It does not provide any extra help for States that need it the most. States like Michigan where the unemployed are having great difficulty finding work because there are so few jobs to be had. Workers have little opportunity to move to other areas to find work because they can't sell their homes, and they are having difficulty driving far distances to try and find a new job because of the high cost of gas. Michigan, with the worst unemployment rate in the Nation, needs extra help. This supplemental does not provide it.

I will be supporting both sections of the supplemental. It provides equipment and pay for our troops in harm's way and educational benefits for them when they return home. And the level of aid to the unemployed all across the country is a good start. However, I am disappointed we have not provided the much needed extra assistance to those who need it most. We must continue to work to help the chronically unemployed to get that additional safety net that will help support countless families in Michigan.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
ANDREW L. JEFFERSON, JR.

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize a distinguished academic, activist, and advocate, my friend, the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. The passage of H. Res. 31, which recognizes the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson on the occasion of the establishment of The Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, is a fitting tribute to a man whose life exemplifies excellence and integrity.

The Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 after earning his Bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, was president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and became a partner with the law firm of Washington and Jefferson in Houston, Texas.

He served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County, a chief assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil and Refining Company. In 1970, Judge Jefferson was appointed to preside over the Court of Domestic Relations number 2 for Harris County. In 1974, he was elected to Judge of the 208th District Court.

In 1975, he decided to re-enter the active practice of law and was admitted to the United States Court of Appeals for Fifth, Sixth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. A long time active committee member of the State bar,