

individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF BRUCE KATSIFF'S  
RETIREMENT FROM THE JAMES  
A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bruce Katsiff, Director and CEO of the James A. Michener Art Museum, who is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service to the museum and the Bucks County community.

The Michener Museum is an important part of my district's art and cultural identity and this is due in no small part to Mr. Katsiff's leadership and vision. In fact, it was he who changed the name from the James A. Michener Arts Center to the now nationally recognized James A. Michener Art Museum.

In 1989 when he began as director, attendance at the museum averaged 8,000 visitors a year. Now, 120,000 people come to see the exhibits each year and the museum ranks among the top art museums in the greater Philadelphia region.

Bruce's love of art goes back to high school, where he discovered photography and participated in his first exhibit at the age of 17. He then studied photography at Rochester Institute of Technology, earned a Master of Fine Arts at the Pratt Institute and completed post-graduate work at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Katsiff's keen business sense blended well with his passion for art. Under his guidance, the museum flourished in size and staff. Just this month, the Edgar N. Putman Event Pavilion was opened to establish the museum as a premier destination for facility rentals in our area.

For Bruce's final project, the museum will host an exhibition from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, of Old Master paintings and tapestries, including oil paintings from legendary artists such as Botticelli and Titian.

Because of all that Mr. Katsiff has accomplished, I know that he will leave this position in high spirits. Thanks again to Bruce Katsiff for all that you have done for not only the Michener Museum, but for the entire Bucks County community. I am honored to serve as your representative in Congress, and I wish you many more years of continued success.

HONORING MR. RICHARD ZILKA

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Zilka, outgoing president of the Clearing Civic League in Chicago, Illinois, for his lasting service to the community.

Mr. Zilka's community owes him an enormous debt. A member of the Clearing Civic League since 1965, he has been president for 26 years during which time he has distinguished himself as a tireless fighter for the

success and safety of the neighborhood. Instrumental in securing a public library for the citizens of Clearing and establishing the Clearing Night Watch, he also successfully campaigned against the installation of high-pollution medical incinerators in the area. These are just some of the many successes that he spearheaded on behalf of the residents of Clearing.

Mr. Zilka and his wife of 54 years, Marie, have two sons and one daughter. Prior to his retirement he worked for International Harvester, which has since become Navistar. He has also fulfilled a number of diverse roles in the community, including serving on the advisory council of Chicago's John F. Kennedy High School, and the Community Advisory Council in Bedford Park. He has also served as a member of the nearby Garfield Ridge Civic League. In recognition of his achievements, South Rutherford Avenue was recently renamed in his honor.

A resident of Chicago his entire life, Richard Zilka has been a tireless fighter for the well being of his neighbors on the Southwest Side. Held in the utmost regard within the community, I have been inspired by his loyal and enduring service. As he retires from his position as president of the Clearing Civic League, I wish him all the very best for the future.

COLONEL TODD P. "SLEDGE"  
HARMER RETIRES AFTER 26  
YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Todd P. "Sledge" Harmer on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

I have had the pleasure of working with Sledge on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office, and greatly appreciate his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me personally, as well as numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel Harmer has given much to this Nation through his dedicated and selfless service. His Air Force career started the day he arrived at the U.S. Air Force Academy in June of 1982. He established himself as a serious student with a great aptitude for flying. Upon graduation on May 28, 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering, Lt Harmer was competitively selected among pilot training selectees to attend Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Lead-In Fighter Training, and F16C Operational Course, excelling in each course. He was assigned to the 14th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Misawa AB, Japan where he started flying combat training missions and preparing for greater aerial tasks. His superiors rated him the "best wingman in the squadron" and recognized him as a gifted fighter pilot. As a new Captain, he was upgraded to instructor pilot (IP) and mission commander in absolute minimum time, then selected to be a Standardization/Evaluation Flight Examiner because of his great flying skill and leadership. He was reassigned to the 69th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA

as an IP and Chief of Weapons and Tactics. He was certified as combat-ready, and qualified in air-to-surface, air-to-air and nuclear roles. To no one's surprise, he was selected to attend the coveted F-16 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, and completed it with honors. He went on to complete Squadron Officer School, again completing it with honors and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He returned to the 69th Fighter Squadron for a few years to train and evaluate pilots, and contributed greatly to the success of this important fighter squadron. Captain Harmer was reassigned to the 23rd Operations Support Squadron at Pope AFB, NC where he was responsible for planning and coordinating F-16 employment supporting contingencies, exercises and readiness inspections. After serving as a flight commander and IP, he was sent overseas to serve in the 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea. He was hand-picked to command a flight of fighter pilots flying wartime taskings in a upgraded F-16C. His superiors identified him as an "aviator without peers", and the "greatest contributor to the combat readiness of the most forward deployed fighter squadron in the Air Force." He was promoted to the rank of Major and give greater responsibility as the Assistant Operations Officer, and later the Aide-de-Camp to the Seventh Air Force Commander, Lt General Joseph Hurd. General Hurd recognized his superior airmanship and trusted counsel and called him the finest aide he had ever seen. Sledge was sent to the U.S. Naval War College and earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, then went on to the Air Force's School of Advanced Airpower Studies and spent a year excelling in a rigorous curriculum. Following this, newly promoted Lt Colonel Harmer was assigned to the prestigious Checkmate Division at the Pentagon to lead the European Command Pacific Command Branch. There he continued to contribute, lead and inspire his research teams through keen analysis and writings. Senior Air Force leadership had been impressed with his papers and reports over the years, but his writings would receive special recognition while in Checkmate and would help shape the employment and advancement of air and space power. Perhaps more importantly, however, Lt Colonel Harmer would become an impact strategist and leader in the days following 9-11. He led teams developing Air Force position on Grand Military Strategy, air and space operations plans, combat search and rescue, and the air attack plan for Operation Enduring Freedom. His years of training, education and performing every mission in a superb manner would help him to continue on the track to senior leadership. He was assigned as the Commander, 63rd Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ and given the difficult task of commanding in the Air Force's largest fighter wing. He did not disappoint. He set the benchmark for training and air operations. Following this assignment, Lt Colonel Harmer would attend National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC and receive a Master of Science in National Security Strategy, and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He would spend the following year in Turkey as an Executive Officer to the Commander of CC-Air and 16th Air Force, and, U.S. Senior National Representative, Allied Air Component Command HQ Izmir. He was promoted to Colonel and assigned as the Vice