

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL MELVIN SPIESE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of Major General (MajGen) Melvin Spiese on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Marine Corps. I commend MajGen Spiese's career and offer my sincerest thanks for his more than 36 years of dedicated service in protecting our nation.

In 1976, MajGen Spiese was commissioned via the NROTC program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and he began his long and successful career in the United States Marine Corps as a rifle platoon commander with 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.

Nearly four decades later, MajGen Spiese retires now from his post as both Deputy Commanding General of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) and Commanding General (CG) of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB).

As Deputy CG of I MEF, MajGen Spiese oversaw the daily activities of 57,000 Marines and Sailors, the largest warfighting organization in the Marine Corps. From the moment he became Deputy CG, he provided critical direction to the staff and allowed the CG of I MEF to successfully focus on his concurrent duties as Commander, Marine Forces Central Command.

Simultaneously, as the CG of 1st MEB, MajGen Spiese successfully transformed the organization from concept to an operational, warfighting organization. MajGen Spiese developed establishing orders and planning documents that were firsts of their kind for Marine Expeditionary Brigades, pushed his staff to 48-month planning cycles rather than the standard 12 months, and integrated 1st MEB into major Marine Corps, Navy, and international training events such as JAVELIN THRUST with Marine Forces Reserve units, DAWN BLITZ with the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group Three and THIRD Fleet, and IRON FIST with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

Through the development of the MEB Order, MEB Training Continuum, Capstone Document, and yearly I MEF Campaign Plans he leaves an established path for future Marine leaders to follow.

I offer MajGen Spiese my warmest congratulations and hope that he enjoys a rich and rewarding retirement with his wife Filomena and their children D'arcy, Lindsey and MG and their grandchildren Lucy and Christian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the career of MajGen Melvin Spiese.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HALT INDEX TRADING OF ENERGY COMMODITIES OR HITEC ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Halt Index Trading of Energy Commodities, or HITEC, Act. I am reintroducing this bill, which was H.R. 5186 in the previous Congress, with Representative DELAURO because urgent action is still needed to protect our nation's oil and refined product commodities markets from artificial and excessive levels of volatility caused by the trading practices of certain Wall Street traders. Since 1991, Wall Street investment banks such as Goldman Sachs have created and marketed a new financial product known as commodity index funds, which are really energy speculation funds, gasoline gambles. These energy speculation funds track the financial performance of one or more commodities. If a speculation fund has an investment in oil and the value of oil goes up, then the value of the fund goes up; if the value of oil goes down, the value of the speculation fund goes down.

These investments have had an adverse effect on the operation of the markets for the commodities that comprise the funds. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been invested in various energy speculation funds, artificially inflating the prices of our commodities. While these energy speculation funds may be driving up prices for many different commodities, they are having an especially pernicious effect on energy commodities. According to testimony submitted to the House Natural Resources Committee, excessive speculation added nearly \$1.00 to the per gallon price of gasoline last spring, and energy speculation funds appear to have been largely responsible. Due to the activities of these energy speculation funds, Wall Street investment banks have profited by introducing new and unprecedented levels of volatility and speculation into oil and refined product markets.

Energy speculation funds have changed the very nature of our commodities markets. Traditionally, the commodities market was dominated by companies who actually used the commodities to hedge the business risk associated with oil or refined products prices. Large oil, gasoline, diesel or jet fuel consumers such as airlines, trucking firms, and shipping services were the largest participants in these markets. Indeed, in 1996, companies who actually bought oil on the commodities market so they could use it owned 93% of the oil futures or derivatives in that market. Now, however, these companies only own 37% of the oil futures or derivatives in that market. The bulk of the remaining 63% is owned by speculators who have invested in these energy speculation funds, none of whom will actually use any of the oil or natural gas in which they have invested.

Given how much these energy speculation funds have hurt consumers and business, one might at least think that these energy speculation funds are good investment vehicles. Yet, all evidence is that they have provided mediocre returns in recent years. According to the Wall Street Journal, Standard and Poor's popular GSCI index provided just .08% in annual

returns in 2012, far below the returns of the S&P 500. Worse, in 2011, the returns from the GSCI were actually negative. Unsurprisingly, institutional investors like pension funds are moving away from investing in energy speculation funds: Not only do they hurt average Americans and business, but they do not even provide excellent returns for their investors. In truth, the only group of people who seem to be benefiting from the existence of these funds is Wall Street.

Despite only being 22 years old, energy speculation funds have already had a profound impact on our country. They have increased the size of our commodities market. They have increased the volatility of our commodities prices. They have hurt consumers' wallets and small businesses by making them pay more at the pump. They have slowed the growth of our economy by requiring that we devote even more money to energy instead of creating new jobs. They do all these things, and they do not even provide much benefit to their own investors. These energy speculation funds are a danger to our economy, our financial system, and the average American's wallet.

The HITEC Act will restore order to our energy commodity markets and end this experiment. The bill will ban all new investment in energy commodities like light sweet crude oil, natural gas, heating oil, and gasoline by these commodity index funds from the date of enactment. The day the President signs this bill, energy speculation funds will not be allowed to grow any more if they count speculators among their investors. Existing energy speculation funds that continue to count speculators among their investors will then have two years to wind down their investments. As the average length of a "spot" commodity contract is one year, this should allow energy speculation funds that continue to house speculators more than enough time to wind down their investments in a fair and orderly fashion.

This bill does not prohibit energy speculation funds from investing in agricultural commodities like wheat or corn, nor does it prohibit those funds from investing in metals such as gold. The bill also does not implicate trading of electricity in any way, shape, or form. Instead, this bill just prohibits energy speculation funds from interfering with our energy commodities, a market that determines the prices for the fuels that power our economy.

This bill will end an unnecessary and harmful source of excessive price volatility that has only served to benefit Wall Street traders and has harmed our economy by pumping up oil, gasoline, and other refined product prices. Enactment of this legislation will address one major source of the pain American consumers have recently been feeling at the pump, and I once again urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor this critical legislation.

HONORING SHILO G. OSBORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shilo G. Osborn. Shilo is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and

leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shilo has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Shilo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Shilo has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shilo G. Osborn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRIUMPH OF
AGRICULTURE EXPOSITION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the Midwest's premier indoor farm events, the 47th Annual Triumph of Agriculture Exposition.

The 47th Annual Triumph of Agriculture Exposition, or Ag Expo, will be held this coming March 6 and 7 at the CenturyLink Center in neighboring Omaha, Nebraska—mere miles from Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Triumph of Ag Expo is regarded as one of the country's largest indoor short-line farm machinery shows and remains the ideal opportunity to see new short-line farm equipment, products, and techniques under one roof.

Mr. Speaker, the work ethic of Iowa's farmers and the value that it provides to our nation cannot be overstated. It is a great honor to represent fine farmers and farming communities in the state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I commend the efforts of the Mid-America Farm and Ranch Machinery Council for sponsoring this year's Ag Expo, and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing all of our farmers a successful and plentiful harvest in 2013.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAMELA
GREEN-JACKSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Pamela Green-Jackson, Founder and CEO of the Youth Becoming Healthy Project (YBH), on being named a recipient of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal by President Barack Obama. Ms. Green-Jackson, along with the other medal recipients, will be honored at an event at the White House in Washington, DC on Friday, February 15, 2013.

An Albany, Georgia native, Ms. Green-Jackson serves as Public Affairs and Community Relations Specialist at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, a role she performs exceptionally well. She attended Albany State University and graduated from LaGrange Col-

lege with a degree in Organizational Leadership. She also earned a Master of Science in Management degree from Troy University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University.

After watching her only brother, Bernard, suffer from obesity-related illnesses that led to his death at the young age of 43, Ms. Green-Jackson founded Youth Becoming Healthy (YBH), a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing childhood obesity and helping young people develop healthy lifestyles through nutrition, fitness education and physical activity programs.

With obesity being the second leading cause of preventable death and the number one health threat in the U.S., Ms. Green-Jackson took it upon herself to lead the effort in implementing changes in schools and in policy to prevent children from suffering like her brother did. She has worked with school food service managers to promote healthier school lunches and vending machine contents as well as to implement safe physical activity programs. Expanding to the surrounding community, Ms. Green-Jackson spearheaded the Albany Savannah Family Wellness Challenge, which aims to engage the entire community in making healthy lifestyle and behavioral choices by creating a family and community support system.

Established in 1969, the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Nation's second-highest civilian honor, recognizes American citizens who have performed meritorious deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens. The President calls on members of the public to nominate people in their lives who have demonstrated commitment to service within the community, who have helped their country or fellow citizens through an extraordinary act, whose service relates to a long-term or persistent problem, and whose service has had an impact on others' lives. Ms. Green-Jackson was named as a 2012 Citizens Medal recipient because of her work in schools and the community to combat obesity in youth and promote healthy lifestyle patterns that will serve them now and into the future.

Prior to receiving this prestigious honor, Ms. Green-Jackson was also named a 2009 CNN Hero for superior leadership, community service, and being an excellent role model and mentor. She was also recognized as the Department of Defense's 2010 Women's History Month STEM Winner for the Marine Corps and has been awarded the King Dream Award and the Congressional Black Caucus Leadership & Unsung Hero Award, among many others.

In addition to her work at MCLB and YHB, Ms. Green-Jackson is also active in numerous community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and Legislative Affairs Committees, UGA Extension Advisory Council, Liberty House, and the Southwest Georgia Rural Health Collaborative.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Pamela Green-Jackson for her outstanding service to her community and her country. She is a dear friend and longtime supporter of mine and I know this award is well-deserved for she performs her numerous roles with humility, empathy and refinement. I commend Ms. Green-Jackson for her commitment to this worthy cause and her procurement of this esteemed and well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH AND JULIEANNA OGLE—RECIPIENTS OF THE TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU'S 2012 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Josh and Julieanna Ogle, two outstanding citizens of our community and a respected couple in the field of agriculture.

Josh and Julieanna were recently awarded the Tennessee Farm Bureau's 2012 Outstanding Young Farmer Achievement Award and the 2012 Environmental Stewardship Award, for their strong commitment to strengthening Tennessee's agricultural industry.

Both Josh and Julieanna grew up on family farms and attended Motlow State Community College. They have been married for 14 years and have three young children, Levi, Abi and Travis. The Ogles have continued the tradition of farm and family by partnering with Josh's parents at D&J River Farms. It is here that their agricultural achievements are translated into produce, growing roughly 4600 acres of cotton, corn, soybeans and wheat.

The Ogle's success is the product of hard work, an exceptional level of dedication and a respect for others that is unparalleled. Josh and Julieanna come from the old school line of thought that "it is better to give than receive." As such, they have volunteered untold hours at their local church and at cancer support fundraisers across the state of Tennessee.

While being highly-respected farmers, as well as a wonderful husband and wife, father and mother, the Ogles have still found time to impart their knowledge to farming's next generation by volunteering to speak to students of the Future Farmers of America organization.

Mr. Speaker, their work as mentors to young farmers is good news for Lincoln County as well as the entire state of Tennessee. If you think about all that the Ogles have been able to accomplish in their community and their industry, just think what will be achieved by future generations whose lives have been impacted by the Ogles.

On behalf of the people of Lincoln County, as well as Tennessee's entire Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate Josh and Julieanna Ogle as the 2012 recipients of the Tennessee Farm Bureau's achievement and environmental stewardship awards and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING MAINE WARDEN
GREGORY "GREGG" SANBORN

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember an exemplary individual and member of the Maine Warden Service whom we lost much too early in life.