

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT "BOB" W. GATES, USAF RET.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on August 9, 2014, Northwest Florida and our Nation lost a warrior—Colonel Robert "Bob" W. Gates, USAF Retired. Colonel Gates, a devoted family man and decorated veteran, honorably served as a member of the Armed Forces for over thirty years. He was a member of the Greatest Generation and served in three wars. I am humbled to rise and pay tribute to his life, his unwavering commitment to service, and his dedication to our Nation's heroes and their loved ones.

Born in Bradley, South Dakota on January 23, 1919, Colonel Gates joined the Army Air Corps, prior to World War II, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force in April 1942. His various tours of duty included commander of the 88th Troop Carrier Squadron, a C-47 squadron that dropped paratroopers over Normandy on D-Day; commander of the 4087th Air Transport Group, tasked with providing air supply for the Distant Early Warning Line across the Arctic; and commander of the Huron Task Force, which established the Huron radar sites on the Greenland Ice Cap. Following his command of the 6200th Material Wing at Clark AFB in the Philippines, Colonel Gates became the first commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, located in the Florida Panhandle and home to the Air Force Special Operations Command, before serving as the Inspector General for the 13th Air Force.

During his distinguished career spanning three decades, Colonel Gates served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War and logged over 16,000 flight hours in several aircraft, including his assignment to fly entertainer Bob Hope and crew on a USO tour around the world. Colonel Gates received a Presidential Citation from President Franklin Roosevelt and was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation medal, the French Croix-de-Guerre, and the USO Spirit of Hope Award for his lifetime contributions to the USO. Under his leadership, the 1st Special Operations Wing was bestowed the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and Hurlburt Field was named the Most Improved Base in the Tactical Air Command.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1972, Colonel Gates began a career in real estate and was integral in the construction of the Bob Hope Village, which provides home and care for Air Force widows. From 1978 to 1983, Colonel Gates served as mayor of Fort Walton Beach. He was a founder and charter member of The American Air Museum in Britain and the Air Armament Museum at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and was a member of various community and veterans organizations, including the Elks, Daedalians, Krewe of Bowlegs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Air Commando Association, which inducted Colonel Gates into its Hall of Fame.

To many, Colonel Gates will be remembered for his devotion to his country and com-

munity, and to his family and friends, a loving family man with a great sense of humor. Without question, Colonel Gates lived a life full of service and has earned our Nation's highest respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a privilege for me to honor Colonel Robert W. Gates' lifetime of service. My wife Vicki and I extend our prayers and sincere condolences to his children—Robert, Bill, Michael, Kimberly, and Kathleen; ten grandchildren—Paula, Robert W. Gates III, Steve, Matthew, Sarah, Mary Kathryn, Peyton, Austin, Trevor, and Kendall; ten great-grandchildren; his loyal companion, Lucky, his rescued dog; and the entire Gates family.

THANKING MY STAFF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor and privilege to serve in this body for 34 years. I have come to the floor countless times over the years to speak out and help give a voice to the voiceless for humanitarian causes, to raise national and international policy issues, such as getting our nation's spending under control, bringing attention to national security threats, like terrorism and cyberattacks, and focusing on ways to protect children and families from the scourge of legalized gambling. I also have raised issues important to the people of the 10th District of Virginia, such as improving transportation, preserving historic sites and educating the public about health threats from Lyme disease.

Today, though, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the dozens of men and women who have been on my staff over the years. As every Member knows, our jobs in the people's House would be next to impossible without the staff that works with us. I certainly would not have been able to accomplish so many of the projects and public policy initiatives I have been able to do without them by my side.

And in all honesty, if it were not for some loyal and dedicated staffers who stuck with me during my first term—when the growing pains of a new congressional office are the toughest—I am not sure I would have been re-elected early in my career.

I want to single out my first press secretary, Stephanie Bolick, who later became my chief of staff, or as we called it back then, my "AA" or administrative assistant. She may have been among the first women in a Hill office in the early 1980s to break that glass ceiling. I was blessed to find Stephanie, who helped me focus my work and build a foundation of public service. She was wise beyond her years and I am forever grateful to her for her counsel and for being there from the start.

I have been fortunate to have two long-tenured chiefs of staff. Charlie White was my top aide for 14 years, until cancer took his life in the summer of 2000. A retired Navy captain and submariner, Charlie had a heart of service and not only helped manage my office, but became a dear friend. A humble man, he had a way of putting everyone around him at ease. Even in the pain of illness, he inspired us by his grace. Charlie was a "Johnny Appleseed" kind of a guy. He was a mentor to young staff-

ers and sowed seeds of goodness and kindness to scatter to all those we meet in our lives.

I believe it was providential when Dan Scandling followed Charlie as my chief of staff. Dan had been the top aide to my Virginia colleague Herb Bateman, who died suddenly just four months before he was to retire from the House. Dan was just the right person at the right time. A trusted and loyal adviser and friend, he has been with me since late 2000.

When I would tell Dan that we needed to jump on a plane and get to a place in the world where people were suffering or war was imminent, he made it happen. He was there with me to document the trip in photos and write the report that I would share with House colleagues, leadership and the administration to help get the ball rolling to focus attention on a humanitarian cause. A superb journalist, Dan also has served as my press spokesman. He is indefatigable and a true professional and I cannot thank him enough for his counsel and public service.

I was a former staffer, both on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. I know the daily grind—writing mail, stuffing envelopes, and answering phone calls from disgruntled constituents. Staffers are consumed by long hours with modest pay. Yet I also know how rewarding this job can be. So many of my staff over the years have told me that being in a position to help make people's lives better was really what counted the most.

I always said I wanted a staff that was on par with the late Senator Ted Kennedy's top-notch staff. There is no doubt in my mind that my staff was. I have no hesitation in saying I have had the best staff on Capitol Hill.

I have tried to treat my staff as family, whether they worked for me for only a year before heading off to law school or graduate school, or stayed with me for many years. I actually had two staffers who worked for me for more than 25 years. Judy McCary and Janet Shaffron served as the backbone of my office.

Judy was my longtime District director and worked more cases, particularly immigration cases, than you can count. Through the years I could rarely go anywhere in my District without someone thanking me for something Judy or someone else on my District staff did to solve a problem.

Judy, and all my District staff, were tireless—and continue to be tireless—advocates for the people of the 10th District, regardless of political strife. When you called my District staff with a problem, it didn't matter if you were a Democrat, an Independent or a Republican. You were a constituent and they were there to help.

Janet Shaffron was my legislative director for 28 years. She had an encyclopedic knowledge of every issue and every vote and was responsible for compiling my complete annual voting record, which I published for constituents. She was a whiz at parliamentary procedure and an extremely gifted writer and editor. Nothing rattled Janet. I don't think she ever had a bad day—even when she wore two hats and filled in as chief of staff, helping hold the staff together when Charlie became ill. My Washington staff adored Janet. She always was willing to help with a letter or speech. She was a mentor and always knew when to give a young staffer an encouraging word. And she

was always willing to tell me when she thought I was going in the wrong direction.

Judy and Janet stood with me through thick and thin. They were there in the early years during the fits and starts of a new office and in the years that followed helping celebrate legislative or district successes. Both beat me to retirement. I cannot thank them enough.

I also want to talk about what is perhaps the hardest job in any congressional office—that of scheduler. I have had some great ones. Fortunately, they were blessed with patience and great attitudes because managing my schedule—and, of course, me—was never easy. I know I probably never told them enough how much I appreciated them and their loyalty. So today I say thank you to those incredible staffers.

As I approach retirement, I have reflected on the many issues with which I have become involved, and perhaps the one with the greatest visibility—especially on the international level—has been my work in the area of human rights. When I came to Congress, human rights, religious freedom and speaking out for the voiceless were not on my radar. But a trip to famine-riddled Ethiopia in 1984 when I held an emaciated child dying of hunger brought me new perspective. And while I was not happy with Charlie when he infamously told *The Washington Post*: “He does [local] transportation so he can do [international] human rights,” he was probably on to something.

Working on human rights and religious freedom issues has been some of my most rewarding work in Congress and right there with me were probably a dozen staffers who handled my human rights and foreign affairs portfolio over the years. I believe I have made a difference, but I couldn't have done it without the help of those staffers, who, to a person, shared my passion for humanitarian causes. They spent hours upon hours upon hours writing letters, preparing speeches, planning hearings, making phone calls, advising on strategy, meeting with dissidents and the oppressed and listening to tragic stories. I am proud of their work to help change lives for the better and to give a voice to the voiceless and I express my deep appreciation to each one.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Lucy Norment, who took over for Judy, and Tom Culligan, who replaced Janet, for the work they have done since assuming new roles in the office. Thank you.

I tried to build camaraderie among my staff and believe our successes can be attributed to teamwork and the Harry Truman adage that it's amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit. Everyone who has worked for me—whether answering phones, doing data entry, tracking legislation, formulating policy, working cases or managing my offices—has made a difference.

They also made my job easier, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

I want to take this opportunity to submit the names of all my staff through the years for history to see:

Tom Alexander, Jennifer Allen, Elyse Bauer Anderson, Julia Angelotti, Anne McClure Babson, Torrey Babson, Evan Baehr, Laurie Battle, John Beed, Andrew Bender, Nancy Suzich Bennett, Pat Bennett, Abby Berg, Debbie Blinn, Stephanie Bolick, Johnathan Bolls, Lisa Boothe, Jim Boyle, Kellie Malloy Boyle, Shelly Bressler.

Tom Brooke, Matthew Brown, Karen Burke, Teresa Burney, Jim Burroughs,

Bridget Bustillos, Mary Ann Cannon, Jane Cantus, Dan Caprio, Mike Carlin, Jessica Carlton, Ted Cartwright, Stacey Chuma, Bob Clark, John Cole, Barbara Comstock, Melinda Bohn Conner, Mary Ann Cook, Evan Corcoran.

Pat Cox, Judy Hammond Craun, Donna Crowley, Tom Culligan, John Cusey, Jack Czerwinski, Chris Darling, Bryan Deoms, Dave Dettoni, Karen Foster Dick, Jeffrey Dingman, Brett Dody, Bennett Donovan, James Dorman III, Philip Draper, Ben Dutton, David Farajollahi, James Farel, Amy Farrel.

Susan Feaster, Karen Feaver, Larry Fineran, Marna Fisher, Dot Fleshman, Scott Flipse, Lee Kerr Fonvielle, Karen Foster, James Freik, Johnathon Friel, Tom Fulcher, James Gallagher, James Gallahan, Fernande Gebbs, Jill DiPuccio Giles, Geoff Gleason, Shannon Green, JT Griffin, Kristin Erb Griffin.

Suzanne Grimsley, Steve Hall, Andrew Hart, Susan Bullard Harmon, Buzz Hawley, Diana Haynes, Nancy Bennett Haynes, Bob Healey, Nancy Bruce Herbolsheimer, Tom Herrity, Heather Hixson Hershberger, Elise Ho Phuong, Sewell Hoff, Elizabeth Hoffman, Lynne Holden, Mike Holtz, Deborah Horness, Robert Houston, Lori-Beth Feld Hua.

Wayne Huggins, Beth Hughes, Peyton Hughes, Rosanne Dupras Hughes, Anne Campbell Huiskes, Wes Irvin, Michael Jackson, Jennifer Jacobsen, Jessica Jelgerhuis, Kevin James, Laurie Jenkins, James Jennings III, Fay Johnson, Gail Hoskins Johnson, William Troy Jones, Virginia Jones, Andrew Kauders, Cindy Rockholt Klapmust, Ramona Kledzik.

Heather Kolasch, Stephen Korfonta, Jill Kriser, Patrick Larkin, Mira Lezell, Caitlin Lietzan, Michael Linster, Marge Lynch, Tom Lynch, Charlie Lyons, Anne MacKenzie, Elizabeth Maier, Kellie Mallory, Christina Mangano, Will Marlow, Jeff Mascott, Robert McAdam, Judy McCary, Cheryl McCullough.

Mark McElwee, Barbara McGuire, Meghan Wedd McGuire, Joe McNulty, Justin Mentzer, Becky Earle Middleton, Molly Jurmu Miller, Bill Mims, Janet Minkler, Kenneth Minnick, Jen Foth Moody, Donald Morrissey, Tom Morr, Roger Morse, Will Moschella, Stacy Nell, Gracie Nelson, Debra Nesbitt, Ed Newberry.

Lucy Norment, William Palmer, Hae Park, Keith Pavlick, Angela Pecario, Kristin Peck, Anne Peters, Brendan Pevarski, Jillian Pevo, Rita Pfeiffer, Mark Planning, Ivan Plis, Ann Potacnak, Jan Powell, Brianna Puccini, Sara Boney Ratcliff, Elizabeth Becker Reiter, Denise Richardson, Ralph Rinaldi, Pat Russell.

Melinda Sadler, Colin Samples, Tom Santaniello, Chris Santora, Dan Scandling, Courtney Haller Schlieter, Meredith Schultz, Steve Schwartz, Janet Shaffron, Jill Shatzen, Neil Siefing, Sharon Snyder, Tim Starr, Dave Stegmaier, Kalinda Stephenson, Mike Stevens, Samantha Stockman, Katy Summerlin, Julie Sussman, Laura Swett, Melissa Temeles.

Susan Thompson, Randy Tift, Clark Unger, Sharon Vasky-Smith, Chris Walker, Linda Rollins Wallace, Jeff Walton, Elizabeth Ward, Brinton Warren, George Webb, Charlie White, Laura White, David Whitestone, Stiles Wilkins, Melinda Wilson, Craig Whitham, Sean Woo, Ralph Wunder, John Zemaitis.

HONORING CAPTAIN ANDREW
BUDUO III

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I rise today to honor Captain Andrew Buduo III as he retires from the United States Navy after proudly serving our country for thirty years.

Captain Buduo completed a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from St. Lawrence University. He began his distinguished career with the United States Navy in 1984 after graduating from Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, and receiving his commission. Captain Buduo was designated as a Naval Aviator in 1986, and reported to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 12 for flight training in the RH-53D airborne mine countermeasures helicopter.

Captain Buduo reported to his first Fleet squadron, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM-14) where he served as Aircraft Division Officer and Staff Mine Warfare (Tactics) Officer. During his tour, he deployed onboard USS *Guadalcanal* and USS *Okinawa* in support of Operation Earnest Will—the “Tanker War” of 1987/1988. Subsequently he reported to the Coastal Systems Station, Panama City. In 1983 he reported onboard the USS *Belleau Wood* eventually working his way up to Mini Boss. As the Mini Boss, he participated in Operation United Shield—the final withdrawal of coalition forces from Somalia during March of 1995.

Following his ship tour, Captain Buduo reported to the Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, where he earned his Joint Professional Military Education Phase I qualification. He returned to HM-14, serving as safety officer and aircraft maintenance officer.

In November 1998, Captain Buduo reported to the Airborne Mine Defense Program Office where he served in positions of increasing leadership responsibility. In May 2002, he moved to the Chief of Staff, Program Executive Office, Mine and Undersea Warfare billet.

In March 2003, Captain Buduo reported to the Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron FIFTEEN (HM-15) where he served as Executive Officer until he assumed command in April of 2004. While XO, he deployed to the Mediterranean in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM where he embarked USS *Cleveland* with HM-DET ONE. During his over two years onboard, HM-15 won the Navy “E” award twice and assumed responsibility for a four-helicopter detachment permanently forward deployed to Bahrain.

In April 2005, Captain Buduo reported to the Naval Sea Systems Command, where he served as Director, POM Integration Division, and later as NAVSEA's POM Integration Lead. He subsequently assumed command of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division in September of that year.

Four years later, in November of 2009, Captain Buduo assumed command of Indian Head Division Naval Surface Warfare Center. After nearly three years in command at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Captain Buduo was assigned to the Navy Combat Identification Capabilities Division at the Pentagon where he ultimately served as Director.