

to engage its members in regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategic planning, emergency preparedness planning, environmental planning and education, and intergovernmental review. Furthermore, the Council provides assistance in grant-writing, project management, technical planning, and data analysis.

Due to its collaborative nature, the Council naturally recognizes the importance of an all-of-community and region approach. To that end, it welcomes and encourages citizens throughout the Gulf Coast to become engaged in the process to actively address and solve problems of the growing region.

Over the past five decades, the Council has dedicated their efforts to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Northwest Florida. Their contributions have helped ensure that the Emerald Coast remains a top tourist destination and a place where thousands live like millions wish they could.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of its members for their devotion to service and wishing them and the Council all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD
FRAZIER MACIVER, JR., CHAM-
PION OF LGBT VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Donald Frazier MacIver, Jr., who has dedicated his life to serving his country, his community, and his fellow military service members and veterans. Donald's service began as a Senior Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army's elite 5th Special Forces Group. In Vietnam, Donald showed the depth of his commitment to service by participating in extraordinarily hazardous missions behind enemy lines as a member of the covert Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

In the last fifty years, Donald has worked tirelessly to advance the dignity and equal treatment of GLB service members and veterans. In 1993, Donald was arrested at the White House for his nonviolent civil disobedience in protest of the implementation of the U.S. military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Donald has also served as a volunteer consultant on proper treatment and dignity for those living with HIV and AIDS. His contributions to the HIV/AIDS community include time as the Chair of the Community Advisory Board of the New York University Medical School, NYU Langone Medical Center, and Bellevue Hospital Center HIV/Hepatitis/Infectious Diseases Research Networks, and volunteer consultancy to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health. In 2011, Donald was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the VA Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health for his "dedicated service and

commitment to improving the care provided to our nation's veterans."

As president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual (GLB) Veterans of Greater New York, Donald's leadership inspired GLB veterans who were discharged from the military for "homosexual conduct" to demand the respect and honor due for their faithful service. When unforeseen circumstances forced the closing of the GLB Veterans' office in January 2014, Donald went once again to action. Concerned that decades of activism and records of the discriminatory treatment of GLB veterans would be lost to history, Donald selflessly volunteered hours of his expertise to a coalition dedicated to preserving the GLB Veterans' archives. In March 2014, Donald singlehandedly organized, securely packaged, and transported sixteen boxes of archived records to a secure storage site in Bronx, New York. His continued stewardship of the records protects the memory of military veterans who faithfully served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere. It is impossible to calculate the value of Donald's contributions to GLB veterans' recognition and equality in New York City and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SCOTT GERALD BORG, WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING AMERICA'S ANTARCTIC RESEARCH PROGRAM INTO ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND ACCOMPLISHED IN THE WORLD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Dr. Scott Gerald Borg of Fairfax Virginia, for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the career achievement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Dr. Borg serves as the Head of the Section for Antarctic Sciences within the National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs. According to the Partnership for Public Service, under Dr. Borg's direction, the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research program has become one of the most esteemed and comprehensive on the continent. Today, Dr. Borg plays a critical role in guiding the U.S. Antarctic science program that supports cutting-edge research across a range of topics, including climate change, the origins and nature of the universe, and the discovery of new species of extinct dinosaurs.

The work being facilitated by Dr. Borg and his colleagues is truly groundbreaking research. For example, Dr. Borg's leadership is credited with overcoming numerous technical and logistical challenges that enabled the National Science Foundation to complete the West Antarctic Ice Sheet drilling project, which extracted ice core that dates back 68,000 years and represents the highest-resolution record of climate obtained to date. Further, Dr. Borg also oversaw the development of clean drilling technology that retrieved the first-ever pure water samples from an Antarctic lake a half mile below the surface of ice sheet. These samples are estimated to have been sealed under the ice for approximately 15 million years, and may enable researchers to understand what types of life can survive on other worlds.

Being named a finalist by the Partnership for Public Service is just the latest honor in Dr. Borg's outstanding and celebrated career that has made tremendous contributions to the global research community and elevated the prestige of Federal scientific research over the past two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dr. Scott Gerald Borg for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Medal. Dr. Borg and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Dr. Borg and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our thanks and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN ROBERT "BOB" RASMUSSEN, USN (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize retired Navy Captain Robert "Bob" Rasmussen for his lifetime of honorable service and dedication to our great Nation on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola.

A native of Sacramento, California, Bob was born on May 26, 1930, and entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1951. He excelled in flight training school at NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola, both located in Northwest Florida, and was assigned to a fighter squadron in San Diego, California, where he deployed on multiple occasions to the Western Pacific aboard the carrier USS *Philippine Sea*. In 1956, he was selected to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels. For three years, he awed and inspired millions of Americans flying flight demonstrations as the right wing pilot and number four slot. Bob continued his tours at sea in Fighter Squadron 33 aboard the USS *Intrepid* and as a Flag Lieutenant to

Deputy Commander Atlantic Fleet before completing the Navy Postgraduate School program in Monterey, California. In 1966, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 111 aboard the USS *Oriskany*, where he completed two combat tours in Vietnam and served as first Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer. Before returning to combat in Vietnam as the prospective Air Wing SIXTEEN Commander, subsequently selected for Captain and assigned as Chief of Staff and Operations Officer of Carrier Division SEVEN and then as Commanding Officer of the ammunition ship USS *Mount Hood*, Bob completed a tour in our Nation's capital region.

After the end of the war, he served as Commanding Officer of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico before later returning to Washington to command the Aviation Officer Distribution Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. Following three decades of service as one of the finest Naval aviators in history, recording 650 carrier traps and with more than 5,000 flight hours logged, as many servicemembers do, Bob found his way back to Pensacola where he completed his Naval service in 1983 as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Aviation Schools Command. Throughout his prestigious career, he received many awards, including three Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Bronze Star.

Bob's love for aviation, however, remained, and his artistic prowess proved too strong, as he went on to serve as the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Director of Development for four years before becoming Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum in 1987. During his tenure there, he produced hundreds of naval aviation watercolor pieces and several bronze sculpture works for the Museum, the Foundation, and several other historic venues, earning him the R.G. Smith Award for excellence in naval aviation art. As a direct result of his efforts, the Naval Aviation Museum more than tripled in size and remains the most successful Naval museum in the country as close to one million people visit and enjoy the museum each year.

My wife Vicki and I join Northwest Florida—and a grateful Nation—in thanking Captain Bob Rasmussen for his more than six decades of admirable military and public service and wish him all the best as he takes off in his retirement alongside his wife, Phyllis; their children, Kathryn and Eric; and grandchildren, Christopher, Ashton, Emily Page, Madison, Avery, and Jack.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST.
BERNADETTE SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the wonderful accomplishments of the St. Bernadette School.

St. Bernadette School, located in Northborough, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Deeply rooted in Catholic ideals, St. Bernadette

School strives to encourage intellectual curiosity, spiritual inspiration, and a high moral compass. Its rigorous academic program, commitment to Catholic values, and diverse student body has led the School to be called the 'Flagship of the Diocese' by the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester.

Since its founding in 1997, St. Bernadette School's enrollment has grown exponentially. The School's current body of approximately 500 students enables it to give students individual attention while holding them to high academic standards.

Through new initiatives, St. Bernadette School has incorporated technology into the learning process. Recently, the School has built a computer lab, a mobile Macintosh lab, and installed interactive whiteboards in every class room. An iPad program was also started in the 2012–2013 academic year, providing every student with additional learning opportunities. Foreign language programs are required at every grade level, in addition to pre-algebra and project-based learning initiatives. This diverse curriculum has resulted in many middle school students at St. Bernadette being selected to the Junior Honor Society, an organization that recognizes achievement in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and citizenship.

St. Bernadette also fosters community through its extra-curricular programs, hosting a variety of family-oriented events and fundraisers throughout the year. The Parent Guild hosts events such as Spree Day, Family Picnic, Walkathon, and more. The parents of St. Bernadette students also coach the school's sports teams, which include basketball, cross country, golf, ski, and track. In addition, students from grades 6–8 are divided into Houses, where they practice leadership and responsibility while planning communal outreach programs.

None of this would be possible without the work of the talented educators and staff members of St. Bernadette School. Principal Deborah C. O'Neil has demonstrated a passionate commitment to the success of her students. Time and time again, this has been exemplified through the School's consistent growth rate and track record of achievements.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of St. Bernadette School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating St. Bernadette School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. ALICE LIPPERT IN DEVELOPING A CRITICAL INFORMATION-SHARING SYSTEM TO COORDINATE THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND POWER COMPANIES FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Ms. Alice Lippert of Fairfax, Virginia, on being se-

lected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the homeland security and law enforcement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Ms. Lippert is one of three United States Department of Energy officials who are being recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the groundbreaking data visual platform, known as EAGLE-I. EAGLE-I is our Nation's first-ever system that can gather and share real-time emergency situation information on power and natural gas infrastructure. As one disaster program manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noted, before EAGLE-I, "It was difficult to get a clear picture of what was going on. Now we rely on the DOE as the authoritative source."

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Ms. Lippert, a senior technical advisor in the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, was instrumental in recognizing that our country's inability to collect and access real-time data on energy infrastructure during an emergency represented a critical vulnerability that hampered the Federal Government's ability to effectively coordinate the response to major natural disasters, such as the destructive Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Ms. Lippert was not satisfied with the status quo emergency response system, which was antiquated and cumbersome in requiring Department personnel to directly contact energy companies to obtain data that would have to be manually entered into a data base. This process could take hours and did not provide Federal, State, and local first-responders with the real-time data they needed to gain situational awareness of a locality's battered power and natural gas infrastructure.

Ms. Lippert took the initiative by contacting two colleagues with subject matter expertise in advanced grid modeling and computer programming. Together, these civil servants worked in-house to build EAGLE-I, which now covers 75 percent of all U.S. electricity customers. However, it was not until October 2012 that EAGLE-I was put to the test, and the true value of Ms. Lippert's leadership and hard work was realized.

In the aftermath of the damaging Hurricane Sandy, our Nation's first-responders and emergency managers had access to regular updates on the grid status in the hard hit areas, enabling decisions to be guided by accurate and up-to-date data and information. As the Department's Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability noted, "These reports were critical to decisions by federal, state and local officials in responding to and recovering from the catastrophe. The power outage reports gave insight to senior DOE leadership and responders that allowed them to make informed decisions, reducing