

Command, Fort Belvoir, VA; Commander, 302d Brigade Support Battalion; Operational Readiness Officer, Department of the Army G4 to include a three month deployment to Haiti; Support Operations Officer, Operation Unified Response.

His most recent assignment was Senior Logistics Advisor and Director for Strategic Operations for the Deputy Commander Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Included in his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, five awards of the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 device, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Bolander is married to the former Donna McDonald. They have three children, Jessie, Katherine, and Austin. He led and commanded Anniston Army Depot from August 2012 to July 2015.

The Depot has 4,000 military, civilian and contractor employees with an annual budget of approximately \$750 million.

While at Anniston Army Depot, he safely helped execute millions of direct labor hours while helping overhaul and maintain our nation's critical combat equipment. His hands-on leadership for the workforce helped ensure our nation's military was provided the best possible equipment available to keep them as safe as possible while allowing them to accomplish their vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Colonel Bolander in Anniston, but wish him the very best.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR FRANK COWNIE IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Des Moines Mayor, Frank Cownie. Mayor Cownie has been recognized as a Hero for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Mayor Cownie was first elected Mayor in 2008 and he has been proudly serving the people of Des Moines ever since that day. He has been an advocate for the less fortunate and has worked tirelessly to find new, innovative ways to support those in the Des Moines community who need it the most.

Mayor Cownie has deep ties to Des Moines and has always worked hard to make it the best place to work, live and raise a family. Every year Central Iowa Shelter and Services recognizes its "Heroes" who have significantly

given time and financial support to address homelessness in our communities. Mayor Cownie deserves to be commended for his active role in reducing the number of homeless in the Central Iowa Community.

I applaud and congratulate Mayor Cownie for this award and for providing his tireless support for the homeless in Iowa's Third Congressional District. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mayor Cownie and wishing him continued success in the future.

LIFT THE CRUDE OIL BAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, new technologies have ushered in an American energy revolution. Last year, the U.S. overtook Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the largest crude oil producer in the world.

We now have more oil than we can refine or store. A majority of U.S. refineries are built to handle heavy, sour crude but new oil production is light, sweet crude. U.S. refiners simply can't keep up with the new production.

Normally producers could simply pump oil into storage containers. But experts say those storage tanks could fill up before the end of this month.

Instead of exporting excess oil like producers get to do in other countries, the ban is already forcing U.S. oil producers to leave oil in the ground and lay off workers.

About 50% of the working rigs in my home state of Texas have had to shut down in the last 6 months. Over 70,000 people have been laid off since Thanksgiving.

The solution to this problem is clear: it is time for the crude oil ban to be lifted.

Critics of lifting the ban are afraid that U.S. oil exports will lead to higher domestic gas prices. Fortunately, many studies have debunked this myth.

Gas prices are more closely linked to the international market—or Brent price—than the domestic price of crude because refined products like gasoline are traded freely on the international market. So the more crude oil we can put on the international market, the lower the international price of crude oil. The lower the international price of crude oil, the lower the price of gas for Americans.

A Rice University study released in March 2015 reviewed previous studies that examined the impact of removing the ban on gas prices. They found that "all studies underscore that lifting the export ban will not translate into higher gasoline prices. In fact, studies generally project gasoline prices in the U.S. will fall once the ban is lifted."

U.S. crude entering the global market will increase the international oil supply and decrease the price of gas.

The only thing the studies do not agree on is just how much gas prices will drop. Savings could range from 1.8 to 12 cents per gallon at the pump.

Lifting the ban will also lead to more jobs and a higher GDP.

An IHS study predicts crude oil exports would support nearly 300,000 jobs by 2018.

Removing the export ban would add \$26 billion to GDP per year and improve labor income by about \$158 per year, on average.

As it improves the U.S. economy, removing the ban will also improve our national security.

The original purpose of the ban put in place back in 1973 was to insulate the United States from the volatility of the international oil market. Ironically, today the ban exposes the U.S. market to volatility. Because our gas prices are tied to the international price of crude, if there is a disruption in the international supply, that directly affects our gas prices. The more crude oil we can put on the market, the more we can minimize those disruptions. Even 1 million barrels of swing capacity matters a lot in the world.

So if ISIS continues to wreak havoc and disrupts oil supply in places like Libya and Iraq, having more U.S. crude oil on the market would help prevent a spike in the price of crude oil and gas prices.

Lifting the ban would also free us up to help our allies more. Europe gets 40% of its oil from Russia. Exporting crude oil would give the Europeans an alternative to having to depend on Russia.

It would also increase our influence in Asia. Japan and South Korea partly rely on crude oil from Iran to satisfy their growing energy consumption. U.S. exports can help diminish that reliance.

Ironically, with the so-called deal with Iran it is now U.S. government policy to allow Iran to export crude oil and inject billions of dollars into their own economy. At the same time it is still U.S. government policy to prohibit U.S. producers from doing the same.

U.S. exports offer a stable source of energy to our allies and decrease their reliance on dictators and state sponsors of terror.

Lifting the ban shows that the U.S. is serious about supporting free market rules around the world. We criticize China for not exporting rare earth minerals and yet here we are not exporting crude oil. Removing the ban will give us more credibility when we criticize other nations' export bans.

All in all, it is high time we remove the crude oil export ban. Exporting U.S. crude will lower gas prices, increase American jobs, and strengthen our national security.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA & MICHAEL GARTNER IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara and Michael Gartner. Barbara and Michael have been recognized as Heroes for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Barbara and Michael have spent the last 40 years serving the people of Des Moines, volunteering their time as board members, fundraisers and philanthropists. They have been advocates for the less fortunate and have worked extensively to transform the Des Moines area, making it a better place to live,

work and raise a family. Every year, Central Iowa Shelter and Services recognizes its "Heroes" who have significantly given time and financial support to address homelessness in our communities. Barbara and Michael deserve to be commended for their active role in reducing the number of homeless in the Central Iowa Community.

I applaud and congratulate Barbara and Michael for this award and for providing their tireless support for the homeless in Iowa's Third Congressional District. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbara and Michael; we wish them well with continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the birth of my first children—twin baby girls named Sky and Sage—I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor the week of March 23, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 360, to re-authorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and for other purposes, because it provides housing assistance to Native Americans by allowing tribes to determine their own low-income housing needs, including housing for Native American veterans who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

I would have voted for H. Res. 162, which calls on the President to provide Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, because an independent, democratic and prosperous Ukraine is in the national interest of the United States, and that Russia has engaged in political, economic and military aggression that violates the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

I would have voted for H.R. 216, the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015, which I also supported in the Veterans Affairs Committee. This bill requires the VA to plan ahead, annually submit a five-year budget plan for the agency to meet its commitment to veterans, including the resources necessary to meet those needs, and will assist Congress in holding the VA accountable for its obligation to our veterans.

I would have voted against the Ellison Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Congressional Progressive Caucus substitute budget. While I support some of the provisions of this alternative budget, I oppose raising America's tax burden by \$6.9 trillion over the next decade. This budget would not do enough to reduce the deficit and trim wasteful government spending, and does not reflect the best course for the nation at this time.

I would have also voted against the Butterfield Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Congressional Black Caucus substitute budget. While this alternative also contains many worthwhile measures, I cannot support a budget that adds \$2.7 trillion in new taxes over the next 10 years. My district's priorities dictate a more fiscally responsible approach.

I would have also voted against the Van Hollen Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the

Democratic Caucus substitute budget. While I support many of the priorities in this budget, it also increases the deficit and burdens American families with more \$1.8 trillion in additional taxes. This budget does not do enough to trim unnecessary government spending, and is not right for the 36th District at this juncture.

I would have voted against the Stutzman Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Republican Study Committee substitute budget. This extremist, destructive plan would render Medicare unrecognizable from the current, successful program. It would keep seniors from enrolling in Medicare until age 67, and then give them a voucher that would raise their out-of-pocket costs substantially. It would keep seniors from receiving Social Security until age 70, and result in millions of individuals, families, and children losing Health coverage. There is no place in Congress for radical, extremist agendas that distract us from genuine solutions for hardworking Americans, and I would have vehemently rejected this alternative budget.

I would have strongly opposed, spoken on the floor against, and voted against the Price Amendments to H. Con. Res. 27, the House Republican budget resolution. Once again, House Republican Leadership seeks to balance the budget on the backs of middle-class families and seniors, undermine our economic recovery, and end the Medicare guarantee.

This disastrous Republican budget puts an end to Medicare as we know it, turning it into a voucher program that makes health care more expensive and less accessible for seniors. Thousands of seniors in my district rely on Medicare, and this backwards budget proposal threatens the retirement security of seniors living in our desert and across the nation. Our priority should be to strengthen Medicare by reducing health care costs and improving patient outcomes.

Instead, House Republican Leadership has shifted the cost of Medicare to seniors, prioritizing more tax cuts for billionaires and big business. We must work together to protect and preserve Medicare, reduce our deficit, and decrease health care costs. This budget would do the opposite—jeopardizing Medicare and threatening the well-being of our seniors.

In addition, this budget would remove more than 16 million Americans from their health plan, swelling the ranks of the uninsured while callously removing consumer protections for women, young adults, and those with pre-existing conditions. Worse yet, this budget would not even offer economic benefit in return for eviscerating the health care system. In fact, independent studies estimate the Republican budget would grind economic growth to a halt, costing Americans almost 3 million jobs by 2017.

The House Republican budget would end Medicare as we know it, ask seniors and families to pay more for less health coverage, and decimate economic growth for the middle class, all to give huge tax breaks to wealthy corporations. This is not a serious effort to work across party lines for the good of the country, but a reflection of the extreme, upside-down priorities of the House Republican caucus.

Finally, I would have voted for H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. This long-overdue legislation abolishes the flawed SGR formula and re-

places it with HR a bipartisan agreement to provide stability for Medicare beneficiaries and providers alike. By providing a reliable, value-based payment system, this bill will protect seniors' access to Medicare and preserve their established relationships with their doctors.

Additionally, this bipartisan bill will extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides crucial health coverage for low-income children, extend vital funding for Community Health Centers and other safety net providers, and avoid premium spikes or doctors dropping Medicare patients.

As long as I have been in Congress, I have advocated for a long-term SGR fix for our seniors and physicians. I co-sponsored the bipartisan framework that forms the foundation of this bill, and I have written to House leadership multiple times asking for this solution to be brought to the floor. This bill is a practical solution that will protect and preserve Medicare for our seniors and provide stability and relief for our nation's health care providers, and I am proud to support it.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS HOHN IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dennis Hohn for his retirement after many years of service to the Stuart Fire Department in Stuart, Iowa.

For the past 30 years Dennis has served the Stuart Fire Department in a variety of different roles. He has also been active with the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau as a certified trainer. Dennis was recently honored by Fire Chief, Mike Renslow, for his long history of commitment to the safety of his community. I truly admire his hard work and the service that he has provided to his fellow Iowans.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Dennis for his service to the community in Stuart and wishing him the best in his retirement. It is a great honor to represent Iowans like Dennis in Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNY WULF IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Denny Wulf, Superintendent of Norwalk Community School District. Mr. Wulf has been named the Superintendent of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Mr. Wulf has been superintendent of the Norwalk district since 2004. He previously served as Middle School principal and began his teaching career in the high school and as a coach. This award is based on the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and focuses on