

On March 30, 2016, Taiwan President Ma gave a speech at the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham) Hsieh Nian Fan celebration. In his speech, President Ma pointed out that, in the U.S.-based *Global Finance* magazine's ratings of the world's richest countries from November of last year, Taiwan ranked 19th out of 185 countries worldwide. That put Taiwan right behind Germany, and far ahead of countries like France, Great Britain, Japan, and South Korea. And in the 2015 global competitiveness ratings published by the Institute of Management Development (IMD), based in Lausanne, Switzerland, Taiwan ranked 11th in the world, and third in the Asia-Pacific Region. Taiwan has created a thriving and innovative economy that most countries envy.

The growth of Taiwan is a living, breathing example that trade benefits humanity—and not just economically. President Ma highlighted the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which aimed to address sovereignty disputes in the region in 2012. Subsequently, in 2013, Taiwan signed a fisheries agreement with Japan. Both nations maintained their sovereignty while enhancing fishing rights, which resulted in a triple yield of catches. And that's good for a world in which the demand for fish keeps rising.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a continuing successful cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will not only last but also thrive in the future, working alongside one another to, as President Ma quipped, realize the day in which "The only one party which is not happy is the fish."

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE WINTERS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND AND CHOIR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we rise to recognize and honor the members of the Winters Middle School Band and Choir for their contribution to the designation ceremony of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen and women and sportsmen and women will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor

enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. We'd like to recognize the students of the Winters Middle School Band and—Jose Montes, Silverio Magallones, David Rivas, Katie Johnson, Melina Mora, Jasmine Moore, Kamila Mora, Melesio Perez, Arthur Cueva, Rylie Schroeder, Easton Rivera, Paige Davis, Karina Echeverria, Joseph Aguiar, Emmett Edman, Braydon Winslow, Erika Contreas, Josef Iten, Victoria Banuelos, Fatima Guzman, Jacqueline Mendoza, Veronica Soria, Jason Lichwa, Alejandra Junez, Emily Aguiar, Maximiliano Reyes Barajas, Haley Compton, David Morris, Elle Palmer, Garrett Matheson, Kevin Garcia, Christian Sponsler, Alan Chavez, Molly Moore, Donovan Melendez, Lauren Gomez, Katie Medina, Mallory Layne, Ethan Berg, Emily Hoag, Valeria Ceja, Trinity Sponsler, Juan Blanoc, Ulises De La Cruz, Rose Kakutani, Stephanie Angel Lopez, Alex Herrera, Celeste Garcia, Victor Meledetz, Lorenzo Arce, Jose Figueroa, Marcos del Toro, Lillian Wirth, Katie Pelletier, Kaylee Smith, Sierra Berry and Haley Archibeque—for their role in the Winters Middle School Band and Choir and their outstanding performance at the designation ceremony.

**ROBERT GEHLER**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Commerce City Attorney Robert Gehler for his decades of service to the City of Commerce City, Colorado. For over forty years Mr. Gehler has been active within the City, including helping to draft the city charter.

Originally from South Dakota, Mr. Gehler came to Colorado as a member of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps at Rocky Mountain Arsenal in 1964. In 1965, ready to leave the Army, Mr. Gehler passed the Colorado Bar and joined the firm of Berger and Rothstein, whose office was just outside the west gate of the arsenal. He served as Assistant County Attorney for Adams County from 1965 to 1968. In January of 1968, he was sworn in as City Attorney at the request of then-Mayor Eli Koff. In 1970, residents voted overwhelmingly to become a home rule city, instead of a statutory city, and the process of adopting a city charter began. The charter, which guides how local government functions, was approved on its first vote but has only been amended five times since its adoption—one of the City's most memorable legal achievements.

I extend my deepest thanks to Robert Gehler for his service to the community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the constituents of Commerce City, Colorado.

HONORING MASTER OF ARMS 1ST CLASS CARL S. RANDOLPH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NAVY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Master of Arms 1st Class Carl S. Randolph. He will be retiring from the Navy on May 1, 2016 after 22 years of dedicated service to our nation.

On July 10, 1995 Mr. Randolph joined the U.S. Navy and reported to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating from recruit training he attended Ships Serviceman Class A School where upon graduation, MA1 Randolph was assigned to the USS *Russell* DDG 59 in Pearl Harbor, HI. In 1996 and 1998, Randolph was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Northern Watch. During his time assigned to the USS *Russell*, Petty Officer Randolph received numerous awards which included: a Maritime Unit Commendation, a Navy Unit Commendation, and a Meritorious Service Medal.

On March 20, 2000, MA1 Randolph reported to NTTC Pensacola, FL for Aviation Machinist Mate Class A School. After graduation, MA1 Randolph received orders and was then assigned to VF-211 at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA. MA1 Randolph was assigned to the USS *Stennis* CVN 76 and was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Northern Watch. In August 10, 2001, MA1 Randolph was honorably discharged from active service duty to attend college. On December 18, 2004, MA1 Randolph graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, in Criminal Justice and a minor concentration in Sociology, from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. MA1 Randolph began his employment as a Federal Police Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Louis, Missouri, after graduation from college.

MA1 Randolph was voluntarily mobilized to Bagram Afghanistan for a Detainee Operation mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on October 15, 2007. During this deployment, MA1 Randolph earned his Aviation Warfare Specialist Pin from VAQ 134. MA1 Randolph had numerous responsibilities during his deployment including: cell guard, escort guard, segregation cell guard, and main floor NCO.

MA1 Randolph was assigned to COMNAVFORKOREA Det D on February 7, 2012. Then on November 6, 2014, MA1 Randolph was assigned to NSWDG in Virginia Beach, VA. From there he was deployed to support AFRICOM and returned back to COMNAVFORKOREA Det D in November of 2015. Additionally, MA1 Randolph has completed numerous Navy schools: Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor, Security Reaction Force Advanced, Non-Lethal Weapons Instructor, Anti-Terrorism Training Supervisor,

Reserve Career Information, Beamhit Instructor, and Security Reaction Force Basic.

Since September of 2009, MA1 Randolph has been employed as an Inspector for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service. With this employment, MA1 Randolph oversees the law enforcement of all federal buildings in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. The primary assignment location for MA1 Randolph is the St. Louis, MO area.

There are numerous professional schools that MA1 Randolph has graduated from; including: Department of Veterans Affairs Police Academy, Federal Protective Service Advance Individual Training Program, Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Threat Instructor Training Program, Federal Protective Service Contract Officer Technical Representative, and the Federal Protective Service Electronic Control Device Instructor training.

MA1 Randolph has received many personnel awards including: Letter of Commendation from Rear Admiral G. R. Jones Commander of Amphibious Forces U.S. Seventh Fleet, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Award Ribbon, Afghanistan Service Medal, Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Pin, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

With this retirement, MA1 Randolph can now spend more time with his family which includes: his wife Terri, 11-year-old son William, and 5-year-old daughter Katherine.

I ask you to join me in recognizing MA1 Randolph on his retirement after 22 years of commitment to his country, community, and state.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNETTE G. KRAMER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, Annette Kramer, formerly of Detroit, and the youngest of eight children, was a remarkable, courageous woman who spent most of her life in the service of others, yet she never sought recognition or spoke of her deeds or accomplishments. A Marine wife and mother for more than 35 years, Annette lived a life of quiet sacrifices and countless hardships yet her generosity and selflessness knew no bounds as evidenced so many times throughout her life. She was extremely proud to be a part of the Marine Corps family, stoically supporting her daughter and husband through numerous deployments into harm's way. A woman of integrity, honor and fierce loyalty, Annette chose not to ignore the needs of those around her and was always there to lend a helping hand. For more than two decades, Annette served as a mentor to her friends and other military wives by helping them navigate through a wide array of local and military cultures, address family requirements, and provide help to those in need of counseling and support. Annette supported numerous combat Wounded Warriors and their families during their recovery phases at both Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Medical Centers and spent countless hours providing support and assistance to the

wives and families of fallen Marines. She continually gave a helping hand to Veterans of all services and found time to volunteer at her local ASPCA helping animals in need. Annette was a life member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, an Honor Flight volunteer, and was active and respected throughout her local community.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Annette spent long hours working at the Pentagon crash site as a volunteer member of the Pentagon Search and Recovery Task Force night shift, after working her regular day job. Receiving, organizing and distributing necessary supplies and equipment to task force personnel, Annette ensured that everyone had what they needed to complete their arduous tasks.

In 2003, during the early days of the Iraq war, there were equipment shortfalls for our warriors going into combat. Tirelessly ambitious, Annette organized several fund raising drives in order to send hundreds of much needed hydration systems to forward deployed Marines in Iraq. This effort was well received and had a very positive impact on combat forces conducting operations throughout Iraq. Over the years, she frequently helped organize and participate in drives supporting our deployed military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq with equipment, care packages and other services to enhance capability, morale and let the brave men and women fighting for our freedom know that their sacrifices did not go unnoticed.

Every December for more than a decade, Annette helped with the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery. A proud American, upon returning home from Arlington, she would be filled with emotion having spent the day on hallowed ground in the company of so many fallen heroes.

A docent at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Annette was adored by the staff and visitors alike, resulting in the museum generously installing a permanent name plate in her memory in their rotunda.

Annette was highly regarded at all levels, from homeless Veterans to senior leaders, because she truly cared about those who served and her community. Although Annette left this world prematurely, her memory will endure in the many hearts of those who were fortunate to have known her. Annette was interred in Arlington National Cemetery on October 26, 2015. More than 250 of those whose lives she touched attended her memorial service and interment ceremony, from military professionals representing all the armed services, to civilians from all walks of life. They traveled from throughout the U.S. as well as overseas bases to honor her.

Annette Kramer was a shining star who gave so much to her family, those who served and this great nation. Her family, friends and the military community will miss her dearly and honor her as a valiant American.

IN RECOGNITION OF LORI WRIGHT'S RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lori Wright, who is retiring after 20

years of dedicated public service to the City of Highland Village, Texas. The community has benefited immeasurably from her unflagging encouragement, unfailing commitment to excellence, and from her attentive care to the city's council, staff, residents and businesses.

On January 3, 1995, Lori Wright began her career as a part time receptionist for the City of Highland Village. Her infectious personality and hard work boosted her through the ranks to administrative clerk by November of 1995. One year later, she advanced, yet again, to deputy city secretary. On March 1, 1999, she attained the position of executive assistant. She has capably provided support and continuity to three city managers during her career.

Mrs. Wright has fostered effective and consistent communication amongst the staff and beneficial dialogue between the city's administration and residents. Under her conscientious charge and in concert with her colleague Laurie Mullens, the Highland Village Business Association has grown into a vibrant organization to promote the city's business community. She has been instrumental in making the city's annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon a treasured event to honor local veterans. Each year, Mrs. Wright visits assisted living communities in the area to reach as many veterans as possible and encourage their attendance. She ensures that the luncheon operates smoothly and that every veteran present is greeted personally and treated with distinction. Mrs. Wright has worked closely with my district office to facilitate the public announcement and recognition of the 26th Congressional Veteran Commendation recipients.

In addition to her many administrative duties, Mrs. Wright has also played an important role in the development of the Honor Our Veterans Monument, working with city staff and council in the development and construction of the monument, serving as the city's liaison to the Veterans Committee to determine the policies for review and placement of veterans names and developed the presentation ceremony.

My best wishes to Mrs. Wright upon her well-earned retirement; her positive influence, her excellent work and tireless devotion to the community will be greatly missed. During her two decades as a public servant, Lori Wright was an able ambassador for the city and effectively helped the city government operate seamlessly for its residents. It is my privilege to honor such an outstanding citizen in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PROFESSOR DON T. NAKANISHI

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Don T. Nakanishi, a renowned professor and pioneer of Asian American Studies, who passed away on Monday, March 21, 2016.

Dr. Nakanishi's vision and contributions to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, the most renowned research and teaching institute of its kind in our nation, forever changed the national dialogue surrounding Asian Americans in politics and academia. His legacy will