

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
ROBERT D. REGO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Major General Robert D. Rego on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force following a distinguished 31 year career. A devoted husband and family man, Major General Rego has been an outstanding servant to the United States of America.

The son of a World War II veteran, General Rego began his Air Force service in 1985 as a graduate of the ROTC program at UCLA. His first assignment landed him at Grand Forks AFB as an ICBM officer in the 321st Strategic Missile Wing. During his time at Grand Forks, General Rego ascended to the position of Flight Commander while he and his wife, Tricia, welcomed their first two sons, Jarred and Ethan.

Following his missile service, General Rego transferred into the space field with a posting as a Space Warning Officer at Cheyenne Mountain AFS in my district in Colorado Springs. During his nearly eight years at Cheyenne Mountain, General Rego welcomed his third and final son, Clayton, and he transitioned into the Reserves, working at local defense contractor Trident Data Systems. During these eight years, General Rego completed important assignments in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy.

Indeed, the mission in Italy and international events worked to return General Rego to full-time active duty service in 1999. Following a term at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, General Rego returned to Colorado Springs as the Chief of the Space Control Mission Team at Air Force Space Command Headquarters at Peterson AFB. During this assignment, General Rego was deployed forward as an Airborne Mission Commander during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His outstanding efforts saved lives and earned him a Bronze Star.

Following a term at the prestigious Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, General Rego returned to Air Force Space Command for nearly 10 more years that saw him promoted to Brigadier General and Major General before a move to Barksdale AFB to serve as the Vice Commander for Global Strike Command. General Rego's final post has been serving as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB.

Throughout his extraordinary career, General Rego has been a consummate officer, always dedicating time to improving and mentoring his military peers and being willing to place the needs of his country over his own personal desires or comforts.

It is my privilege to honor this outstanding man who rose from very humble beginnings to

achieve greatness. The United States Air Force, and indeed, the whole nation, has been immeasurably improved by the life and service of Major General Robert D. Rego.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2016 THIRD DISTRICT EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I honor eight individuals and businesses from Nebraska receiving the 2016 Third District Excellence in Economic Development Award.

Throughout the 75 counties of the Third District, entrepreneurs and innovators are working hard to grow opportunity in our state.

In May, I called for nominations for individuals, businesses, and organizations which have helped strengthen their communities. All of the nominees have shown they are striving to ensure a strong economic future for Nebraskans.

Aulick Industries in Scottsbluff, owned by the Aulick family for three generations, employs approximately 100 people in welding, fabrication, tire installation, laundry, auto body tech, decal design, and administration. The company is also involved in Scottsbluff Public Schools' Every Child, Every Day, Everywhere initiative with a goal of introducing students to opportunities in manufacturing and technology careers in the region.

Brent Comstock of Auburn has owned BCom Solutions since middle school. His technology business has grown to include computer repairs, IT management, software development, and web design. Brent headquartered BCom Solutions in a previously vacant storefront in Auburn and encourages his staff to give back to the community through nonprofit and community board involvement. He donates thousands of dollars in design and digital marketing services to nonprofits and offers free workshops and consultations for businesses. Brent also provides internships to Peru State College.

Bruning Grocery's commitment to hard work, small-town values, and providing exceptional service and quality products has made the store a cornerstone of Bruning, a community of approximately 280 people. Its competitive prices draw many customers from surrounding towns, encouraging more Nebraskans to shop local. Owned by the Philippi family for more than 40 years, Bruning Grocery serves as a leading food supplier for local events and a major contributor to the vibrancy of Bruning's Main Street.

Chais Meyer of Kearney co-owns 24 Hour Tees, an innovative shirt shop known for its responsiveness to local customers while selling products across the country and around the world. Chais is an advocate for e-com-

merce as a way to grow rural economies. He is also a member of Kearney's Downtown Improvement Board to help advance the future of retail and the community.

Jody Augustyn is the owner of Shanti Yoga by Jody Augustyn, ERYT, based in Loup City and Kearney. In her five years in business, Jody has become known by many as a committed and passionate teacher. In addition to leading her own classes, she also certifies new instructors.

Landmark Snacks, founded in April 2016 by Nebraska natives Chad and Courtney Lottman, is a jerky and meat snacks production facility in Beatrice employing 50 people. In 1994, at the age of 19, the Lottmans started out as grocery store owners and have grown their business to also include C&C Processing in Diller. Landmark Snacks surpassed its three-year growth plan in a matter of months.

Pacha Soap, headquartered in Hastings, is owned by Hastings College graduates Andrew and Abi Vrbas. Founded in 2012, Pacha Soap employs 16 people in the Hastings area and sells handcrafted products throughout the country. For every bar of soap purchased, they give a bar to someone in need. The company also sets up small soap shops in developing nations to encourage entrepreneurship while supporting WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) efforts through education and donation.

Sand Creek Post & Beam in Wayne is the leading manufacturer of custom-designed wood barn and barn home kits. This family-owned company employs about 50 Nebraskans and has served thousands of customers in 48 states, helping them design their dream barns. Sand Creek's production plant was destroyed by an EF4 tornado in October 2013, but owners Jule Goeller and Len Dickinson never wavered in their commitment to rebuild. The company operated out of temporary quarters until its grand reopening in summer 2014.

I am proud to recognize these award winners today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR RUSSELL DE
LEON

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Russell de Leon. After 30 years of proudly serving in the United States Army, de Leon will be retiring at the end of July as a Command Sergeant Major, the highest rank attainable for enlisted soldiers in the U.S. Army. CSM de Leon has been stationed around the nation and the globe, and served with great distinction in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since graduating from San Benito High School in 1986, de Leon has made South

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