

A native son of South Carolina, Jamie grew up in Greenville, just a stone's throw from my home in Travelers Rest. After graduating from Carolina High School in Greenville, he set out on a military career, heading across the state to Charleston, and enrolling in The Citadel, earning a degree in business administration and a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1973. Now, some 33 years later, this highly respected Air Force acquisition professional will end his military career while serving as the chief of staff of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). DCMA is a worldwide organization of 11,000 military and civilian personnel responsible for ensuring that the supplies and materials going to our men and women in uniform are delivered on time and are of the highest quality.

As a newly commissioned officer, Jamie was assigned to the procurement office at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. It was there that his ascent to the top echelons of the Defense acquisition community began. Displaying a penchant for understanding the intricacies of Federal contracting, he blazed a career path that in the ensuing decade took him to various contracting assignments throughout the United States and saw him rise through the junior-officer ranks.

In the mid-1980s, Jamie was named chief of the contracting division of the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Bergstrom AFB, Texas, and promoted to the rank of major. While there, he earned a master's degree in business administration, an academic credential that would serve him well as he took on positions of increasing authority and responsibility within the pressure-packed realm of Air Force acquisition management. In 1999, after having been promoted to the rank of colonel, he was tapped to be the chief of contracting for the Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Illinois, a demanding job in which he led a cadre of more than 600 contracting professionals who exercised stewardship of \$1.4 billion for procurement in support of America's strategic and tactical airlift mobility network.

But all that was prelude to his capstone assignment for the past two years as DCMA chief of staff, a position that showcased his acquisition knowledge, his human-relations skills, and his results-producing leadership. With Col. Adams in the vanguard, DCMA successfully adopted the principles of performance based management, ensuring effective, outcome-centered support to its customers—principally the military services and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He consistently demonstrated a blend of technical competence and affability, reconciling divergent points of view and catalyzing the agency's pursuit of acquisition excellence, workforce re-engineering, and customer satisfaction. This past spring, in firm testament to his stature within in the Defense acquisition community, Jamie was a featured presenter at the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement-sponsored Defense Acquisition 2006 forum, where he shared his insights on contingency contracting and the management of contractors on today's battlefield—a challenge of considerable import over the past three years.

Whether he was approving base-level purchase orders, maintaining vigilance over major

systems acquisitions, or steering a large Defense agency through the white waters of change, Col. Adams served with unwavering diligence, integrity, and competence. On the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I offer my congratulations to one of South Carolina's finest sons and wish him and his wife, Sandra, well in their future pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS SWECKER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Chris Swecker, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Assistant Director for the Criminal Investigative Division and Acting Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services. On July 13, 2006, Agent Swecker will be retiring from the FBI. His years of service to America have been invaluable, and he will be missed.

Assistant Director Chris Swecker has served in the FBI since June 13, 1982. In his early years in the Bureau, he served as a special agent in Charlotte, North Carolina and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Later, he served as a supervisor in the Civil Litigation Unit, Legal Council Division, at FBI Headquarters, as acting Special Agent in charge in Miami and Houston, and as an Inspector with the Inspection Division. He later returned back to Charlotte, North Carolina, to serve as Special Agent in Charge from 1999 to 2004. In 2004, he was promoted to Assistant Director for the Criminal Investigative Division. He has also been serving as Acting Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services since February of 2006.

Chris has served our country in all these different roles with honor and distinction. His work has made America a safer place. During his time in the FBI, he dismantled a Hezbollah terror cell in Charlotte, served as the commander of FBI operations in Iraq, and captured the top 10 fugitive Eric Rudolph. In addition, he has helped streamline and upgrade the criminal investigation divisions in the FBI so that they are more efficient and effective. He has fought public corruption, violent gangs, has protected America's children, and has even formed special child abduction response teams.

Chris has accomplished all this, while being a loving husband and a father to three daughters. I know I speak for everyone back home when I say thank you Chris, for all your hard work. We are safer because of you. Congratulations on your retirement, and best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE MCKOWN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louise McKown of Oak Ridge, Ten-

nessee, who was recently recognized here in Washington by the American Bar Association. She received the Paul G. Hearne Award for dedicating her personal and professional life to improving the lives of people with disabilities in her community.

Thirteen years ago when she began to have trouble walking, Ms. McKown was diagnosed with a rare, degenerative neurological condition. It has grown increasingly worse over time and severely restricted her mobility, but anyone who knows her will tell you nothing can hold this very special woman back.

Paul G. Hearne, for whom the award was named, was born with a connective tissue disorder that limited his growth and restricted his movement. But with hard work and determination, he fought through it and created opportunities for himself and others. Like Hearne, Ms. McKown's life is marked by similar achievements despite daunting physical setbacks.

Since 1996, she has worked at the East Tennessee Technology Access Center in Knoxville as their public awareness coordinator and systems change advocate and analyst. The Access Center is the region's only nonprofit agency that helps people with disabilities gain knowledge of assistive technology. It serves people with disabilities in 24 counties—helping them learn, work, play, and lead more productive, independent lives.

A tireless spokesperson for the rights of people with disabilities—whether they were born with a disability or became disabled through an accident, illness or old age—Ms. McKown has fought for their rights to live with dignity and choice. Her achievements on the behalf of the disabled are too numerous to list, but several deserve mention here on the House floor.

In Anderson County, where she lives, she has served on the County Commissioner's Americans with Disabilities Act Oversight committee since its inception in 1995 and now serves as its chairwoman. Ms. McKown has also provided her expertise to the Tennessee Disability Coalition, the lead agency for 35 disability-related organizations statewide. Through her work with the Coalition's Project Vote, Ms. McKown helped drive improvements to polling stations that increased voting access for disabled citizens of Anderson and Knox Counties.

Ms. McKown's energy and caring touch reached from Anderson County across the State of Tennessee. Because of her involvement with the Coalition, when the State rewrote the code governing the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in 1999, she was asked to be one of five independent reviewers of the final draft. Her recommendation that group homes across the State for people with developmental disabilities should be less crowded was accepted. Now instead of eight people, they are only permitted to house half that many, greatly improving the quality of life for these physically challenged Americans.

Ms. McKown's life is an example for other Americans, showing that nothing and no one can hold you back if you put your mind to achieving what you want. In the words of her friends, she is truly a woman on a mission and I am proud to stand here on her behalf today.