

was a cop for the Bristol Police Department. He has served as secretary of the Bristol Boys and Girls Club and as treasurer of the Metro Chambers of Commerce organization, which is composed of the seven largest chambers in Connecticut. He was also chairman of the Chambers Benefit Leadership Council, which pools together businesses from Connecticut and western Massachusetts for the purpose of purchasing health benefits.

Given the deep commitment John has shown for Bristol, it is no surprise that he intends to remain in the Mum City. I couldn't be more thrilled that such a devoted civil leader will still be part of the community. I am sure he will find ways to remain involved.

I extend to John Leone my sincerest thanks and heartfelt best wishes on a well deserved retirement. Connecticut is a better place because of him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW E. PARSONS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, today I pay tribute to Special Agent Matthew E. Parsons of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, NCIS, who is retiring from employment with the Federal Government on December 20, 2008. Special Agent Parsons is retiring after 36 years in law enforcement, with the last 27 years of Federal Government service with NCIS. Of special note and atypical of his peers, he volunteered and recently completed a high risk assignment as the Director of the Strategic Counterintelligence Directorate, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq.

During the course of Special Agent Parsons' career in government service, he rose from a GS-7 to a GS-15 Special Agent. In his final position with NCIS, he was assigned as the Assistant Director for Financial Management & Planning at NCIS Headquarters, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC.

Special Agent Parsons, Federal law enforcement career began August 1981 with the Naval Investigative Service—the precursor of today's NCIS. His first assignment was to Norfolk, VA, at the time when the John Walker, Jr., spy ring was uncovered. During the early stages of the investigation, Special Agent Parsons was assigned as the NIS case agent. In August 1985, he transferred to overseas duty at Yokosuka, Japan, where he continued working in the foreign counterintelligence arena.

In 1988, Special Agent Parsons was transferred to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD. While conducting an investigation into a sensitive breach of security, he developed the ground work for future NCIS computer investigations. Special Agent Parsons utilized innovative methods to hone his computer investigative skills which ultimately led to the development of agency capabilities to conduct investigations of hacking, intrusions, and sabotage of U.S. Government computer systems and networks.

In December 1993, due to his outstanding efforts in computer crime investigations he was transferred to NCIS Headquarters to establish a computer crimes department for the agency. Special Agent Parsons and his team, reaching nearly 50 members, developed agency and Department of Navy strategies and capabilities which included immediate reporting requirements upon the slightest indication of a technological or information intrusion. In addition, he and his team worked closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Armed Forces Center for Child Protection in the forefront of keeping our Nation's future generation safe from exploitation through child pornography and online predators.

In October 2000, Special Agent Parsons was promoted and transferred to Okinawa, Japan as the Resident Agent-in-Charge. During his tenure in Okinawa he led an office primarily responsible to support U.S. Marine Corps forces and operations throughout the East Asia and Pacific region. He and his team developed a fly-away team concept capable of providing on demand support to operating U.S. Naval forces. This expeditionary team was tested in early October 2002 when a bomb exploded outside a popular restaurant in Zamboanga, Philippines, killing two U.S. military members and injuring 20 others. Within 14 hours of the event, the NCIS Okinawa fly-away team was at the scene providing invaluable criminal and forensic investigative support.

In May 2003, Special Agent Parsons was promoted Special Agent-in-Charge of the NCIS Far East Field Office in Yokosuka, Japan. It was during this assignment that he developed a neighbor-to-neighbor program which forged a bond with the local Japanese community and served as an early warning and indicator of potential criminal or terrorist threats to U.S. military personnel living within the community.

In January 2007, Special Agent Parsons was transferred to NCIS Headquarters where he became the assistant director for financial management and planning. Special Agent Parsons oversaw the agency's strategic planning process, developed financial plans and budget initiatives, and conducted evaluations of office implementation plans and performances.

Demonstrating the extent of his dedication to duty and exceptional character, Special Agent Parsons volunteered for a high risk assignment as the Director of the Multi-National Force-Iraq Strategic Counterintelligence Directorate, SCID, Baghdad, Iraq. Serving in Iraq from December 29, 2007 until June 24, 2008, he led a 109-member joint-service team in a complete strategic refocus of the mission resulting in increased collaboration among assets, increased standardization in reporting, and ultimately better support to the war fighter.

As a testament to his distinguished career, Special Agent Parsons received

several awards including the Meritorious Civilian Services Award, the Department of Defense Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal and the NCIS Expeditionary Medal. Special Agent Parsons also received numerous accolades from senior Navy leadership and published six articles regarding computer crime investigations in professional periodicals.

The Navy, the State of Maryland, and the Nation are lucky to have had the service of such a great Special Agent. He will be sorely missed. I wish him and his family all the best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. Fair winds and following seas!●

#### CONGRATULATING WILLIAM YUAN

● Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate a young man who has not only achieved beyond his years but has also advanced the state of the art of solar power technology. William Yuan of Beaverton, OR, is a seventh grader at Meadow Park Middle School whose achievements are both jaw-dropping and important.

Recently, William earned a \$25,000 scholarship from the Davidson Institute and became a Davidson Fellow for his work in renewable energy research. William's project, "A Highly-Efficient 3-Dimensional Nanotube Solar Cell for Visible and UV Light," featured a novel solar panel that enables light absorption from visible to ultraviolet light. The carbon nanotubes William designed can overcome the barriers of electron movement, doubling the light-electricity conversion efficiency. His optimized design provides 500 times more light absorption than commercially available solar cells and nine times more than the cutting-edge, three-dimensional solar cell.

Given the current energy crisis, everyone must pitch in to reduce our dependence on oil consumption. In Congress and in the private sector, we are working to facilitate advancements in renewable energies. However, we cannot be successful without brilliant minds like William's.

Winning the Davidson scholarship is far from William's only achievement. This year alone, William won second place at the Northwest Science Expo, Best Engineering Project at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and second place at the Oregon Chess for Success State Tournament. The list goes on. Last year, William also received a junior black belt pum certification from the World Taekwondo Headquarters in Seoul, Korea. He has also received a number of awards from various Intel Oregon competitions and First Place in Oregon in the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Talent Search in both quantitative and verbal sections.

At 12 years old, William is only just getting started. He intends to continue his research in renewable energy and eventually select a major for his college study toward a Ph.D. degree. John F. Kennedy once said: