

fl. fit-out, vivarium (funding unidentified): 10,311,000; Anatomy Lab Renovation (this request): 2,500,000; Biomedical Sciences Renovation (this request): 2,975,000; PRIME Telemedicine (state general obligation bond funding): 5,000,000; TOTAL COST: \$60,475,000

OCCASION OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT OF COLONEL PAUL GROSSKRUGER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service and contributions of Colonel Paul Grosskruger of the United States Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District as he passes Command to Colonel Pantano and prepares to retire from military service. He has had a long and admirable career, worthy of distinction and worthy of our gratitude.

Colonel Grosskruger assumed command of the Jacksonville District on July 25, 2006 and it has been my distinct pleasure to work closely with him for these past several years. Most notably, I have worked with Colonel Grosskruger on the Merrill-Stevens Expansion Project and was also fortunate to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they completed the restoration of Virginia Key Beach. Each time, Colonel Grosskruger impressed us with his clarity, candor and fairness. Colonel Andrew Pantano has large new responsibilities to fill, but from reading his resume and noting his experiences, I am confident that he will be more than up to the task.

Below is a brief biographical sketch of Colonel Grosskruger's long and distinguished career. We have come to expect nothing less than great things of this career officer and we look forward to hearing from Colonel Grosskruger again, though as a private citizen. I know that many members of Florida's delegation join me in wishing him the best as he enters this new stage of life and we have every confidence that Colonel Pantano will continue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District's fine tradition.

Born and raised in eastern Iowa, Colonel Grosskruger was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1983. Colonel Grosskruger is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering mechanics from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. He is a registered professional engineer in both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Florida.

His assignments include platoon leader, battalion S2 officer and company executive officer in the 317th Engineer Battalion, Eschborn, Germany; company commander and battalion

S4 officer in the 82d Engineer Battalion, Bamberg, Germany; company commander of the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment), Grafenwoehr, Germany; project officer and deputy resident engineer in the Omaha Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Springs, Colorado; battalion executive officer, 317th Engineer Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia; group operations officer, 36th Engineer Group, Fort Benning, Georgia; Instructor, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Chief of Engineer Operations and Assistant Corps Engineer, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; Commander of the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, Vilseck, Germany, where he planned and conducted operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His prior assignment was as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Colonel Grosskruger's awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (seventh award); the Army Commendation Medal (three awards and the "V" device); the Joint Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal (fifth award); the NATO Medal; the Joint Meritorious Unit award; and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has earned medals from Nicaragua and Poland. He has the U.S. and German parachutist badge and the air assault badge. His battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation for service with the 3d Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I would be remiss if I did not also take this opportunity to thank Colonel Grosskruger's wife and family for their support and dedication. It is a well known fact that the hardest job in the military is that of the military spouse; our service men and women would not be able to do what our country asks of them without the backbone of a loving family. Claudia Grosskruger is to be commended as much as Colonel Grosskruger for their work in service to this country and for their efforts in raising Jerry, 20 and Jennifer, 18.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 649, H.R. 1121, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act of 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 648, H.R. 1376, the Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 647, H. Res. 593—Recognizing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall votes 644, 645, and 646. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 644 and 645, and "nay" on No. 646.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, July 27, 2009, I was unable to cast votes a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 647, 648, and 649.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN T. FINLEY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished life of John T. Finley, retired Ramsey County District Judge and lifelong public servant. Judge Finley passed away unexpectedly in June at the age of 69, while visiting his daughter and grandchildren. While our community has lost a beloved civic leader, we celebrate John's legacy of compassion, fairness, and service to others.

On the judicial bench, John's steadfast impartiality and willingness to take on tough cases earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. No matter how politically charged or publicly scrutinized the case, John approached each one with a fair and impartial mind. He was, in this regard, an exemplary judge.

John's public service began when he was elected as a Ramsey County commissioner in 1970, only one year after graduating from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. He would become the longest-serving member of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners before being elected as a judge in 1996. His vision and leadership helped to craft a comprehensive transportation plan for the region that includes light rail transit. His advocacy for investments in parks and recreation helped to put Ramsey County on the map as one of the most livable communities in America.

Whether serving on the board or the bench, John's love for the community was remarkable. He was a proud native and lifelong resident of St. Paul, and he lived to serve its people. His sense of duty and honor are irreplaceable, and his leadership will be sorely missed.

Madam Speaker, please join me in this tribute to former Ramsey County Judge John T. Finley.