

Madam Speaker, I am proud today to recognize Bruce Iacobucci for his leadership in our community and for his dedication to the citizens of the 8th District. Please join me in honoring him today.

OCCASION OF MAJOR SPEROS
KOUMPARAKIS' TRANSFER FROM
THE UNITED STATES MARINE
CORPS LIAISON OFFICE

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Major Speros Koumparakis, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the liaison office. I, and many other members of this Chamber, have had the pleasure of working with him over the past 3 years that he has served as part of U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Deputy Director of the USMC Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

From his arrival in the October of 2006 to his departure in May 2010, Major Speros Koumparakis has represented the Marine Corps on all matters pertaining to the U.S. House of Representatives. During his time in the House Liaison Office, Major Koumparakis planned, led and executed many of the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives and distinguished himself as a leader and as a visible example of Marine Corps professionalism and values. Through his direct and skillful engagement with numerous Members of Congress and Professional Staff Members, he ensured that the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood; resulting in the greatest possible support to the Marine Corps. His initiative, leadership, and tireless efforts as a fellow, legislative liaison officer and as the Deputy Director of the House Liaison Office have had a direct and lasting impact on improving the war fighting capabilities and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps. Among his many achievements are:

Major Koumparakis consistently demonstrated his expertise and knowledge by providing timely and accurate information to the Members of Congress and their respective staffs. He was a vital asset for all matters relating to the Marine Corps and their relationship with the House of Representatives. Major Koumparakis' straightforward and professional work garnered the respect of Members and staffers alike. His candor and knowledge were key attributes in maintaining the Marine Corps' superb relationships with the many Members of the House of Representatives.

Throughout his tour, Major Koumparakis personally responded to hundreds of congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Through his exceptional interpersonal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, he assisted the Director, Marine Corps House of Representatives Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support for issues critical to the Marine Corps. This exemplary customer service provided the Marine Corps latitude and time to reach appropriate solutions in each case. Major Koumparakis directly contributed to the Marine

Corps' high degree of success in these matters that may not have been otherwise achieved.

Major Koumparakis successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted more than 50 international domestic trips for high-level Congressional and Staff Delegations.

These delegations often included senior leadership Representatives, such as the Minority Leader of the House, Chairs and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services Committee and other Committees of jurisdiction. These delegations traveled world-wide and visited heads of state, military commands, and deployed U.S. military personnel. His meticulous planning, attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed the Representatives and staff personnel to focus on fact-finding and learning new information to guide critical decisions made by the Members of Congress. These trips enabled our elected leaders to understand both the successes and challenges facing our Marines that could only be gleaned from first-hand observation and face-to-face interaction. These trips led to increased Congressional support for funding the needs of our deployed Marines and led to a greater appreciation and admiration for the sacrifices made by our Marines and their families. The close relationships developed on these trips paid dividends for the Marine Corps in all areas of legislative affairs.

Another example of this Marine's impact on Capitol Hill was Major Koumparakis' having led or assisted in the planning, coordination, and execution of countless events, receptions, and meetings on Capitol Hill. These events included New Member Orientation for the Freshman Congressional Class of the 110th and 111th Congresses which took place both on Capitol Hill and in Williamsburg, Virginia; Four Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremonies with the U.S. House of Representatives; countless House Armed Services and House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings and events, promotion ceremonies, awards ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, and guided tours of the Capitol. He also scheduled and facilitated several hundred office calls for the leadership of the Marine Corps to include the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and numerous other General Officers conducting business on Capitol Hill.

Utilizing his particular expertise in Communications, Major Koumparakis was instrumental in designing and implementing an engagement tracking system for use within the liaison office shared drive. His efforts digitized a complex and cumbersome system and enabled all liaisons to have easy access to shared information, allowing them to focus on their work and create unity of effort in the office.

In addition to the administrative requirements of the Marine Liaison Office, Major Koumparakis was instrumental in leading the planning and execution of the Capitol Hill Running Club for the past two years. This club met several times weekly, preparing hundreds of Capitol Hill staffers and military personnel to run the Marine Corps Marathon. Due to his hard work, the Club offered the Marine Corps an opportunity to engage with Congressional Staffers through physical training and raised the level of Marine Corps Marathon awareness on Capitol Hill.

On a personal note, Major Koumparakis served as a military fellow on my staff in 2007. Speros was a fantastic addition to our office and was an invaluable resource to me in my duties on the House Armed Services Committee. His smiling face will never be forgotten by me or my staff.

Major Koumparakis, through his dedication to professional, exemplary engagement with Congress has contributed immeasurably to the Marine Corps' solid reputation throughout Capitol Hill. The rapport he developed with Members of the House of Representatives and the Professional Staff Members have made a lasting impression with these Members and Staff and have set the tone for a lasting partnership between the Marine Corps and Congress for years to come. The time he has spent supporting Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. He has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,876,734,073,745.72.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,238,308,327,451.90 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HANNAH LYNCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Lynch who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hannah Lynch is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Lynch is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Hannah Lynch for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.