

Command, Fort Belvoir, VA; Commander, 302d Brigade Support Battalion; Operational Readiness Officer, Department of the Army G4 to include a three month deployment to Haiti; Support Operations Officer, Operation Unified Response.

His most recent assignment was Senior Logistics Advisor and Director for Strategic Operations for the Deputy Commander Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Included in his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, five awards of the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 device, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Bolander is married to the former Donna McDonald. They have three children, Jessie, Katherine, and Austin. He led and commanded Anniston Army Depot from August 2012 to July 2015.

The Depot has 4,000 military, civilian and contractor employees with an annual budget of approximately \$750 million.

While at Anniston Army Depot, he safely helped execute millions of direct labor hours while helping overhaul and maintain our nation's critical combat equipment. His hands-on leadership for the workforce helped ensure our nation's military was provided the best possible equipment available to keep them as safe as possible while allowing them to accomplish their vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Colonel Bolander in Anniston, but wish him the very best.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR FRANK COWNIE IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Des Moines Mayor, Frank Cownie. Mayor Cownie has been recognized as a Hero for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Mayor Cownie was first elected Mayor in 2008 and he has been proudly serving the people of Des Moines ever since that day. He has been an advocate for the less fortunate and has worked tirelessly to find new, innovative ways to support those in the Des Moines community who need it the most.

Mayor Cownie has deep ties to Des Moines and has always worked hard to make it the best place to work, live and raise a family. Every year Central Iowa Shelter and Services recognizes its "Heroes" who have significantly

given time and financial support to address homelessness in our communities. Mayor Cownie deserves to be commended for his active role in reducing the number of homeless in the Central Iowa Community.

I applaud and congratulate Mayor Cownie for this award and for providing his tireless support for the homeless in Iowa's Third Congressional District. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mayor Cownie and wishing him continued success in the future.

LIFT THE CRUDE OIL BAN

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, new technologies have ushered in an American energy revolution. Last year, the U.S. overtook Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the largest crude oil producer in the world.

We now have more oil than we can refine or store. A majority of U.S. refineries are built to handle heavy, sour crude but new oil production is light, sweet crude. U.S. refiners simply can't keep up with the new production.

Normally producers could simply pump oil into storage containers. But experts say those storage tanks could fill up before the end of this month.

Instead of exporting excess oil like producers get to do in other countries, the ban is already forcing U.S. oil producers to leave oil in the ground and lay off workers.

About 50% of the working rigs in my home state of Texas have had to shut down in the last 6 months. Over 70,000 people have been laid off since Thanksgiving.

The solution to this problem is clear: it is time for the crude oil ban to be lifted.

Critics of lifting the ban are afraid that U.S. oil exports will lead to higher domestic gas prices. Fortunately, many studies have debunked this myth.

Gas prices are more closely linked to the international market—or Brent price—than the domestic price of crude because refined products like gasoline are traded freely on the international market. So the more crude oil we can put on the international market, the lower the international price of crude oil. The lower the international price of crude oil, the lower the price of gas for Americans.

A Rice University study released in March 2015 reviewed previous studies that examined the impact of removing the ban on gas prices. They found that "all studies underscore that lifting the export ban will not translate into higher gasoline prices. In fact, studies generally project gasoline prices in the U.S. will fall once the ban is lifted."

U.S. crude entering the global market will increase the international oil supply and decrease the price of gas.

The only thing the studies do not agree on is just how much gas prices will drop. Savings could range from 1.8 to 12 cents per gallon at the pump.

Lifting the ban will also lead to more jobs and a higher GDP.

An IHS study predicts crude oil exports would support nearly 300,000 jobs by 2018.

Removing the export ban would add \$26 billion to GDP per year and improve labor income by about \$158 per year, on average.

As it improves the U.S. economy, removing the ban will also improve our national security.

The original purpose of the ban put in place back in 1973 was to insulate the United States from the volatility of the international oil market. Ironically, today the ban exposes the U.S. market to volatility. Because our gas prices are tied to the international price of crude, if there is a disruption in the international supply, that directly affects our gas prices. The more crude oil we can put on the market, the more we can minimize those disruptions. Even 1 million barrels of swing capacity matters a lot in the world.

So if ISIS continues to wreak havoc and disrupts oil supply in places like Libya and Iraq, having more U.S. crude oil on the market would help prevent a spike in the price of crude oil and gas prices.

Lifting the ban would also free us up to help our allies more. Europe gets 40% of its oil from Russia. Exporting crude oil would give the Europeans an alternative to having to depend on Russia.

It would also increase our influence in Asia. Japan and South Korea partly rely on crude oil from Iran to satisfy their growing energy consumption. U.S. exports can help diminish that reliance.

Ironically, with the so-called deal with Iran it is now U.S. government policy to allow Iran to export crude oil and inject billions of dollars into their own economy. At the same time it is still U.S. government policy to prohibit U.S. producers from doing the same.

U.S. exports offer a stable source of energy to our allies and decrease their reliance on dictators and state sponsors of terror.

Lifting the ban shows that the U.S. is serious about supporting free market rules around the world. We criticize China for not exporting rare earth minerals and yet here we are not exporting crude oil. Removing the ban will give us more credibility when we criticize other nations' export bans.

All in all, it is high time we remove the crude oil export ban. Exporting U.S. crude will lower gas prices, increase American jobs, and strengthen our national security.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA & MICHAEL GARTNER IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara and Michael Gartner. Barbara and Michael have been recognized as Heroes for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Barbara and Michael have spent the last 40 years serving the people of Des Moines, volunteering their time as board members, fundraisers and philanthropists. They have been advocates for the less fortunate and have worked extensively to transform the Des Moines area, making it a better place to live,