

graduated in 1980 with a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. Colonel Edmonds completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, as a distinguished graduate, and was selected to fly the F-15 Eagle. He has served in numerous flying positions, both as an instructor pilot and a commander, and led 45 combat missions with the 53rd Tactical Fighter Squadron during Operation Desert Storm.

Colonel Edmonds deserves our utmost thanks too for his tremendous leadership of the 131st. The men and women of the unit and the community will be forever grateful for his contributions and patriotism. We will soon be seeing Colonel Edmonds on a much more regular basis, as he will be walking the halls of Congress as the Chief of Senate Legislative Affairs. His tremendous success will certainly follow him there and I know we all look forward to working with him in that capacity.

Assuming command of the 131st is certainly a highlight in Colonel Brandt's career. He graduated from Officer Candidate School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas over 30 years ago. Since then, his career flourished as he piloted the F-4, becoming a Veteran of conflicts from Vietnam to Operation Northern Watch. He is also a graduate of the legendary U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School.

Colonel Brandt joined the Missouri National Guard over 20 years ago. During that time he served in every capacity of Operations. He was the Squadron Commander of the 101st Fighter Squadron and the Operations Group Commander and Vice Wing Commander of the 131st Fighter Wing. His dedication and talents were recognized along the way and as a reward he was given ever increasing responsibility. He will now receive the ultimate reward, command of the 131st. There is no doubt he is the best choice to command the 131st. His exemplary record and knowledge of the Missouri National Guard, the Wing, and the community make him the right leader, ready to provide "Air Superiority—Anywhere, Anytime."

I am sure my colleagues will join me in thanking both Colonel Edmonds and Colonel Brandt for their service to this great Nation and extend our best wishes for continued success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT W. KNECHT

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to commemorate the life of Robert W. Knecht, who passed away on Sunday at Georgetown University Hospital from colon cancer. Mr. Knecht's passing is a great loss to the coastal and marine policy community.

Mr. Knecht began his public service career not in the coastal management field, but working as an Upper Atmosphere Physicist for the National Bu-

reau of Standards. He then went on to serve as Laboratory Director of the Environmental Services Administration. It was after holding those two posts, that he joined NOAA in 1967 as the Deputy Director of the Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, CO.

Working with him in the early 1970s, I recall Mr. Knecht's valuable contributions in crafting the Coastal Zone Management Act. It was with the passage of this landmark legislation in 1972, that Mr. Knecht was appointed as the first Director of the National Coastal Zone Management Program at NOAA. Working in this capacity for 7 years, he served to shape the first generation of State coastal zone management programs which continue today to protect our Nation's valuable coastal resources. Mr. Knecht was instrumental in the design and implementation of the National Coastal Management Program, particularly in enlisting coastal States to participate in this federal-state partnership. He also played a key role in the development of the coastal energy impact program amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act in 1976 that dealt with oil and gas development.

In 1979, he became a Special Representative to the Secretary of Commerce on the United Nations Law of the Sea Negotiations. It was in this position that he developed and negotiated positions on the international management of seabed mineral resources. In 1980 and 1981, he was Director of the Office of Ocean Minerals and Energy at NOAA, working on the implementation of new legislation for ocean thermal energy conversion and deep seabed mining.

In 1981, Mr. Knecht left government service for academia, where he held positions at the University of Virginia, University of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. In 1989, he joined the University of Delaware Graduate College of Marine Studies where he was the Co-director of the Center for the Study of Marine Policy for 12 years.

During his tenure at the University of Delaware, Mr. Knecht was a leader in promoting integrated coastal zone management, particularly on the international level where he also served as a consultant to the World Bank. He served as the Vice President of the International Coastal and Ocean Organization and was a member of the Marine Area Governance Committee of the Marine Board of the National Research Council. He also served as the Co-Editor-in-Chief for the international journal, *Ocean and Coastal Management*.

Mr. Knecht co-authored two books on ocean policy and integrated coastal zone management. In his most recent book on ocean policy, he identified the need for government integration of

currently fragmented ocean policies, calling for a National Ocean Council that could set integrated national goals and ocean policies. I am pleased to say that this idea became a reality with the Oceans Act of 2000.

One of Mr. Knecht's most recent accomplishments was receiving the 1999 Julius A. Stratton Award for Leadership. This national award is bestowed biennially to the person or group that has made the greatest difference in leading the cause for the coast. Mr. Knecht was a true champion for the coast, fostering the development of the fledgling Coastal Zone Management Program in the early part of his career, to the latter part of his career that focused on developing integrated coastal zone management approaches at both national and international levels.

With Mr. Knecht's passing we have lost a great leader in marine and coastal protection. I would like to offer my deepest appreciation for Mr. Knecht's contributions to the Nation and send my sincerest condolences to his wife, Biliana Cicin-Sain, and to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORT ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON TRADE RELATIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 407 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2434) (the "Trade Act"), I am transmitting a copy of a proclamation that extends nondiscriminatory tariff treatment to the products of Vietnam. As an annex to the proclamation, I also enclose the text of the "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations," which was signed