

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
MICHAEL A. COLLINGS

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the U.S. Air Force, MG Michael A. Collings upon his retirement after more than 33 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, General Collings has personified the Air Force core values of integrity, selfless service, and excellence in the many missions the Air Force provides in defense of our nation. It is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments and to commend him for the superb service he has provided the Air Force and our Nation.

General Collings entered the U.S. Air Force as a graduate of Southern Illinois University's Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1974. His career has spanned a variety of operational assignments and major command staff functions. A command pilot with more than 2600 hours in the T-37, T-38 and F-16, General Collings spent more than 10 years in the cockpit, instructing in the T-37, F-16 and at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School. Moving to the logistics field in 1987, General Collings has served on the staff at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Washington DC, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, HI, and Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, VA. He has commanded two squadrons, two groups, and two wings including the 82nd Training Wing at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins Air Force Base, GA.

His assignments have increased in scope and responsibility, culminating in his current assignment as Chief, Office of Military Cooperation, Egypt. As the Senior U.S. Defense Representative to Egypt, General Collings leads six divisions responsible for all aspects of the security assistance mission in Egypt. In addition to providing advice and assistance to the Government of Egypt on a wide range of military procurement and training issues, the Office of Military Cooperation serves as a liaison between the Egyptian Ministry of Defense and United States Central Command, coordinating the planning of joint military exercises throughout the region.

During his career, General Collings has served the U.S. Air Force and our Nation with excellence, distinction, and unwavering integrity. His exceptional leadership skills have been evident throughout his career as he repeatedly demonstrated superb command and operational leadership, a brilliant and innovative vision for his unit's future, and an unmatched loyalty to his faith, people and country.

General Collings will retire from the U.S. Air Force on August 1, 2008 after 33 years and 1 month of dedicated com-

missioned service. On behalf of Congress, the country, and the State of Georgia, I thank General Collings, his wife Jan, and their entire family for the commitment and sacrifices they have made throughout his honorable service. Congratulations on completing an outstanding and exemplary military career.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S.
NAVY NURSE CORPS

• Mr. INOUE. Madam President, today I wish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

As a proud supporter of the Navy Nurse Corps, both the officers and the many enlisted and civilian personnel who work alongside them, I am pleased that we are recognizing their contributions to our navy and our great nation.

On May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations bill that authorized the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique staff corps of the Navy. A small group of trained nurses were carefully chosen to establish an "orderly, disciplined corps with a respectable reputation and excellent benefits, if somewhat limited pay." Leaving societal norms behind, the Sacred Twenty, led by Ms. Esther Voorhees Hasson, introduced safe hygiene practices in the care of patients and trained enlisted medical personnel.

By 1918, the Nurse Corps grew to over 1,030. During World War I, Navy nurses served on ships and deployed to Europe to serve at base hospitals in France, Scotland and Ireland. Superintendent Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee was recognized with the Navy Cross for her success in developing an innovative training camp which quickly prepared nurses to meet the growing war requirement. Many years later, Superintendent Hibgee would receive a most auspicious honor when she became the first living woman and only Navy nurse to have a ship named after her. The destroyer, USS *Higbee* was commissioned in 1944.

World War II became the defining moment in the lives of an entire generation of Americans. Amidst the startling images of the horrors associated with war, came heroic accounts of the tenacity and faith demonstrated by American servicemen and women on a daily basis. On battlefronts from North Africa to Italy to Normandy to Corregidor and Bataan, the nurses of World War II contributed greatly to the care of the wounded, the morale of the fighting men, and the development of nursing as a profession. It was during this war, that 11 Navy Nurses were taken prisoner by the Imperial Japanese in the Philippines. Spending thirty seven months in an internment camp where starvation and psychological warfare were commonplace, these nurses continued to care for patients without regard to self.

Throughout the war, Navy nurses served at 40 naval hospitals, 176 dispensaries, on board 12 hospital ships and as flight nurses on air evacuation missions. Admiral Halsey said of Navy nurses: "They magnificently upheld the highest traditions of U.S. Naval Service." Navy nurses earned over 300 military awards for their exceptional duty during the war.

From the humble beginnings of the pioneering "Sacred Twenty" to today's Nurse Corps force of 4,100 strong, Navy nurses continue to answer the call of duty whether it is at the bedside of a patient in a stateside military hospital, in a joint humanitarian mission aboard a hospital ship transiting the Pacific or in the throes of conflict in Iraq.

Today we recognize the men and women of the Navy Nurse Corps for their selfless service and dedication to our nation and our military. I commend the Navy Nurse Corps for its commitment to excellence and for a century of leadership and caring for America's Navy and Marine Corps from 1908 to 2008.●

HONORING DR. MICHAEL E. BROWN

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael E. Brown, Ph.D., as he retires from a long and successful career as a leader in education. This month, Dr. Brown will retire as assistant superintendent of instructional services with Rialto Unified School District in southern California, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in education and community leadership.

Dr. Brown will retire after almost four decades of leadership in Rialto Unified School District. Dr. Brown's service in education began in 1971 when he began as a teacher in Rialto teaching fifth and sixth grade. In 1976 Dr. Brown was awarded his Ph.D. in education from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Brown would then serve the district as a program specialist, as a principal, as director of curriculum, and as assistant superintendent.

Numerous schools under his leadership have received California Distinguished Schools Awards, and all elementary schools in the district have seen increased API scores. Middle schools and high schools have similarly seen growth in their AVID programs both in student participation and success.

Dr. Brown has also worked tirelessly in his community. He served in the California National Guard from 1969 through 1975, and has served in various community organizations such as Kiwanis International, Phi Delta Kappa International, the Boy Scouts of America, and as an active member in his church congregation.

As he retires from almost four decades in education, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his many accomplishments.●

THE RETIREMENT OF DAN MAYER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the service of Mr. Dan Mayer, who has been in the banking business for nearly 49 years. Spending the past 47 years in Sturgis, SD, Dan has helped guide peers and new generations alike toward success in the beautiful Black Hills.

Dan began his career and community service in Sturgis in 1959. After being elected to the Sturgis city council in 1968, he served for 22 years, presiding as president for several terms. In 1973, Dan was part of the group that started the Sturgis Industrial Economic Expansion Corporation, which developed the first Sturgis Industrial Park.

I remember when Dan and other city leaders met with me to discuss expanding their industrial park, intent on making Sturgis an attractive and effective place to start a business. I was pleased to work with the group to obtain funds for the expansion, which eventually attracted gun and ammunition manufacturers to the industrial park.

With nearly five decades of personal and professional ties to the Sturgis area, Dan is still an active force in the community. He currently serves on the Heritage Acres Board, the Sturgis Industrial Board, the Sturgis Hospital Advisory Board, and the Sturgis Water Board. One Sturgis resident is quoted as having said, "Our business wouldn't be here without this man. He believed in our community and, at the most vital of times, he believed in us."

Dan will be retiring on June 19, 2008 and intends to stay in the Sturgis area, retaining his positions on the local boards. I want to commend Dan for his longstanding and steadfast commitment to the betterment of his community. Being in the banking business for so many years, Dan has been a major influence in the lives of Sturgis area residents. He has seen countless families through home and ranch purchases, home improvements and business start-ups and expansions. Along with his wife Donna, children Jamie and Mark, and nine grandchildren, Dan has strived to fulfill his commitment of making Sturgis and the surrounding area a greater place to live, work, and raise a family. I am most deeply grateful for the opportunity to thank Dan for his efforts, and eagerly look forward to his continued involvement in the community.●

RECOGNIZING THE VERMONT ALL STARS

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today, I recognize the Vermont All

Stars, the Vermont math team that won first place in Division B of the American Mathematics League's Regional Competition, held this year at Pennsylvania State University. The team was comprised of 15 Vermont students, ranging from grades 8 through 12, and seven alternates. The country-wide event, of which this was a part, is the Nation's highest precollegiate math competition.

In the individual competition, two Vermonters placed in the top 10. Both students achieved perfect scores, which qualified them to advance to a final round, which ultimately determined the ranking of the 10 students who received perfect scores. Following up perfection with an even tougher competition, Colin Sandon placed fifth overall, and David Rolnick placed tenth. Both Colin and David are high school seniors who will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.

Deserving of special mention—and special honor—is Mr. Anthony Trono, both founder and coach of the team. Tony Trono is a retired math teacher who had a long career teaching mathematics at Burlington High School.

Many years ago he began a program entitled the Vermont Talent Search, in which a math test is distributed to middle school and high school students. This was to be the first step in bringing Vermont students to the American Math League competition. The top achievers on the Vermont Talent Search tests are chosen for the team that competes in the American Mathematics League's competition.

Not content with working on this, and desiring to share his love of mathematics with students all over our State, Tony Trono also runs a week-long summer math camp at the University of Vermont.

Because family reasons precluded him from accompanying the team this year, as he has done so often before, Barbara Unger chaperoned the team to Penn State. Like Tony a retired math teacher, from Middlebury Union High School, she said of Tony Trono, "He has given his life to upper level math." How true that is!

Our Nation has excelled in the areas of math, engineering and science in large measure because of dedicated teachers such as Tony Trono—and Barbara Unger. They serve as role models to future generations of teachers, in addition to so ably training generation after generation of capable—and as the recent success of the Vermont All Stars indicates—superior mathematicians. Our State and our Nation owe a deep debt of gratitude to Tony Trono and to the many thousands of dedicated math teachers who follow along similar paths by sharing their love of mathematics.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTESIAN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I recognize the community of Artesian, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Artesian is a rural community infused with hospitality, beauty, and an exceptional quality of life.

The city of Artesian was founded in 1883 and named after the abundance of flowing wells, known as artesian wells, in its part of South Dakota. As over a third of its citizens are of German descent, the Artesian community of Sanborn County still appreciates and exemplifies its rich heritage.

Today, Artesian has come a long way from its days as a railroad supply center. The town now boasts a variety of businesses, including those in both the service and manufacturing sectors. A community center, multiple churches, a post office, veterinarian, and 4-H club continuously bring the community closer.

The people of Artesian celebrate this momentous occasion on the weekend of July 4-6, 2008 with a street dance, fireworks, and a parade. South Dakota's small communities are the bedrock of our economy and vital to the future of our State. It is especially because of our small communities, and the feelings of loyalty and familiarity that they engender, that I am proud to call South Dakota home. Towns like Artesian and its citizens are no different and truly know what it means to be South Dakotan. One hundred twenty-five years after its founding, Artesian remains a vital community and a great asset to the wonderful state of South Dakota. I am proud to honor Artesian on this historic milestone.●

GREENLAND POINT CENTER, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as this Saturday marks the official beginning of summer, I rise to recognize a small nonprofit from my home State of Maine that has championed the activities that have made the State a long-time destination for seasonal travel and exploration. Since 2005, the Greenland Point Center, Inc., on Long Lake in Princeton, has served to educate both youth and adults on issues of conservation and leadership while promoting outdoor activities and learning.

Originally founded in 1978, the Greenland Point Center previously operated under the auspices of the University of Maine at Machias. Facing closure in 2004, community members and conservation groups from around the state rallied behind it, purchasing the land that housed the camp from the University and revitalizing the program.

Today the Greenland Point Center, which has become a perennial favorite for Mainers and their families, hosts a series of camps designed to allow children and families to explore the natural world and grow as individuals. At