

didn't take any actions for granted, and his mind never stopped processing the scene. This entire House is proud of his distinguished service.

Madam Speaker, Officer Kelly is back on the job, serving the people of Seattle and trying his best to avoid the adulation and spotlight that accompanies his outstanding actions. He is a humble servant; he is an outstanding officer; he is a hero.

HONORING COLONEL EDWARD J. KERTIS FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF GEORGIA

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Edward J. Kertis for a distinguished career and the outstanding help that he has been to me, my staff, and the people in my district.

Col. Kertis assumed command of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on June 29, 2007. Since his appointment, he has been responsible for a \$4 billion military design and construction program; water resources planning, design and construction; hazardous, toxic and radiological waste cleanup; and real estate activities.

Residents of my district are especially grateful for his help with water resources management during an historic drought. As the rains finally began to return, Col. Kertis took the unprecedented step of stopping flow from Thurmond and Hartwell Dams, allowing the lakes to fill while water was flowing into the Savannah River from flooding creeks and streams. This common-sense decision provided economic relief to those communities who rely so heavily on the preservation of the beautiful lakes and parks of the upper Savannah River. But he has served his country in other ways as well.

Prior to his assignment to the Savannah District, Col. Kertis commanded the Walla Walla District, USACE, in Washington State from 2002–2004. He has also served as a platoon leader, staff officer, and battalion executive officer in the 27th Engineer Battalion; company commander in the 41st Engineer Battalion; and engineer company commander in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment—Delta. He was also the inaugural commander of the Northern District, Gulf Region Division, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he managed construction projects in support of Coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Col. Kertis for his service to the nation and the dedication he has given his duties, and in wishing him a long and wonderful retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on May 26, 2010 I missed rollcall vote 302. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” or “aye.”

PHYLLIS REEDER RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District, Ms. Phyllis Reeder, longtime employee of the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD), and current LCSWCD Administrative Treasurer. After serving the community of Lake County, Indiana in this capacity for the past twenty-five years, Phyllis will be retiring at the end of this month. In honor of Phyllis, a retirement open house will be held by the LCSWCD on Friday, May 28, 2010 at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Crown Point, Indiana.

Phyllis Reeder is a lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana who is extremely proud of her Hoosier heritage. In 1944, Phyllis was born in LaPorte County, Indiana. Her family later moved to Schererville where Phyllis attended Saint Michael's Elementary School. She went on to graduate from Dyer Central High School in 1963. She then attended and graduated from Keypunch School in Hammond. Phyllis then began to work in the data processing department at Simmons Mattress Company in Munster. Later that year, on November 22, 1963, Phyllis married her beloved husband, Charles “Chuck” Reeder. They started a family and raised four girls: Theresa, Debbie, Donna, and Diana, and one boy, Charles. Phyllis was an active parent and also continued to work at Simmons until July 1980 when the company closed its doors. In 1977, Phyllis and her family moved to a ten-acre mini-farm in Cedar Creek Township. It was during this time that Phyllis's passion for environmental conservation began to grow. On the farm, they have a large garden which, at the time, provided their large family with fruit, vegetables, and herbs. The farm also has a windbreak on the property, which helps to prevent wind erosion and also saves energy. In addition, Phyllis's five children participated in many 4-H projects, which included such topics as water conservation, wetlands, foods, basketry, and food preservation.

In 1985, Phyllis's passion for conservation led to her career at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. Phyllis currently serves as Administrative Treasurer for the LCSWCD, where she is known for her friendly demeanor and positive attitude. She consistently goes out of her way to assist co-workers and customers with their needs. Included in

her many achievements at the LCSWCD, she expanded the LCSWCD's educational program and trained as a facilitator for Project Wild and Aquatic, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET. These workshops are offered throughout the county to local schools and are facilitated by Phyllis. Because of her strong belief in conservation, her efforts extend well beyond her working hours at the LCSWCD. Phyllis is actively involved in numerous volunteer organizations and has served on many boards throughout the community. For her unwavering commitment to environmental conservation efforts and to Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Phyllis's dedication to the community and her career is exceeded only by her devotion to her wonderful family. Phyllis and Chuck have been married for 47 years and they enjoy spending much of their time with their beloved children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Phyllis Reeder for her lifetime of leadership, service and dedication to the community of Lake County, Indiana. She has touched the lives of numerous people through her efforts at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and through her extensive volunteer work. While she will be missed by the people with whom she worked, Phyllis's service and selfless dedication will forever be remembered, and I ask that you join me in wishing her well in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL RONALD L. MARSELLE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Ronald L. Marselle for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement. His dedicated service to the citizens of our nation, the Department of Defense, and our Congress is both admirable and commendable.

Colonel Marselle earned his commission as a Distinguished Graduate from the United States Air Force Academy in 1985. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base and as an aviator, served as an aircraft commander, instructor, and evaluator in the KC-135 aircraft.

He returned to the Air Force Academy in 1998 where he led, mentored, and developed our nation's future Air Force officers. Colonel Marselle continued his excellent service to our nation in Washington, D.C., as Deputy Division Chief, Future Concepts and Transformation Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

Most recently, Colonel Marselle provided legislative counsel for the Commander of the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). His in-depth knowledge of the legislative process and USTRANSCOM helped foster the strongest of working relationships. Without doubt, Colonel Marselle's efforts in this regard were instrumental in support of and service to our nation, and will not be forgotten.