

General Montoya has also been a tireless advocate for the National Guard Counterdrug Program, which provides critical assistance in securing the border and disrupting drug trafficking activities. The New Mexico National Guard has also proved to be a successful partner in natural disaster response, including numerous wildfires and the extreme cold experienced by parts of the State last year. New Mexico has a long and proud history of military service, and we are honored to have many living testimonials to American bravery in our State.

Knowing his dedication to public service, I am sure General Montoya will continue to play an important role in contributing to our country for years to come. Mr. President, please accept my best wishes for General Montoya and his family as he begins the next chapter in his life. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.●

COMMENDING UTAH'S ACADEMY NOMINEES

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize 10 exemplary Utahns and future officers in the U.S. military. Each of them will begin their education at a military academy this fall.

James Cardinal, graduating from Layton High School, will be attending the Air Force Academy. As an Eagle Scout, he earned his Order of the Arrow, and is an honor student at his school. He was also a captain of his track and field team.

Connor Crandall, graduating from South Summit High school, will be attending the Air Force Academy. He is a class officer and president of the student government. He is also an honor student and a General Sterling Scholar, and a captain of his wrestling team.

Taylor Lanier, graduating from Viewmont High School, will be attending the Air Force Academy. She is an honor student, a member of the Youth City Council, and a Tae Kwon Do black belt. She is also a captain of her swimming team, and was a captain of her lacrosse team.

Brandon Lloyd, a graduate of Highland High School and graduating from the Air Force Academy Prep School, will be attending the Air Force Academy. He is an Eagle Scout, and while attending Highland was honored with its Warner Award. He also was a captain of his wrestling team, of which he was named Wrestler of the Year.

Bryce Magera, graduating from Hillcrest High School, will be attending West Point. He is an Eagle Scout and an honor student. He is also vice president of his Future Soldiers of America Club, and is trained in several types of mixed martial arts.

Mormon Redd, graduating from Viewmont High School, will be attending the Air Force Academy. He is an honor student and a patrol leader in his scout troop. He was also a captain of his wrestling team last year, and he

volunteers for the Youthline humanitarian program.

Blair Roberts, graduating from Bingham High School, will be attending the Merchant Marine Academy. He is a captain of his swim team and a certified lifeguard. He has been named the KJZZ Prep Student Athlete of the Week, and helps children with cancer as a summer camp volunteer.

Zachary Santella, graduating from Davis High School, will be attending the Naval Academy. He is an honor student, captain of his swimming team, and was named Most Valuable Swimmer and hardest worker by the team.

Collin Shurtleff, a graduate of Parowan High School and graduate of Marion Military Institute, will be attending West Point. He is an Eagle Scout, an honor student, and president in his school's student government. He is also a captain of both his football team and his wrestling team.

Amy Slaughter, a graduate of Weber High School and the Marion Military Institute, will be attending West Point. In high school, she was president in her student government. She was also a captain of her volleyball team and a captain of her track team, and was named an Academic All-State Athlete in track.

One of my greatest honors as a U.S. Senator has been to get to know and nominate each of these young men and women. I know that our Nation's future is bright in the hands of these exemplary individuals who have distinguished themselves amongst their peers.●

TRIBUTE TO J. DAVID COX

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize National Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employees AFGE, J. David Cox, the recipient of the 2012 Yitzhak Rabin Public Service Award.

This award is given out by the American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center each year to individuals who reflect Prime Minister Rabin's legacy of peace, leadership, and public service. Having come to know and appreciate J. David's accomplishments, I feel that he is more than a fitting recipient of this honor.

Over the course of his decades-long involvement with AFGE and AFL-CIO, J. David has worked tirelessly to ensure that Federal employees here in Washington, D.C. and across the nation enjoy the dignity, fair pay, and safe working environment that they deserve. Based upon the number of leadership positions he has been elected to by his fellow Federal workers, it is clear that they approve of his efforts. In the past, he has served as Executive Vice-President of the AFGE National Veterans Affairs Council, President of AFGE Local 1738 in North Carolina, and Co-Chair of the Department of Veterans' Affairs National Partnership Council. In addition to his role as Na-

tional Secretary-Treasurer, he currently is vice co-chair of the AFL-CIO's Union Veterans Council, vice-president of North Carolina State AFL-CIO, and was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Federal Salary Council and the Federal Prevailing wage council.

J. David got his start in the Federal workforce in 1983 as a registered nurse within the Department of Veterans Affairs. He served our nation's veterans for 23 years before moving on to AFGE in 2006. As Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have come to value J. David as an important advocate for veterans as well as VA's Federal workforce. J. David has testified before us several times over recent years and has established himself as a key asset to the Committee. Throughout his testimony, J. David has always sought to make sure that the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals at VA have the resources they need to provide the best possible care to our veterans. In particular, his vocal support for assured funding and VA budget reform help to lead to the current 2-year appropriations process that VA uses today.

I am grateful for J. David's work and applaud the American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center for selecting him as one of this year's award recipients. I offer my sincerest congratulations to J. David and hope that he continues to fight for Federal employees and veterans into the future.●

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA HANISCH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alyssa Hanisch, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Alyssa is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is studying political science and finance. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alyssa for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CODY HORTON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Cody Horton, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Cody is a graduate of Mitchell High School in Mitchell, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is majoring in political science and history. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.