

courage of Officer Collin Rose. Rose was a fine young officer who was committed to improving the Detroit community, and we honor his life and work as the community mourns his passing.

TRUMP PROMOTES STRONG MILITARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a World War II Flying Tiger who served in India and China, a 31-year veteran myself, and the grateful father of four sons who served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I truly appreciated the remarks of President-elect Donald J. Trump in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on December 6, 2016 promoting our military and our military families.

REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

I am here today for one main reason: to say thank you to the people of North Carolina.

You went out and pounded the pavement, organized your fellow citizens, and propelled to victory a grassroots movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

I want to give a very special thank you to the incredible military families, service members and Veterans of North Carolina.

Your state's legacy of service is an inspiration to us all. North Carolina has produced many of the finest soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines the world has ever seen.

Our men and women in uniform represent the very best of us. We must follow their example: working in unison toward a shared goal across every social, racial and economic line. They understand that to accomplish the mission, we must all be pulling in the same direction. And they know that we must leave no man or woman behind.

These patriots have shed their blood to defend our country in distant fields of battle across the Earth. Our debt to them is eternal and everlasting.

We salute their sacrifice, and we salute the flag they fought to protect.

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It is a milestone that marks the ultimate sacrifice of those who wear the uniform. It is a reminder, too, of the valiant efforts of America's fighting men and women who have liberated millions from tyranny and oppression.

Now, today, our brave men and women are the first line of defense against Radical Islamic Terrorism—an ideology of death that slaughters innocent men, women and children.

In every generation, a new threat to freedom arises. And just as we defeated the threats we faced in generations past, so too will we defeat the forces of terrorism. We will prevail.

We stand here today just miles from Fort Bragg, the home of heroes.

Our Special Forces at Fort Bragg have been the tip of the spear in fighting terrorism. The motto of our Army Special Forces is 'to free the oppressed' and that is exactly what they have been doing.

At this very moment, soldiers from Fort Bragg are deployed in 90 countries.

Based in Fort Bragg is the 82nd Airborne Division—also known as The All-American Division.

We stand in awe of their achievements.

Not far from here sits forty-five percent of the entire United States Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune.

12,000 citizen-soldiers fill the ranks of the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard. The National Guard rushed to the scene to help the victims of Hurricane Matthew, and we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to those recovering in its wake.

The military families in North Carolina are a national treasure, and it will be the duty of my Administration to ensure that we protect those who protect us.

That brings me to the second reason I am here today: to discuss our Action Plan To Make America Great Again—beginning with the rebuilding of our military and taking care of our Vets.

Here are the priorities that will guide our Military and Veterans Policy:

—All men and women in uniform will have the supplies, support, equipment, training, services, medical care, and resources they need to get the job done.

—The best care in the world for our Veterans, both at public VA facilities, as well as the right to see a private doctor.

—And finally, a commitment to only engage the use of military forces when it is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

From now on, it's going to be: America First.

We will stop racing to topple foreign regimes. Instead, our focus must be on defeating terrorism and destroying ISIS.

Any nation that shares these goals will be our partner in this mission.

We want to strengthen old friendships and seek out new friendships. Rather than a rigid dogma, we are guided by the lessons of history and a desire to promote stability: this destructive cycle of intervention and chaos must come to an end.

We seek harmony and goodwill among the nations of the world—and we believe that respect for mutual sovereignty helps form the basis of trust and understanding.

We build up our military not as an act of aggression, but as an act of prevention. We pursue and build up arms not in order to seek conflict, but in order to avoid conflict.

In short, we seek Peace Through Strength.

That is why, in my first budget report to Congress, I am going to ask for the elimination of the defense sequester.

We will show the world that America is going to be strong again.

But in order to succeed with our defense policy, we must find the right person to lead our Defense Department.

That is why I am proud to formally announce today my intention to nominate General James "Mad Dog" Mattis as the next Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Jim is a Marine Corps four-star general, the former Commander of U.S. Central Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. He led an assault battalion in Operation Desert Storm, led the Forces that went after the Taliban, and commanded the First Marine Division in Iraq.

He is one of the most effective generals and extraordinary leaders of our time, who has committed his life to his love for our country. General Mattis is the living embodiment of the Marine Corps motto, 'Semper Fidelis,' always faithful, and the American people are fortunate that a man of his character and integrity will now be the civilian leader atop the Department of Defense. Under his leadership, we will rebuild our military and alliances, destroy terrorists, face our enemies head on, and make America safe again . . .'

HONORING 2017 SOMALI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state as they begin preparations to celebrate 2017 Somali Independence Day week next summer in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Annual commemoration of Somali Independence Day is the culmination of Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, which drew together more than 30,000 participants last July. Somali Week has grown into the Minnesota Somali communities' largest community event of the year and is one of the largest gatherings of the Somali Diaspora.

Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, this week-long festival unites people from around the world and around the state to share in cultural, entertainment and athletic events. The most notable of these activities include a multicultural soccer tournament known as 'The Cup of Nations,' hosted by Concordia University in Saint Paul and a family-friendly street festival on Somali Independence Day.

'Promoting Diversity through Unity and Inclusion' is the 2017 Somali Week theme established by organizers. Kajoog, a local Somali non-profit organization is leading efforts with other community partners to plan exhibitions, performances, and wide ranging panel discussions, aimed at uplifting the strengths of inclusivity. Kajoog Executive Director Daud Muhammad has forged strong collaborations with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the Somali Museum of Minnesota, among many others to plan this vibrant festival.

In addition to organizing Somali Week, Kajoog has earned recognition by local, state and federal officials, as well as law enforcement for their effective job-training and positive youth programs, and efforts to combat extremism throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our nation. Please join me in paying tribute to community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and every day work to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award for Prince William County Schools.

The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award was designed to "recognize excellence