

“D.K.”, has been exceptional to work with over the last year. My staff and I have benefited enormously from D.K.’s knowledge and expertise on U.S. national security and Armed Services policy.

D.K. draws upon nearly two decades of service, which includes deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar. D.K. enlisted in the Army in 2000 and was commissioned as an officer in 2010. As an officer, D.K. distinguished himself by serving at the battalion, brigade, and division levels while operating in combined, joint, and partnered environments. Before D.K. joined my office, he served as the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss, TX. At each post and here in the Senate, D.K. has served with distinction.

D.K. has always been one to go above and beyond because it is just part of his nature. He graduated from George Washington University in 2008 with a bachelor of science in health sciences while earning a place on the dean’s list. His education also includes a master of arts in intelligence studies with honors from American Military University and a master of professional studies degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University. D.K. is also a graduate of the Military Intelligence Captain’s Career Course at Fort Huachuca, AZ, where he achieved placement in the top 20 percent of his class.

CPT Demetrius Keishun Morris is the epitome of a dedicated public servant. He has put himself in harm’s way to defend our rights and freedom and to help secure freedom for people in other countries. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, especially those who make a career in the military. It is always important to acknowledge their family members who share in the sacrifice, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank D.K.’s wife Lakisha and their three wonderful children, Cornelius, Samara, and Roman, for their support and for allowing us to utilize the expertise and experience of their husband and father this last year. My staff and I will miss D.K.; at the same, however, we are also excited to see what’s in store next for this exceptional individual, who will always be part of Team Cardin.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGORY A. SCHEIDHAUER

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the distinguished career of U.S. Army Reserve COL Gregory A. Scheidhauer as he retires from his nearly three decades of service to our Nation. Dedication to his country and commitment to his fellow servicemembers are qualities that define Greg’s career, and his years of effort have made lasting improvements to our Nation’s defense.

Born in Silver Spring, MD, Greg went on to attend Bowie High School and,

later, West Virginia University, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in sports management in 1990. He joined the Army ROTC program at West Virginia University in 1988 and began his military service upon graduation, commissioning in 1990.

In 2009, Greg joined my office in the House of Representatives as a defense fellow, where he served alongside my staff for the year. His expertise, assistance, and advice were invaluable to the team, and our office, as well as all Hoosiers, greatly benefitted from his work. After his service in my office, Colonel Scheidhauer became a legislative liaison for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve at Fort Belvoir.

In 2010, Greg deployed to Iraq and served as the director of logistics for the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command-Iraq, JSOCC-I, during Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation New Dawn. He worked to ensure the U.S. Special Operations Forces servicemembers throughout Iraq had the supplies and equipment they needed for counterterrorism operations and training. Upon his return, he was selected to serve as a congressional budget liaison in the Army’s Congressional Budget Office.

Greg’s hard work in that role led to his being named the Chief of the Army Reserve Legislative Affairs Division in 2014, where, for nearly 5 years, he oversaw the legislative liaison team and worked to engage and inform Members of Congress and our staff members on the Army Reserve.

As we thank Greg for his dedicated work over his career, we must also thank his family who have been his support system through it all: his wife Andrea; daughter, Alexis; and sons, Brennan and Christopher. The sacrifice of our servicemembers is immense, but so is that of their families, and we are grateful that they have shared Greg’s time and expertise in the service of our country.

Greg has served with distinction and honor and now will be retiring to spend time playing golf and basketball, cheering on the Mountaineers and the Redskins, and, of course, spending time with his family. I congratulate Greg on his career of service and wish him the best as he moves into the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO DARREN HEDLUND

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Darren Hedlund, a legislative assistant in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, his colleagues, and the State of South Dakota.

Darren is a native of Wall, SD. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Dakota before receiving his master of public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. While working on his undergraduate degree, Darren also served as president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha.

Darren was one of the first people I hired after being sworn in as Senator in January of 2015. He began his career at the front desk in my office, answering phones. Through hard work and dedication, Darren worked his way up to legislative assistant, handling cybersecurity, Veterans Affairs, foreign affairs, telecommunication, and homeland security issues for my office. Darren has played an instrumental role in my office by providing insight and guidance into these issues.

Darren has been a dedicated and faithful public servant during his time spent here in the Senate. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Darren for the fine work he has done. I wish him and his wife Reagan well as they take on life’s new challenges together. As he continues his career of public service, he bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MATTHEW J. BURGER

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Col. Matthew J. Burger on his promotion to brigadier general. Matthew Burger graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1990 and served on Active Duty as an HH-1 instructor pilot and chief of safety with the 27th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, and later as chief of group Standardization and Evaluation, 85th Operations Group, Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland. Following 10 years on Active Duty, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he has served in numerous command positions during his career. He has over 4,500 flight hours and is a command pilot. While serving, he has earned the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Unit Award, the Combat Readiness Medal with three silver oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, and many other awards and decorations. Matthew is also the grandson of my late longtime staffer, Betty Burger, from Fairfield, IA. On December 12, 2018, he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to the rank of brigadier general.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PAUL V. BANKSTON

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend MAJ Paul V. Bankston for his dedication to duty and service as an Army legislative fellow on my staff. In January 2019, Paul will transfer to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, where he will serve as a congressional budget liaison.

A native of Okeechobee, FL, Paul received a bachelor of science degree in applied science and technology from Thomas Edison State College. He also earned a master of arts degree in legislative affairs from George Washington