

Lieutenant Colonel Laurel has served and excelled at every level of our Army, and she exemplifies the patriotism, fidelity, and commitment to which every citizen should strive.

From her early enlisted career as an airman in the Wyoming National Guard to her Active-Duty service in key positions ranging from medical platoon leader and company commander to personally advising the Army surgeon general and the Secretary of the Army, Kelly has been exceptional in every respect. Examples of her ever-increasing responsibilities include medical platoon leader, 61st Area Support Medical Company at Fort Hood, TX, company commander, Headquarters, 52d Medical Evacuation Battalion; and later the chief of the Management Division, 18th Medical Command in Korea; and the chief financial officer for the widely dispersed Heidelberg Hospital and its nine outlying clinics in Germany. Her work and potential was so great that then-Major Laurel was soon personally selected to serve the Army's surgeon general as the senior budget analyst, the chief of the Financial Health Policy Division, and finally as the senior congressional affairs coordinating officer.

Fortunately for me and so many Members of Congress, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller soon recognized her outstanding abilities and selected Kelly to serve as the Army's senior budget legislative liaison. I and my colleagues in both Chambers have personally benefited from Kelly's extraordinary intellect, keen analysis, and unmatched determination. During her tenure in this position, Kelly routinely worked the most sensitive, complex, and critical Army actions involving the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Her wisdom and unmatched expertise led the Army to extraordinary success in obtaining vital funding for the most critical medical, environmental, and behavioral health programs and ensured that our soldiers and their families had the necessary support they needed during these years of war. Moreover, she was instrumental in obtaining vital funding for the restructuring and expansion of the Army National Cemeteries Program. Most recently, recognizing her leadership and exceptional intellect, the Secretary of the Army selected Kelly to be his deputy chief of strategic initiatives. In this capacity, Kelly advised the Secretary and other Army senior leaders on the development and implementation of critical service-wide policies and programs that will benefit the Army for many years to come.

Kelly's superb career and character is also a true testament to the exceptional support and example provided by her family. As the daughter of first-generation Americans, Kelly was taught early the value of hard work, commitment, and selfless service by her parents Jose and Dolores Montemayor. Moreover, as a child of a

career military family, Kelly learned to embody the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage before she even knew there was an Army. As she has repeatedly demonstrated, to Kelly, these are not ideals but character traits; not platitudes, but requirements and expectations of every citizen. Clearly, her character, work ethic, and patriotism are examples to us all. We owe the highest praise and tribute to this great American and her family.

Accordingly, on behalf of a very grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending LTC Kelly Marie Laurel for nearly 25 years of service to this country. Although, to the Army, Kelly is irreplaceable, I am certain this exceptional citizen will continue to make great contributions to the United States as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEVI WATKINS, JR.

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to salute Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr., a renowned cardiac surgeon who will retire at year's end from Johns Hopkins Medicine. During his 4-decade-long career, Dr. Watkins has had a profound impact on American health care—through the countless patients he has treated, the students he has recruited and mentored, and the cultural diversity he has advanced.

Levi Watkins, Jr. grew up in Montgomery, AL, the third of Dr. and Mrs. Levi Watkins, Sr.'s six children. At the Alabama State Laboratory High School, Watkins excelled in academics and athletics: he graduated valedictorian and was selected for the Montgomery All-Star basketball team. It was in Alabama that he witnessed the early days of the civil rights movement. As a member of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Watkins developed a close friendship with his pastor, the Reverend Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, and later he attended Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where he was introduced to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the King family.

Watkins majored in biology as an undergraduate at Tennessee State University, where he was elected president of the student body and joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Mu honor society, Beta Kappa Chi honor society, and many other notable organizations. Watkins also led many student movements on campus and graduated with highest honors.

Dr. Watkins' medical career has been one of monumental firsts. In 1966, he integrated the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine as the first African-American student ever admitted. He was later selected to become a member of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. Watkins arrived at Johns Hop-

kins Hospital in 1970 as a general surgery intern and became the first African-American chief resident in cardiac surgery in the institution's history. There, in 1980, he performed the world's first implantation of an automatic heart defibrillator in a human—a procedure that is now performed worldwide and has since saved tens of thousands of lives. In 1991, Dr. Watkins became the first African-American at Johns Hopkins promoted to full professor of cardiac surgery. He was named the first African-American associate dean in the School of Medicine and established the nation's first postdoctoral association, helping to revolutionize the culture of postdoctoral education in the United States. Today, there are more than 50 such associations across the nation.

Dr. Watkins has been a fierce advocate for fairness and diversity. He joined the Hopkins School of Medicine's admissions committee in 1979, and began recruiting minority applicants and sponsoring an annual welcoming and networking reception for new students. In 1982, he founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration at Hopkins, an annual event that has brought an illustrious array of speakers to Baltimore, including Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Stevie Wonder, and Taylor Branch.

In October 2002, Vanderbilt University established a Professorship and Associate Deanship in his name; in October 2005, Dr. Watkins' portrait was unveiled at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine honoring his life's work; and, in 2008, Vanderbilt bestowed upon Dr. Watkins its "Most Distinguished Alumnus Award."

Since 2006, when he stopped performing surgery, Dr. Watkins has remained a powerful presence and an important influence on Johns Hopkins and the city of Baltimore. In December 2008, he was honored by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators with the Nation Builders Award, along with President-Elect Barack Obama, and James H. Meredith. In January of 2012, he was appointed co-chair of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's transition team for health and human services.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. well as he embarks upon the next phase of his lifelong journey to improve the health and well-being of others. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. LYNN KILCHENSTEIN

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Lynn Kilchenstein, president of the New Hampshire Technical Institute, who will step down from her position at the end of the year. Dr. Kilchenstein has demonstrated exceptional leadership at NHTI for the last 10 years, and I thank her for her strong commitment to the students of New Hampshire. While I know she will be missed by the school

and the community, I join Dr. Kilchenstein's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging her many achievements and celebrating her service.

Dr. Kilchenstein's substantial contributions to NHTI began when she joined the faculty as an English professor 26 years ago. Prior to becoming president, she also served as head of the English Department, faculty forum president, and associate vice president of academic affairs. In each position Dr. Kilchenstein made an impact, from her direct instruction of students to the development of NHTI's Academic Success Council.

In 2003, Dr. Kilchenstein was named the president of NHTI, and under her leadership the campus has been transformed with numerous projects that have improved social and academic spaces. Dr. Kilchenstein has overseen the growth of NHTI's health programs, including the construction of the LEED-certified Beverly D. Grappone Hall and the renovation of MacRury Hall, both of which feature new facilities and equipment that allow students to learn in hands-on medical environments.

During Dr. Kilchenstein's tenure, NHTI expanded class offerings, created new liberal arts programs and teacher education classes, grew existing programs, and successfully completed the reaccreditation process.

In addition to her leadership role at NHTI, Dr. Kilchenstein is also an involved and dedicated member of the Concord community. She served for 8 years on the Greater Concord Chamber Board of Directors and currently sits on the Governor's Advanced Manufacturing and Education Advisory Council, the Capitol Center for the Arts Board, the Creative Concord Committee, and the Concord Housing Commission. To recognize her service, the Greater Concord Area Chamber of Commerce presented Dr. Kilchenstein with the Pinnacle Award for Business Leader of the Year in 2011.

I know that everyone at the New Hampshire Technical Institute and in the community of Concord joins me in thanking Dr. Kilchenstein for her service and wishes her well in all her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BLISS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph Bliss, 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.

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

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Joseph for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON FUSARO

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brandon Fusaro, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Brandon is a graduate of Burncoat High School in Worcester, MA. Currently, he is attending George Washington University, where he is majoring in exercise science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brandon for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ISAAC HARRINGTON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Isaac Harrington, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Isaac is a graduate of Mitchell High School in Mitchell, SD and the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in computer science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Isaac for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ISAIAH WONNENBERG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Isaiah Wonnemberg, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

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

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Isaiah for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1447. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3458. An act to treat payments by charitable organizations with respect to certain firefighters as exempt payments.

H.R. 3509. An act to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3304.

The message further announced that the House concurs in the Senate amendment to the title of the bill (H.R. 3304) to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; concurs in the first three amendments to the text of the bill, without amendment; and concurred in the fourth amendment to the bill, with an amendment.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, for a term expiring on December 31, 2015: Mr. Daniel M. Slane of Ohio.

The message further announced that effective December 16, 2013, pursuant to section 2 of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1975 note), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Civil Rights for a term expiring December 15, 2019: Mr. Peter N. Kirsanow of Cleveland, Ohio.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1447. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3509. An act to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.