

for Children Partnership, and the Gold Medal for Lifesaving from the Grande Prix Humanitaire de France.

These awards and accolades are testimony to Gerry's quality as a leader and the determination with which he approached his work. One need look no further than his own Mount Vernon district for evidence of this. Whether it was shepherding the community through the BRAC process and helping to manage the enormous growth at Fort Belvoir, to the establishment of the Richmond Highway Express Bus Route, the creation of the South County Government Center, advocating for the construction of a new high school and middle school to serve the growing population, the preservation of Inova's Mount Vernon facilities or the securing of affordable housing for seniors at Gum Springs, you could always count on Gerry Hyland being knowledgeable and fully engaged with every situation that was brought to him. Gerry truly cares about his constituents and has dedicated every minute of his time in office to improving their lives and our South County community.

I will always remember the grace with which he approached his work. Even in the face of unimaginable tragedy brought by the death of his wife, he continued to put the needs of others before his own. When we served together on the Board of Supervisors, he would routinely bring fresh produce from his farm on the Eastern Shore to share with us, a tradition that continues to this day. Just when you didn't think it was possible for one man to give any more, Gerry would prove you wrong.

Mr. Speaker, Gerry Hyland has been a fixture of the community in Fairfax County for more than 35 years. While he may be officially retiring from the Board of Supervisors, I suspect that he will remain an active advocate for the causes that are dear to him. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his retirement, in thanking him for his immeasurable dedication and commitment to our community, and in wishing him all the best for continued health and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR ADAM
F. MCCOMBS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Major Adam F. McCombs for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to our great nation. Most recently, Adam served as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). He will be transitioning from his present assignment to serve as an Advisor in the Office of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard, United States Army.

A native of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, Adam was commissioned as an Armor officer after his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree. He has since earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Adam has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Prior to

working as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison, Adam's assignments included serving as Scout Platoon Leader and Troop Executive Officer in 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado; Company Commander of a Warrior Transition Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Assistant S3 in the 25th Infantry Division Headquarters Battalion and Cavalry Troop Commander in 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Adam has commanded Soldiers in combat as a Platoon Leader and Troop Commander. He deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq in 2005–2006, and deployed to Afghanistan in 2008–2009 and again in 2011–2012.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and knowledgeable resource in 2013 when Adam was selected to work in my Washington, D.C. office as an Army Congressional Fellow. In this capacity, Adam handled military and veterans issues from a legislative and casework perspective and worked closely with the staff on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, he continued to collaborate with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, ensuring that the Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Committees.

Major Adam McCombs' leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Major Adam F. McCombs for his distinguished service to our nation. In addition to gratitude for his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Major McCombs has the respect, admiration, and affection of many on Capitol Hill. We wish him and his wife, Traci, all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

U.S.-GEORGIA RELATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Georgia Caucus along with Congressman GERALD CONNOLLY, I would like to take a moment to discuss the importance of a strong U.S.-Georgia relationship.

Our ally Georgia is a beacon of hope for democracy and capitalism in Eastern Europe. In a region full of turmoil, Georgia continuously strives to spread the ideologies of democracy and freedom to all. While there is still work to be done, Georgia has made many advances in recent years to strengthen democratic values.

Georgia has proved to be a strategic trade partner. U.S. trade with Georgia has increased over the past several years as Georgia continues to bolster its democratic and market-economy institutions. In light of this growth, it

would be a smart move to initiate negotiations on a U.S.-Georgia Free Trade Agreement. In 2012, President Obama announced that Georgia and the U.S. had agreed to a high-level dialogue to strengthen trade relations, including the possibility of a free trade agreement. Now is the time to make this idea a reality.

Another critical reason why we must strengthen our ties with Georgia is because Russian aggression in the region is more threatening now than ever. In 2008, I was in Georgia and saw Russian tanks roll in to Georgia, occupying 25% of the country. Back then I knew Putin's radical agenda would continue to threaten our ally for years to come. Sadly, I have not been proven wrong. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is another example of Putin's greedy appetite for conquest. The best deterrent we can offer Georgia is the protection we have given to European countries in the past from Russian bullying: NATO membership. It is time for the United States to put our full weight of support into ensuring that Georgia is given NATO membership.

Even with the regional security threats stemming from Russia, Georgia has demonstrated time and again its commitment to being a force for good in the international community. For example, Georgia has provided more troops to the effort in Afghanistan than any other non-NATO member. Georgian troops have fought and died on the battlefield alongside our own American troops. We must recognize and reward their bravery and sacrifice. Georgia's ascension to NATO must be a priority for next summer's NATO conference.

Mr. Speaker, we all should recognize the importance of strengthening our relationship with Georgia. It is in our national security interests to support this ally, and it is our duty to ensure we foster a healthy, mutually beneficial partnership.

And that's just the way it is.

MEDIA IGNORE ADMINISTRATION
SCANDALS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national liberal media repeatedly comment that the current administration is "scandal free." But that's because they ignore scandals involving Democrats.

For example, Hillary Clinton claims that everyone knew she used a private email server as Secretary of State. Yet, White House officials stated they were unaware of the server. The media has yet to pursue what was known or why the use of this server was allowed.

The national media also has failed to uncover who gave the orders for the IRS to target conservatives or if White House officials helped cover up the incident.

And when an American is murdered by an illegal immigrant, the press never connects the loss of life to the president's refusal to enforce our immigration laws.

The only people who believe the administration is "scandal free" are its allies in the national liberal media.