

Collin Keil of Whitehouse, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Collin's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Collin brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse, Ohio, Collin earned scholastic honors, served as a link leader, and was named an AAU All-American in wrestling.

Throughout high school, Collin was a member of his school's football, wrestling, and crew teams, earning multiple varsity letters. I am confident that Collin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Collin Keil on the offer of his appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Collin will excel during his career at the Merchant Marine Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

H.R. 4161 SCRA RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, one of our most sacred responsibilities is to serve those who protect our nation. As far back as the Civil War, Congress has enacted laws to safeguard the rights of our military men and women, so they may devote their full attention to the defense of the United States.

These laws, like the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Military Lending Act, provide protection from repossessions, foreclosures, predatory lending, and other civil actions that could occur while a servicemember is on active duty or deployed. Those protections allow the servicemember to remain solely focused on protecting the nation while on active duty or deployed. One of the protections the SCRA provides is to require banks and businesses to obtain a court order before repossessing a servicemembers' car or home. Requiring a court order ensures that any action to take away a servicemembers' property will be reviewed by a judge, where the judge can evaluate whether the servicemembers' military duties will inhibit him or her from responding to the action in a timely manner. Through the court system, the judge can also ensure the servicemember wasn't victim to predatory lending practices, or other actions protected under the SCRA.

Unfortunately, banks and businesses have found a way around those protections. Many

mortgages, car loans and other financial agreements now include fine print that requires any dispute over the property to be resolved through a new process that avoids the courts: Forced arbitration. By including that clause in the fine print, banks can still threaten servicemembers' homes, cars and other property by requiring them to enter into a costly arbitration process while they are still in active duty service. This process has resulted in men and women finding out that a bank is taking away their family car, or home, while they are in Iraq or Afghanistan. For example, Army National Guard Sergeant Charles Beard was serving in Tikrit, Iraq when he found out that his family car had been illegally repossessed. His wife was threatened and told she would be imprisoned if she resisted. Sergeant and Mrs. Beard spent four years fighting the case, and ultimately did not get back their car or receive compensation. Sadly, they are not alone. In 2012, the Government Accountability Office found 300 cases of improper foreclosures on servicemen and women while they were still on active duty, along with 15,000 other violations of the SCRA. We must ensure that our brothers and sisters in combat don't have to worry about whether or not their families will not become homeless while they are gone. We must close this loophole.

I am proud to partner with Congressman JONES as the Democratic lead sponsor of H.R. 4161, the SCRA Rights Protection Act of 2015, to do just that. The SCRA Rights Protection Act restores the rights enshrined in the SCRA by not allowing forced arbitration for contracts governed by the SCRA unless the servicemember agrees to that process after a dispute has arisen.

Our military men and women sacrifice so much in the service of our nation. It is our duty to defend their rights here at home.

LANE JUDSON—EVA MURILLO UNSUNG HERO AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) works as an advocate for crime victims. JIM COSTA (CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (CA) and myself, we are proud to honor Lane Judson with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. Mr. Judson was nominated for the Unsung Hero award by Congressman DAVID REICHERT of the 8th District of Washington. This award honors the memory of Eva Murillo, a prominent crime victim advocate in the state of California. Murillo, who passed away in 2005, was

best known for her twelve years of distinguished service to the Kings County Victim Witness Assistance Program, where she pioneered efforts to help women in abusive relationships. The honoree is a crime victim or survivor, who has experienced a personal tragedy and triumphed over adversity. This award recognizes a person who has utilized his or her experiences as a crime victim or survivor to promote public education and awareness, public policy development, and/or greater awareness about crime victims' rights and needs. Through his or her efforts, the recipient has given hope to other crime victims and survivors.

Mr. Lane Judson has done just that—on April 26, 2003, Lane Judson's daughter, Crystal was fatally shot by her husband who also happened to be the Police Chief of the Tacoma, Washington Police Department. The shooting came one day after city officials publicly announced that Crystal's claims of abuse and threats would not be investigated because it was a "private matter." After losing his daughter, Mr. Judson dedicated his life to helping and supporting victims of domestic violence.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center in Tacoma, WA, which was established in 2005 to serve the needs of the domestic violence victims and their children by providing comprehensive victim services in order to help families heal and bring them hope. Mr. Judson also led the fight to incorporate the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program into the 2006 Violence Against, which created a grant available to law enforcement agencies to use in training their officers in the area of domestic violence.

Mr. Judson has turned unimaginable tragedy into positive action to advocate on behalf of all domestic violence victims. Mr. Judson is an incredible person. We know his daughter's memory lives on in his fight to end domestic violence. We are proud to honor him with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award.

And that is just the way it is.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ADAM HUG ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Adam Hug of Bryan, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Adam's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Adam brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Bryan High