

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF REVA STARRETT

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 109th birthday of Mrs. Reva Starrett, who lives in my Congressional district in Bellbrook, Ohio. Reva's loved ones recently gathered around her to honor this special occasion to celebrate a life well-lived.

Reva was born on February 11, 1915 in Darke County, Ohio and was the oldest of six children. Longevity runs in her family. She has a brother who is 95 and a sister who is 85. One of her sisters lived to the age of 100, and another sister lived to 93.

Her husband Bill, a World War II veteran, passed away in 1998. They had one son, Bill, Jr. During the war, Reva worked and lived with her sister while her husband served overseas.

Hard work is the key to a long life. Reva grew up working on her family farm and began milking cows at the age of 5. Reva was the head cook at an elementary school in the Bellbrook school system, specializing in baking rolls and bread—and she still bakes bread today.

Reva has lived independently all her life and still lives in her own home. Her indomitable spirit and zest for life has certainly guided her to this day.

I am honored to congratulate Reva Starrett on reaching this remarkable milestone birthday, and I wish her many more joyful years of peace, good health, and happiness.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT WOMEN IN EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor 23 women chosen by constituents in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District for my inaugural Women in Excellence Award. These women are recognized for their meaningful contributions and commitment to improving the lives of others and giving back to their communities. I commend these remarkable women who are spearheading progress across the district in the fields of advocacy, environmental justice, economic development, education, government, healthcare, law, public safety, and more.

Chief Lynette Lewis Allston, Southampton
Dr. Monica L. Ball, Richmond
Ms. Sherri Bowman, Charles City
Dr. Shantelle Brown, Richmond

Ms. Chelsea L. Buyalos, Chester
Sheriff Vanessa R. Crawford, Petersburg
Mrs. Dixie Daniel, Brunswick
Detective Lakisha R. Davis, Chesterfield
Dr. Tamara W. Dias, Chester
Ms. Austine Ellis, Emporia
Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed, Richmond
Mrs. Evelyn M. Johnson, Chesterfield
Ms. Michelle Johnson, Charles City
Mrs. Rebecca L. Larkin, Henrico
Ms. Tracy Lee, Colonial Heights
Dr. Shantell Lewis, Henrico
Ms. Danielle Milliner, Petersburg
The Honorable Gammie Poindexter, Richmond

Ms. Aileen Rivera, Henrico
Mrs. Vondrena Smithers, Brunswick
Ms. Kenda Sutton-EL, Richmond
Dr. Phyllis Taylor Tolliver, Prince George
Ms. Kim Walker-Lee, Southampton

HONORING TEXAS RANGER ROBERT "BRANDON" BESS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of longtime Texas lawman and my good friend, Texas Ranger Robert "Brandon" Bess. On February 29, 2024, he hung up his signature Stetson cowboy hat and un-pinned the legendary Cinco Peso Ranger badge for the last time.

Brandon is a native of Kirbyville, Texas, and graduated from Kirbyville High School in 1990. He earned a degree in criminal justice from Kilgore College before attending the East Texas Police Academy. After he graduated from the academy, he served as a patrolman for the Henderson Police Department and as a deputy in the Rusk County Sheriff's Office.

In 1995, Brandon joined the Texas Department of Public Safety, where he served as a Highway Patrol Trooper from 1995 to 2005 and as a Sergeant and Special Agent in Criminal Intelligence from 2005 to 2013. In July 2013, he joined the prestigious Texas Rangers, the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction. Since April 2021, he has served as the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program "cold case" Ranger for Texas Ranger Company "A," encompassing thirty-five Southeast Texas counties.

Brandon worked on countless major criminal investigations throughout the Lone Star State for the Ranger Division during his distinguished career. He perfected the use of DNA tracing and other cutting-edge technologies to bring multiple criminals to justice, often many years after the case was considered cold. It has been a privilege to assist him in cutting through the federal bureaucracy for several of these cases.

Brandon married his wife, Mary Beth, on March 13, 1999. Together, they share children

Marshall, Walker, and Mattie. The Bess family are active members of Anahuac Methodist Church, where Brandon has served as a Sunday School teacher, on multiple committees, and currently chairs the church's Board of Stewards. Additionally, he is a cancer survivor and veteran of the United States Army Reserve and National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, in its two-hundred-year history, only the finest law enforcement officers have had the honor of calling themselves Texas Rangers. I am proud that Ranger Brandon Bess is among them. I wish him, Mary Beth, and their family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen circumstance, I was unable to cast my vote for H. Res. 1065. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HARRIS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE JUDGE ARMANDO V. RODRIGUEZ

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise to honor the memory of a noble public servant Harris County Justice of the Peace Judge Armando V. Rodriguez. Elected to Harris County's Precinct 6, Place 2 in 1973, Judge Armando V. Rodriguez became the first Hispanic to hold the title of Harris County Justice of the Peace. He served our county admirably for more than four decades and was known as the longest-tenured judge in Harris County.

The Honorable Judge V. Rodriguez was not just a holder of public trust but a justice seeker, community leader, and coalition builder. Judge Rodriguez exercised compassion and experience to boldly advocate for and protect his community. Judge Rodriguez went above and beyond the call of duty when he founded Fiestas Patrias, an organization that celebrates the diversity and cultures of Latin America and culminated into an annual parade that is still being held today. Judge Rodriguez's efforts also included the creation of the Black and Brown Coalition, which we co-founded together.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate enough to say that I knew and worked alongside The Honorable Judge Armando V. Rodriguez for many years. I believe that when history records the legacy of Judge Rodriguez, he will be forever

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

remembered for his caring and candid demeanor as he worked to serve local communities, his county, as well as his country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
WILLIAM ANTHONY ANDERSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. William Anthony Anderson, Sr., whose sudden passing on March 9, 2024, has deeply saddened our community. Mr. Anderson's journey, characterized by dedication, service, and compassion, has left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Born on July 12, 1962, in Blue Springs, Mr. Anderson's commitment to public service was evident from the outset. He served at the Union County Sheriff's Office for over a decade before assuming the role of chief of police for the city of Verona, where his leadership and dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues and the community. Anderson was appointed as the assistant police chief at Northeast Mississippi Community College in late 2014. His commitment to the safety and well-being of the students led to his subsequent appointment as police chief on July 1, 2021, succeeding Chief Randy Baxter.

Mr. Anderson was a pillar of support for the students, embodying the values of service and protection. His passion for ensuring the well-being of the students was evident in his actions, from organizing car inspections to late-night safety walks.

A man of faith, Mr. Anderson was a dedicated member of Ecu Second Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, embodying his commitment to serving others both within and beyond the law enforcement community.

Mr. Anderson's legacy of service, dedication, and compassion will forever be cherished by those whose lives he touched. He leaves behind a community grateful for his unwavering commitment to duty and his enduring impact on the lives of many.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Anderson was a loving husband to his wife, Connie Smith Anderson, and a devoted father to their three children, Anna, Ebony, and William Jr., who followed in his father's footsteps in law enforcement. He also cherished his role as a grandfather to Kydwn and Fallyn.

May Chief Anthony Anderson rest in peace. His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING CARSON ROSS ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS BLUE
SPRING'S MAYOR

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to honor the lifelong public service career of Mr.

Carson Ross, who has served as the mayor of the city of Blue Springs since 2008. Mr. Ross will be retiring as the first African American Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri. Mr. Ross's dedication to public service is truly exemplary.

Before he began his distinguished career, Mr. Ross was a graduate of Bradley County High School, attended the University of Arkansas—Pline Bluff, and later received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rockhurst University in 1977. He began his career as a public servant in 1981, when he was elected to the Blue Springs Board of Aldermen where he served Districts 2 and 3 for eight consecutive years as Alderman and one year as Mayor Pro Tem. To further grow his expertise and leadership skills, he went on to serve on the Legislative Branch of the State of Missouri and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives to represent the 55th District. Under this capacity, Mr. Ross served for a total of 14 years in Missouri's House of Representatives and as a testament of his abilities as a leader, served as the Republican Whip in 1991 through 1992.

As a result of his work ethic and dedication to serving his community, Mr. Ross was recognized as one of Kansas City's most influential African Americans by the Kansas City Globe in 1995 and 1996. Furthermore, his influence and impact did not go unnoticed when he received the Outstanding Legislator Award in 1996 by the Missouri Federation Grand Order of Pachyderms and the 1997 state award by the Kansas City Globe as the Most Influential African American.

Beyond his role as a legislator, Mr. Ross worked with Hallmark Cards after having an illustrious career of 39 years with the company, where he held various positions. Additionally, he has served the city of Blue Springs in various capacities outside of Mayor through his participation on various boards including as Chairman of the Blue Springs Personnel Board, President of St. Mary's Medical Center Board of Associates, a founding member of Summit Bank of Kansas City Board of Trustees, among many more.

As Mayor of Blue Springs for sixteen years, Mr. Ross focused on ways that he could better his community and his selfless spirit of service is displayed throughout his career. His historical achievement of becoming the city's first Black Mayor serves as an image of resiliency and determination to break through barriers and lay the groundwork for future leaders. As children look towards future careers and occupations, they will know that they too are capable of being Mayor and a public servant, even if that means being the first to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Ross for his tremendous accomplishments, his commitment, and tireless community service. His immense impact will continue through the multitude of lives he has impacted. On behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish Mr. Ross great joy and relaxation in retirement as Mayor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
ONZLEE WARE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Onzlee Ware, who passed away on February 10, 2024, at the age of 70.

He was born in North Carolina on January 4, 1954, to the late Onzlee McCrimmon and Edna Taylor.

While attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Onzlee was charged with possession of heroin and marijuana, but later had those charges dropped when he agreed to become a police informant. A year later, it was revealed in court that he was an informant. Because of that revelation, he was subsequently shot and critically wounded, eventually losing his left leg. This harrowing experience would shape the rest of his life and reinforce his belief in second chances.

He would later come to Roanoke to work with Boy Scouts of America, which is where we met. He eventually became a lawyer, and we became friends. Our friendship was first cemented while spending hours photocopying form files in my office.

We then served in the Virginia House of Delegates together, where I knew him as someone who would often reach across party lines to get things accomplished for his fellow Virginians.

In 2013, Onzlee helped then-Republican Governor Bob McDonnell pass his transportation plan.

After leaving the House of Delegates, Onzlee was appointed as a judge, serving in juvenile and domestic relations court. It was there that he used what he learned earlier in life to reach out to juveniles, telling them they could turn their lives around and be successful, just as he had become.

He later rose in the ranks to become a circuit court judge.

Onzlee Ware was a trailblazer. He served as the first Black legislator from the western part of Virginia and later the first Black judge in Roanoke Circuit Court. He made an impact on so many throughout his life, his legacy will live on for years to come. He was my friend. I will miss him.

UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY
AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES
ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this bill. Certainly, we can agree that federal agencies, like many large employers, need to reevaluate their office space requirements in response to more hybrid work options post-COVID.

But this is not a new endeavor for the federal government. This is something the federal government was doing for more than a decade before the pandemic.

When we passed the Telework Enhancement Act in 2009, federal telework participation was below 14 percent. By 2016, that number grew by more than 50 percent to 22 percent. During that intervening period, agencies created hoteling options, reevaluated office space needs, and even identified telework savings associated with reduced real estate requirements.

So again, this is not new territory for the federal government. What is new is the mindless and punitive approach Republicans have started to take towards agency decisions about workplace environments.

During the pandemic, Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, voted to require 100 percent of federal employees back into the office for full-time in-person work—a standard that did not exist even before the pandemic and one that envisions a 19th century workplace complete with hole-punched timecards.

Concurrently, they opposed my legislation, the Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act, to implement common sense workplace public health standards to protect federal employees during COVID and any future public health emergencies.

Their opposition is, as I said, mindless and punitive.

With this bill, House Republicans are at it again. This bill would establish an arbitrary requirement for agencies to dispose of property and leases.

It makes no accommodations for the workplace flexibility our federal agencies need, not just to compete for talent, but also to accommodate those with disabilities or military spouses whose employment would not be possible without hybrid or remote work.

This bill demagogues the issue of hybrid work at a time when we should be taking meaningful action to help the federal workplace remain competitive and productive.

I welcome the Administration's efforts to end pandemic era remote work postures while strengthening robust telework options for federal employees, which we helped create with the Telework Enhancement Act.

There is a way forward that helps agencies adjust to post-pandemic workforce needs, but this bill is not the solution and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

CELEBRATING THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF MARTIN COUNTY

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a milestone that marks the passage of time and the rich tapestry of history and community woven into the fabric of Martin County. As the county's residents commemorate its Semiquincentennial, let us reflect upon 250 years of resilience, progress, and unity that have shaped the county.

The county's history begins with the Tuscarora, who first inhabited the region that became Martin County. They referred to the area as "Squhawky." The Tuscarora lived off the lush forest of present-day Martin County and used the Roanoke River as an important trade

route with other tribes in the coastal plain region. The Tuscarora migrated to other North Carolina and Virginia sites when the first English settlers began inhabiting the area in the early 1770s.

In the anxious year of 1774, Martin County emerged from annexes of Halifax and Tyrrell Counties, born from the tireless efforts of residents who sought a closer seat of county government. The county was named for the last Royal Governor of North Carolina, Josiah Martin. The county's name would later be used to honor Alexander Martin, a prominent Federalist of the Old North State. Incorporated in 1779, Williamston, the cherished county seat, earned the moniker of "Tar Landing," a testament to its pivotal role along the Roanoke River.

Throughout history, the county and Williamston have served as transportation centers for naval stores such as tar, pitch, turpentine, and other resources. The railroads of the 1800s and the highways of the 1900s continued to allow trade in the region to flourish.

The Roanoke River, a lifeline coursing through the county, has witnessed triumphs and tribulations, from its days as the "Moratuck" to the modern era where it beckons adventurers and anglers alike. Let us remember the floods of 1940, a catalyst for change that birthed the Roanoke River Basin Association and paved the way for progress in flood mitigation and environmental stewardship.

From the bustling heart of Williamston to the tranquil hamlets of Oak City, Hamilton, and beyond, our communities and municipalities stand as testaments to the resilience and ingenuity of generations past and present.

At Martin County's 250th anniversary, let us celebrate our past achievements and recommit ourselves to the ideals of unity, resilience, and progress that have defined the county. Together, let us continue to write the next chapter of the county's story, guided by the enduring spirit of those who came before us.

I wish a happy Semiquincentennial to Martin County. Here's to another 250 years of heritage, community, and boundless possibility.

UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023.

Once again, the Republican House Majority has brought forth a bill that would accomplish the exact opposite of its claims. This bill would create massive inefficiency by forcing the early termination of government facility contracts to meet an arbitrary and inflexible standard of occupancy. These contract cancellations would incur additional costs, result in massive staff relocations that are not paid for by this legislation, and severely disrupt the work of federal employees who are serving the American public. The end result would be a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, this legislation would override the work that agencies themselves are already doing to evaluate and update their federal space requirements. Instead, H.R. 6276 sets up a biased method of data collection that inaccurately assesses the needs of our federal workforce. It fails to count field workers—including Border Patrol agents, park rangers, and food safety inspectors—as full-time federal employees. It would ignore the significant challenges, and costs, involved in modernizing and reconfiguring historic buildings to increase occupancy levels.

My Democratic colleagues and I want to work with the federal agencies to collect accurate information and to fully understand the individual facility needs of each agency. Where opportunities to reduce space or improve its utilization exist, the General Services Administration already has the authority to act. As agencies adjust to the increased use of alternative and hybrid work schedules, they are examining opportunities for consolidation and other ways to efficiently and effectively achieve their missions. This thoughtful and necessary work would be swept aside by a clunky and misguided mandate in the USE IT Act.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6276.

WENDY MOTTA, A REMARKABLE LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary public servant, Wendy Motta, who has dedicated her career to serving the constituents of the 24th Congressional District with unwavering commitment and tireless effort. As we bid farewell to Wendy, we reflect on her distinguished service and the indelible mark she leaves on our community.

Wendy Motta's journey in public service spans decades, including previously serving in the office of my predecessor, Congresswoman Lois Capps. Throughout her tenure as Senior District Representative, Wendy demonstrated an exceptional ability to address the diverse needs of our constituents, tackling crucial issues ranging from agriculture and veterans' affairs to infrastructure and environmental stewardship. Her tireless efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of those she helped.

One of Wendy's most remarkable contributions was her dedicated work in responding to natural disasters and emergencies. Her leadership during those challenging times provided solace and support to our community, showcasing her resilience and dedication to the well-being of the people she served. Wendy's proactive approach and swift response in times of crisis set a standard of excellence for public service in our district.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Wendy Motta is the epitome of a devoted family person. Married to Silvio Motta, she has been a loving partner and a source of strength for her family. Wendy and Silvio have been blessed with two wonderful children, Caio and Carina, who undoubtedly have been inspired

by their mother's commitment to public service.

Prior to her service with Congress, Wendy Motta served the California State Legislature in the 18th Senatorial District office. Her experience and expertise from the state level were instrumental in navigating the complexities of multi-jurisdictional issues and implementing effective policies for the benefit of our shared constituents on the Central Coast of California.

As we express our gratitude for Wendy's years of service, we also extend our best wishes for a fulfilling and joyous retirement. The 24th Congressional District has been fortunate to have such a dedicated advocate, and Wendy's legacy will undoubtedly endure as an inspiration for future generations of public servants.

In closing, I ask you to join me in acknowledging Wendy Motta's selfless contributions to the well-being of our community and express our deepest appreciation for her years of dedicated service. May her retirement be filled with the same warmth and kindness she has bestowed upon us throughout her illustrious career.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA ALLEN
AND THE BLACK ANGELS

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation recognizing Virginia Allen and the Black Angels.

Whereas: Virginia Allen arrived to Staten Island, New York at the age of 16 to work as a nurse at Staten Island Sea View Hospital in 1947.

Whereas: Staten Island Sea View Hospital opened in 1913 specifically to treat patients with Tuberculosis and, at its peak, Sea View Hospital saw nearly 2,000 patients and was one of only four municipal hospitals in New York City that did not discriminate against Black nurses.

Whereas: Virginia Allen received her training at Staten Island Seaview Hospital and courageously stepped up on the frontlines to be one of the 300 'Black Angels' to treat tuberculosis patients.

Whereas: the Black Angels were courageous, dedicated, and bold in answering the call to come to Sea View and risk their lives caring for the grievously sick and "indigent consumptives" of New York City, who had been banished to this woefully understaffed sanatorium.

Whereas: Virginia Allen served for 10 years at Staten Island's Sea View Hospital, working in the pediatric ward. The Black Angels' years of expertise played a significant role in the first ever human trials of isoniazid, the first drug to cure tuberculosis. Since its discovery in 1952, tens of millions of lives have been saved.

Whereas: The Black Angels were activists and active members of the NAACP, neighborhood churches, and community groups, and became founding members of the Lincoln Hospital Alumni Association, the Urban League Guild, and the Women's Civic and Po-

litical Union. They were fierce advocates for the integration of Black nurses into the U.S. military and American Nurses Association, and in New York City they worked toward desegregating the hospital system.

Whereas: Virginia Allen continued to serve her community as President of the North Shore Staten Island section of the National Council of Negro Women.

Whereas: The people of Staten Island are grateful for the years of service by Virginia Allen and all the Black Angels who selflessly served on the front lines at Sea View Hospital to treat tuberculosis patients.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
CRAIGHEAD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Bob" Anderson Craighead, who passed away on February 9, 2024. He was 97 years old.

Mr. Craighead was born on December 18, 1926, in Hyattsville, Maryland, to William M. and Jean C. Craighead. He graduated from Andrew Lewis High School at age 16 and then began a 44-year career in railroads, as a messenger in the N&W's Blacksmith Shop.

Not long after, Mr. Craighead's railroad career was put on hold when he volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, serving as a rifleman with the Fourth Marine Division and earning a Purple Heart after being wounded in the Battle of Iwo Jima. He also tried to volunteer for the Korean War when the war broke out, but because of his injuries, was turned down.

After returning from World War II, he completed a four-year apprenticeship, and moved to the Industrial Development Department in 1954, retiring in 1987 as Regional Manager.

During his life he served as the President of the Salem/Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Salem Industrial Development Authority, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, and he was a member of the Regional Partnership of the Roanoke Valley. He also served as director and Vice President of the Salem Educational Foundation and Alumni Association, establishing the Craighead Family Endowment, awarding scholarships to graduates of Salem High School.

When I was a boy, growing up in a mother-led single parent household, Mr. Craighead was very kind in making sure that I was included in activities with his boys.

Following his retirement in 1987, Mr. Craighead wrote and published a book titled, "Jackson's Legacy."

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet Terry Akers Craighead, his parents, and his two brothers, William M. Craighead, Jr. and James L. Craighead.

He is survived by his five children and their significant others, Russell Craighead and Cynthia Miller, Anne Craighead, Steve and Beth Craighead, Nancy Craighead and Janet

Ardam, Tim and Debra Craighead; adoptive daughter, Amanda Allen; nine grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren. I wish them my sincerest condolences during this difficult time.

I want to thank Mr. Craighead for his service to our country and note that he was a valued member of the Salem community throughout his life.

RECOGNIZING PLYMOUTH
ROTARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Plymouth, the oldest and largest service organization in Plymouth, Michigan. Rotary Club of Plymouth's 100-year commitment to serving the local community is admirable and worthy of recognition.

Founded in 1924 as a chapter of Rotary International, the club is a non-profit organization funded solely by fundraising events in the Plymouth area and charitable contributions from members of the club and those who support its mission of advancing local education, community, and worldwide efforts. The Plymouth chapter strives to help its members in their own journeys to advance community through understanding, goodwill, and peace through healthcare improvements, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. In 1957, the Rotary Club of Plymouth established the Plymouth Rotary Foundation to invest its donations in service projects, and since its inception the foundation has invested more than \$1.9 million in local education scholarships and community projects.

Today, Rotary Club of Plymouth continues to hold annual events including barbeques, golf outings, and art fairs to raise the funds it needs to positively impact the local community. They raise over \$100,000 every year to support local park projects, scholarships, food bank fulfillment, clean drinking water programs, and COVID vaccination check-ins. Additionally, the group sponsors an annual bingo competition with local shops and restaurants to encourage residents to shop and dine at small businesses as a way of growing the local community. Recent fundraising is expected to result in over \$50,000 in educational scholarships to be distributed this Spring to local high schoolers who overcame significant challenges to graduate high school to help them pursue higher education. Their commitment to public service only continues to grow by teaching students to become the next generation of community leaders.

Rotary Club of Plymouth's work to build the local community, help small businesses grow, and instill a commitment to public service over the past 100 years is inspiring. They are a true example of community over self and dedication to the common good. I know that more success is to come, and I cannot wait to see all that they accomplish in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL FILMMAKING AND PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE GROUNDS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would permit commercial filmmaking and photography on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol Complex. Currently, such filmmaking and photography is only authorized in Union Square.

In many countries, freedom of expression is limited, and while the January 6th insurrection was one of the greatest threats to American democracy in history, the Capitol and the United States remain beacons of democracy for the world. We should encourage commercial filmmaking and photography at the Capitol to share this symbol of democracy with the world. Movies and television shows that involve the Capitol should not have to go to other cities or use a fake building.

This bill would allow commercial filmmaking and photography outside of the Capitol and Congressional office buildings by permit, so long as neither chamber is in session. The policy allowing commercial filmmaking and photography in Union Square shows that the Capitol Police can handle commercial filmmaking and photography at the Capitol Complex, especially when Congress is not in session. However, that vantage point captures the least familiar view of the Capitol. Preventing commercial filmmakers and photographers from shooting in front of the Capitol is neither business-friendly nor true to the nation's democratic traditions. Encouraging commercial filmmaking and photography at the Capitol would help spread the story of democracy around the world.

There is no good reason why commercial filmmaking and photography should be confined to Union Square. Specifically, my bill would give the Capitol Police complete discretion to issue a permit for commercial filmmaking and photography at the Capitol Complex under the same terms and conditions as those for commercial filmmaking and photography in Union Square. No policy or security reasons exist to justify limiting commercial filmmaking and photography at the Capitol Complex to Union Square, especially considering that permits are necessary. Visitors are regularly seen taking videos and pictures around the Capitol Complex, demonstrating the arbitrary nature of limiting commercial filmmaking and photography to Union Square.

This bill would provide the Capitol Police authority to charge fees to cover any costs incurred by the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) for permit approval. The fees would be deposited into the Capitol Trust Account, which was established to accept fees collected from commercial filmmaking and photography permits for Union Square. Amounts in the Capitol

Trust Account would be available without fiscal year limitation for maintenance, improvements and projects the AOC considers appropriate, subject to the approval of the Appropriations Committees.

Views of the Capitol are among America's most iconic. Limiting commercial filmmaking and photography of the Capitol, an important vehicle for telling the nation's story, does not serve the American people. Indeed, most of the world reveres our system of government largely through commercial films and photos of the Capitol, a symbol of our democracy at work. Commercial films and photographs of the Capitol, the seat of our democracy, are perhaps the best modern vehicles for telling the nation's story and showcasing its democratic system of government. Republicans and Democrats alike revere the image of the Capitol as a symbol of democracy. My bill would enable appropriate, permitted commercial filmmaking and photography of the Capitol, and would create economic benefits for the Nation, the District of Columbia and private businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING VICKI TURNBOW'S RETIREMENT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with significant appreciation that I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career of Vicki Turnbow, who has served as the President of the Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce in Raytown, Missouri since 2007. As a volunteer, member of the Board of Directors, and staff member, Vicki has worked diligently to promote economic development in Raytown while holding numerous positions within the Raytown Chamber. I ask that we take a moment to reflect on Vicki's abundant accomplishments and commitment to promoting economic growth as her retirement nears.

Vicki's role as President of the Raytown Chamber of Commerce requires the oversight and leadership of two non-profit organizations, the Raytown Chamber of Commerce Building Foundation and the Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. The former owns the land and building of the Raytown Chamber's office, while the latter works to provide year-long benefits to members. Vicki's diverse and robust skill set have set her up for success in this role, as she is tasked with managing advocacy, networking events, community engagement, business resources, and community resources and maintaining a balanced budget for the Raytown Chamber. Understanding the importance of collaboration, Vicki has been devoted to working alongside the City of Raytown to promote economic development in the area. She has also worked to continue developing relationships with other

Chambers in the Kansas City metropolitan area, as well as with Jackson County and local school boards.

The Raytown Chamber has immensely benefitted from Vicki's leadership. Vicki created an annual strategic plan to provide direction for staff members as they navigate the committee and board approval process. She has worked to establish the Tourism sector with the Chamber, redesign the Chamber's logo, and to partner with Jackson County for the Rock Island Shared Use Project. During times of economic hardship, Vicki's dedication to the Raytown Chamber remained steadfast. The Chamber continued to meet their goals throughout the beginning of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic due to her direction as President. Vicki also selflessly ran the Chamber's office as a one-person operation from November of 2019 until April of 2023. Under Vicki's leadership, the Capital Campaign was launched to remodel the Raytown Chamber of Commerce building. Vicki saw this project through to completion from 2016 and 2023. I was honored to help secure the \$200,000 needed through federal grants for a project so deserving of these funds.

Vicki's compassion for and generosity towards the people of Raytown extends even beyond her role as President of the Raytown Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the Board of trustees for the Raytown Educational Foundation and is a member of the Raytown Rotary Club. Vicki's devotion to giving back to her community is apparent to all those around her. She has received numerous awards recognizing her hard work, including the Volunteer of the Year for the Raytown Chamber award, Raytown's Outstanding Woman Leader of the Year award, and the Raytown Citizen of the Year award. Vicki has also completed the Raytown Community Emergency Response Team training. Dedicating hours to serving her city, Vicki has demonstrated her passion for public service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding Vicki Turnbow as a thank you for leading the Raytown Chamber of Commerce as President and charitably serving her community. Her enthusiasm for improving the lives of others has earned her a joyous retirement. On behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I want to thank Vicki for her leadership on behalf of the 118th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to be in D.C. to vote on March 12, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on Roll Call No. 84, and "Yea" on Roll Call No. 85.