

A centrist Democrat and fiscal conservative, Pickett spent 14 years representing Virginia Beach in the House of Delegates. In 1986, he won election to Congress as the representative for Virginia's 2nd District, succeeding the similarly moderate G. William Whitehurst, a Republican.

In Washington, as in Richmond, Pickett burnished a reputation for being steady and unassuming, courtly and nonpartisan. Colleagues described him as an effective legislator who toiled behind the scenes as an advocate not just for military service members but for all of Hampton Roads.

Proof isn't limited to the 2nd District. The U.S. Customhouse in downtown Norfolk, for example, wasn't even part of Pickett's territory, but that didn't stop him from securing the federal funds needed to renovate it. Today, the building bears his name.

After leaving Congress in 2001, Pickett devoted himself to the community, spreading around some \$200,000 in leftover campaign funds to local charities and causes.

In Virginia Beach, where he made his home for more than half his life, Pickett helped found the Meals on Wheels program, the Virginia Beach Hospice and the Oceana Lions Club. He was president of the Princess Anne Rotary and Ruritan clubs and in 2003 was honored with the Virginia Beach Jaycees' First Citizen award.

But even outside elected office, Pickett retained influence. He spent his final years offering advice to any who sought it, whether they were Democrats, such as U.S. Sen. Jim Webb and Rep. Glenn Nye, or Republicans, including McDonnell and state Sen. Jeff McWaters.

"When I was trying to decide whether to run for state Senate, I called Congressman Pickett and he encouraged me to do so," McWaters said. "Though we sit on different sides of the political aisle, this never seemed to matter as much to him as getting the job done."

For a practical man like Pickett, there may be no higher praise.

[From the Virginian-Pilot Oct. 29, 2010]

FORMER 2ND DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN OWEN PICKETT DIES

(By Julian Walker)

The three offices that former U.S. Rep. Owen B. Pickett maintained during his 14 years in Congress—in Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Washington—shared this feature: a sign that read, "This office belongs to the people of the 2nd congressional district of Virginia."

That simple motto, said those who knew him, exemplified Pickett's modest approach to elected office as a full-time post in which addressing constituent concerns was a priority and principle took precedence over partisanship.

"He took his job very seriously," said Jeanne Evans-Cox, who worked for Pickett throughout his congressional career. "I used to call him the 'quiet warrior' because he didn't say an awful lot, but he took everything in. He was a great listener. He would size up the issue, figure out his strategy, give me directions, and we'd move forward."

Pickett, 80, died Wednesday due to complications from congestive heart failure.

The Democrat leaves behind scores of admirers on both sides of the aisle after a lengthy career as a lawyer, an esteemed state and federal legislator, and finally an adviser who provided counsel to plenty of political hopefuls.

A native of rural Hanover County in suburban Richmond, Pickett was raised in humble conditions. His father died when he was a young child, leaving his mother and an older brother to help support the family, according to friends.

It was evident early on that Pickett had a keen intellect, but he never used it to avoid hard work, recalled his lifelong friend George Campbell.

The pair attended Virginia Tech together, beginning in the late 1940s. Their paths separated when Pickett headed to law school at the University of Richmond, but the friendship endured. Campbell, who still lives in Hanover, routinely checked on a tract of land Pickett owned in central Virginia.

Campbell said that when they last spoke by phone about a week ago, Pickett realized the end was near and was at peace with it.

"We maintained a very close relationship, and I'd say he's the best friend I ever really had," Campbell said.

Many who knew Pickett had a similarly strong affection for him.

Ken Geroe, a Virginia Beach lawyer and longtime Pickett ally, called the late congressman a "dear friend and a mentor," adding "there's a hole in my life that won't be filled."

Geroe said he came to Pickett's attention through his work on Gerald Baliles' successful gubernatorial campaign in 1985, a contest in which the former congressman had a leadership role.

"He probably started talking to me because I was the only person at his desk at 6:30 in the morning he could talk to," said Geroe, a former Democratic chairman of the 2nd Congressional District.

Pickett failed in a 1967 run for Beach commonwealth's attorney, but election success didn't elude him for long. He won a House of Delegates race in 1971 and served 15 years in the state legislature before his election to Congress in 1986.

A Blue Dog Democrat with a sharp focus on military issues because of the nature of his district, Pickett often partnered with other House members regardless of party to protect local interests, said Evans-Cox.

Added former Pickett intern Walter Valencia: "He didn't mind crossing party lines if it benefited the district and the state. . . . He just took care of his people."

Pickett retired in 2001, in part because he'd become disenchanted with the growing rancor on Capitol Hill, Evans-Cox said, noting that Pickett mused about a Congress that had evolved from a place where "people did things the right way" to one where officials worked "against each other for partisan purposes, not a common goal."

Pickett was more pithy when he announced in 1999 that he would not seek reelection.

"When Washington, D.C., begins to look better in your rear view mirror than it does in your windshield, you know it is time to consider making a change," he said, according to an account in The Virginian-Pilot.

Stepping away from Washington didn't entirely keep Pickett out of politics.

He mentored candidates who sought his guidance, including former state Finance Secretary Jody Wagner, who unsuccessfully sought to succeed him, and more recently, 2009 Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe.

Another post-retirement pastime was a weekly Saturday lunch with friends at Black Angus Restaurant in the Beach that featured lively discussions about everything except politics, said eatery co-owner Michael Savvides.

When the group met a few weeks ago, Savvides said, Pickett confided that "he had a wonderful life and he didn't mind if he died, believe it or not. It's ironic, but he did say that. . . . I guess he was ready. I guess he had enough."

Mr. NYE. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth of Virginia lost a dedicated public servant. I had the honor and privilege of serving with Owen both in the Virginia House of Delegates as well as Congress, and I join my colleague Mr. MORAN, in stating that Owen Pickett was a true statesman and effective legislator who enjoyed great respect on both sides of the aisle.

As has already been pointed out, although he retired almost a decade ago, he remained an important, active voice on issues affecting Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I thank my colleague from Virginia and all of my colleagues from Virginia for the great respect and admiration that they have shown to Owen Pickett.

Mr. NYE. I yield to our distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to join particularly with my friend FRANK WOLF, who is my good friend. We work very closely together.

Owen Pickett was the kind of Member that brought real respect to this institution. He worked on both sides of the aisle. He worked very strongly on behalf of our national security. He was a Member who was popular on both sides of the aisle. Owen Pickett and Norm Sisisky served together on this side of the aisle with Frank and me for many years.

Owen Pickett was someone who this institution could have justifiable pride in. We could look to him and say that is the kind of Member, frankly, that we all ought to be, showing respect for one another, working with one another on behalf of the American people and their security.

I rise to extend great sympathy to his family, but much more importantly than that, to give thanks on behalf of this institution and on behalf of our country for his extraordinary service.

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the House now observe a moment of silence to remember Congressman Owen Pickett, a former Member who will be dearly missed in southeast Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will all Members please rise.

SERGEANT ROBERT BARRETT POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5758) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2 Government Center in Fall River, Massachusetts, as the "Sergeant Robert Barrett Post Office Building," on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 574]

YEAS—417

Ackerman	Conyers	Herseth Sandlin
Aderholt	Cooper	Higgins
Adler (NJ)	Costa	Hill
Akin	Costello	Himes
Alexander	Courtney	Hinchee
Altmire	Crenshaw	Hinojosa
Andrews	Critz	Hirono
Arcuri	Crowley	Hodes
Austria	Cuellar	Hoekstra
Baca	Culberson	Holden
Bachmann	Cummings	Holt
Bachus	Dahlkemper	Honda
Baird	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Baldwin	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Barrett (SC)	Davis (KY)	Inglis
Barrow	Davis (TN)	Inslee
Bartlett	DeFazio	Israel
Barton (TX)	DeGette	Issa
Bean	DeLaunt	Jackson (IL)
Becerra	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Berkley	Dent	(TX)
Berman	Deutch	Jenkins
Berry	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (GA)
Biggert	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (IL)
Billray	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Bilirakis	Dingell	Johnson, Sam
Bishop (GA)	Djou	Jones
Bishop (NY)	Doggett	Jordan (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Donnelly (IN)	Kagen
Blackburn	Doyle	Kanjorski
Blumenauer	Dreier	Kaptur
Boccieri	Driebeaus	Kildee
Boehner	Duncan	Kilpatrick (MI)
Bonner	Edwards (MD)	Kilroy
Bono Mack	Edwards (TX)	Kind
Boren	Ehlers	King (IA)
Boswell	Ellison	King (NY)
Boucher	Ellsworth	Kingston
Boustany	Emerson	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Boyd	Engel	Kissell
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Kline (MN)
Brady (TX)	Etheridge	Kosmas
Braley (IA)	Farr	Kratovil
Bright	Fattah	Kucinich
Broun (GA)	Filner	Lamborn
Brown (SC)	Flake	Lance
Brown, Corrine	Fleming	Langevin
Brown-Waite,	Forbes	Larsen (WA)
Ginny	Fortenberry	Larsen (CT)
Buchanan	Foster	Latham
Burgess	Fox	LaTourrette
Burton (IN)	Frank (MA)	Latta
Butterfield	Franks (AZ)	Lee (CA)
Buyer	Frelinghuysen	Lee (NY)
Calvert	Fudge	Levin
Camp	Garamendi	Lewis (CA)
Campbell	Garrett (NJ)	Lewis (GA)
Cantor	Gerlach	Linder
Cao	Giffords	Lipinski
Capito	Gingrey (GA)	LoBiondo
Capps	Gohmert	Loebsack
Capuano	Gonzalez	Lofgren, Zoe
Cardoza	Goodlatte	Lowe
Carnahan	Granger	Lucas
Carney	Graves (GA)	Luetkemeyer
Carson (IN)	Graves (MO)	Lujan
Carter	Grayson	Lummis
Cassidy	Green, Al	Lungren, Daniel
Castle	Green, Gene	E.
Castor (FL)	Griffith	Lynch
Chaffetz	Grijalva	Mack
Chandler	Guthrie	Maffei
Childers	Gutierrez	Maloney
Chu	Hall (NY)	Manzullo
Clarke	Hall (TX)	Marchant
Clay	Hare	Markey (CO)
Cleaver	Harman	Markey (MA)
Clyburn	Harper	Marshall
Coble	Hastings (FL)	Matheson
Coffman (CO)	Hastings (WA)	Matsui
Cohen	Heinrich	McCarthy (CA)
Cole	Heller	McCarthy (NY)
Conaway	Hensarling	McCaul
Connolly (VA)	Herger	McClintock

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 3, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 575]

YEAS—417

Ackerman	Cooper	Hill
Aderholt	Costa	Himes
Adler (NJ)	Costello	Hinchee
Akin	Courtney	Hinojosa
Alexander	Crenshaw	Hirono
Altmire	Critz	Hodes
Andrews	Crowley	Hoekstra
Arcuri	Cuellar	Holden
Austria	Culberson	Holt
Baca	Cummings	Honda
Bachmann	Dahlkemper	Hoyer
Bachus	Davis (CA)	Hunter
Baird	Davis (IL)	Inglis
Baldwin	Davis (KY)	Inslee
Barrett (SC)	Davis (TN)	Israel
Barrow	DeGette	Issa
Bartlett	DeLaunt	Jackson (IL)
Barton (TX)	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Bean	Dent	(TX)
Becerra	Deutch	Jenkins
Berkley	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (GA)
Berman	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (IL)
Berry	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Biggert	Dingell	Johnson, Sam
Billray	Djou	Jones
Bilirakis	Doggett	Jordan (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Donnelly (IN)	Kagen
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Kanjorski
Bishop (UT)	Dreier	Kaptur
Blackburn	Driebeaus	Kildee
Blumenauer	Duncan	Kilpatrick (MI)
Boccieri	Edwards (MD)	Kilroy
Boehner	Edwards (TX)	Kind
Bonner	Ehlers	King (IA)
Bono Mack	Ellison	King (NY)
Boren	Ellsworth	Kingston
Boswell	Emerson	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Boucher	Engel	Kissell
Boustany	Eshoo	Kline (MN)
Boyd	Etheridge	Kosmas
Brady (PA)	Farr	Kratovil
Brady (TX)	Fattah	Kucinich
Braley (IA)	Filner	Lamborn
Bright	Flake	Lance
Broun (GA)	Fleming	Langevin
Brown (SC)	Forbes	Larsen (WA)
Brown, Corrine	Fortenberry	Larsen (CT)
Brown-Waite,	Foster	Latham
Ginny	Fox	LaTourrette
Buchanan	Frank (MA)	Latta
Burgess	Franks (AZ)	Lee (CA)
Burton (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Lee (NY)
Butterfield	Fudge	Levin
Buyer	Garamendi	Lewis (CA)
Calvert	Garrett (NJ)	Lewis (GA)
Camp	Gerlach	Linder
Campbell	Giffords	Lipinski
Cantor	Gingrey (GA)	LoBiondo
Cao	Gohmert	Loebsack
Capito	Gonzalez	Lofgren, Zoe
Capps	Goodlatte	Lowe
Capuano	Granger	Lucas
Cardoza	Graves (GA)	Luetkemeyer
Carnahan	Graves (MO)	Lujan
Carney	Grayson	Lummis
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Lungren, Daniel
Carter	Green, Gene	E.
Cassidy	Griffith	Lynch
Castle	Grijalva	Mack
Castor (FL)	Guthrie	Maffei
Chandler	Gutierrez	Maloney
Childers	Hall (NY)	Manzullo
Chu	Hall (TX)	Marchant
Clarke	Hare	Markey (CO)
Clay	Harman	Markey (MA)
Cleaver	Harper	Marshall
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Matheson
Coble	Hastings (WA)	Matsui
Coffman (CO)	Heinrich	McCarthy (CA)
Cohen	Heller	McCarthy (NY)
Cole	Hensarling	McCaul
Conaway	Herger	McClintock
Connolly (VA)	Herseth Sandlin	McCollum
Conyers	Higgins	McCotter

NOT VOTING—16

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1738

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING COACH JOE PATERNO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1715) congratulating Joe Paterno on his 400th win as Penn State Nittany Lions football head coach, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.