

For the past 37 years, she has brought Atlanta the news, from her coverage of the 1996 Olympics, to her famous "Monica Kaufman's Closeups" of world leaders and celebrities," to her award-winning work on issues such as the Holocaust and domestic abuse.

As the first woman and African American news anchor in Atlanta, Ms. Kaufman broke both race and gender barriers. She has won more than 30 Southern and local Southern Regional Emmy Awards for talent, reporting, and close-up interviews. Ms. Kaufman has already been named University of Georgia's Broadcaster of the Year in 2001 and the Georgia's Association of Broadcaster of the Year in 2001 and the Georgia Association of Broadcasters 1992 Citizens Broadcaster.

Madam Speaker, I will always remember, however, one evening in July 2002—it was actually November of 2002—when I was first running for Congress. That election night was a very, very close race. It went deep in the night; and finally, at about 11 o'clock, it was news time at WSB. Sure enough, I had to go downstairs and get ready to be interviewed by Monica Kaufman in regard to my race for Congress.

At this point, we were behind. All counties except one had reported, and I was behind. Monica was very sweet and kind to me. She could tell that I was a little nervous and worried and scared. She said, Have you picked up your phone yet to congratulate your opponent on your victory? I said, Monica, I won't do that until the last vote is counted. Shortly after that, I got a phone call telling me congratulations. Finally, those precincts came in, and Dr. GINGREY, from the 11th District in Georgia, was elected.

I always remember Monica Kaufman from that night. I ask Members to recognize the accomplishments of the great Monica Kaufman.

#### MONICA KAUFMAN PEARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I am honored to join my colleagues in the Georgia delegation in paying tribute to one of our Nation's most tenured and pre-eminent broadcast television news anchors, Monica Kaufman.

For more than 30 years she served as the Channel 2 "Action News Nightbeat" anchor at WSB-TV in Atlanta where she used her superior media talents to educate, inform, and enlighten millions of viewers about current events that impacted our lives and influenced activities all around the world. Prior to becoming one of Atlanta's most watched and influential television journalists, Monica worked as a reporter at the Louisville Times and at WHAS-TV in Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, Monica is an award-winning journalist who has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding professional abilities and

remarkable occupational achievements. However, she is much more than just an accomplished journalist. She is a loving wife, mother, mentor, friend, and role model to me.

I would like to extend our personal congratulations to Monica Pearson and her family as they celebrate and reflect upon her outstanding career as one of our Nation's leading broadcast journalists and admired media personalities. Kentucky may have named her, but Georgia claimed her, and we are all better because she came our way.

Congratulations to you, Monica Kaufman Pearson.

#### CAPTAIN NICK WHITLOCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this morning with great sadness and also with great honor to honor the service of one of Georgia's own, Captain Nick Whitlock. On February 18, 2012, at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa, he gave the ultimate sacrifice while returning from a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captain Whitlock was born to the proud parents of Jimmy and Clare Whitlock on December 10, 1982. Even at a young age, Nick showed his maturity and that he was full of integrity. In one of his high school assignments, Nick was asked to define a leader. He wrote:

A leader is a person that is in charge of a group, someone that everyone looks up to and wants to be like. A leader is also someone that is willing to complete their goals and give 100 percent no matter what. A leader is willing to stand up for what he believes in even if he is alone. I want to be a leader because I think that is what God has called me to be.

For the young people that might be watching, we're always looking for a hero, and I think that Nick decided in his life that he would be a hero.

Nick lived by his own words, and to say he was a leader was an understatement. He understood that success is achieved through hard work, faith, and dedication, and he lived every day as an opportunity to improve himself and the lives of others.

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Nick graduated from Newnan High School in 2001 as an honor graduate and was recognized for his outstanding achievements in both football and baseball. Nick achieved his Eagle Scout rank and strove to use the skills he learned to influence every aspect of his life.

He attended Mercer University, and he caught for the Mercer Bears baseball team. Most notable of Nick's many campus activities were his leadership roles as Mercer ambassador; president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon; and senator-at-large for the student government association. In 2005, Nick

graduated with a bachelor of business administration degree; and in 2011, he went on to earn his master's degree in business administration from the University of Florida.

While studying at Mercer, Nick earned his private pilot's license and was accepted into the United States Air Force in 2006. Nick trained with the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program. In 2008, he received his wings and was assigned to the Air Force Special Operations. He became a member of the 34th Special Operations Squadron, which we have all heard about in the paper and on the news, and was promoted to captain in November of 2010, where he was assigned to the U-28A aircraft.

November proved to be one to celebrate, as Nick married the love of his life, Ashley, the same month as his promotion. Nick spread the happiness he found in both his marriage and life through his involvement with organizations such as Alaska's Healing Hearts, a nonprofit organization enabling disabled military veterans to participate in outdoor activities.

Nick was serving on his fifth deployment in Djibouti, Africa, when an accident occurred while his aircraft was returning from a mission, taking not only his life but three of his fellow comrades. Nick was laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery in his hometown of Newnan, Georgia, following a heartfelt ceremony at First Baptist Church.

Friends of Nick's say he made them proud to be an American and to want to become a better man of God and a better father, better husband, a better son. His wife, Ashley, described Nick as loving, thoughtful, honest, considerate, and generous. He was a true gentleman and a steadfast man of God. They both prayed for God to shape their lives for His purpose so that their blessings would not stop with them but extend to everyone they met.

His parents' love and pride for Nick's unwavering faith, integrity, and intelligence is never ending. They talk often of how, although he was never the smartest, biggest, or fastest, he used every ounce of what he was given to his highest potential. He was physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. In the eyes of his wife, family, and friends, there was no finer man or leader than Nick Whitlock.

I am both honored and proud that a soldier from my district served with such courage and conviction. Nick embodied all the qualities of an ideal husband, son, brother, and friend. He was an extraordinary captain, and America has truly lost one of its finest. I am proud to stand here and thank him for sacrificing his life so that my family and I, and everyone else across this great Nation, can live free.

Joan and I extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Nick Whitlock's, and we will never forget the service and sacrifice that he made for our great country.

Nick, we miss you. And until we meet again in the presence of our Lord, I want to use a nice Southern saying: Nick, you done good. Thank you, sir.

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. This is a photograph from 1956, before we had a national transportation policy in the United States of America; and if the Republicans are successful with their budget and with their vision, this will be the future for the United States of America.

There are a substantial number of Republicans on that side who have drunk the Kool Aid of a guy named Grover Norquist, who says that he wants government so small, he can strangle it in the bathtub, and that we should devolve—devolve—this is interesting—not evolve—devolve transportation to the States. That's right. Our national transportation policy will be set by the 50 different States.

Well, this is 1956, before we had a national transportation policy. This is the brand spanning new Kansas Turnpike. Isn't that beautiful. Well, look where it ends—in a farmer's field in Oklahoma because Oklahoma chose not to build its section, which they had promised to build. That's the way things used to be, and that's the way they want things to be again.

We're now on the precipice of basically walking away from investing in our Nation's infrastructure. There are 150,000 bridges that need replacement or repair in the national system; 40 percent of the pavement needs total replacement, not just an overlay. We have a \$70 billion backlog in our 19th- and 20th-century transportation systems in our major urban areas, in our transit. And that's not even talking about building an efficient 21st-century transportation system to deliver people and goods more efficiently.

And what's their proposal? A 31 percent cut in an already inadequate budget or maybe no money at all. Actually, it's a bit odd. Mr. RYAN's budget, according to the Congressional Budget Office, would not be enough to fund the uncontrollable outlays, i.e., projects already under way by the States for which the Federal Government has contracted to reimburse at the end of the construction of these projects. His budget wouldn't even meet that number. And in terms of authorizing the bill, they decided for the first time in history to make this a partisan issue.

Dwight David Eisenhower, a Republican President, he came up with the idea of a national transportation network. Ronald Reagan put transit into the highway trust fund. They want to take out Ronald Reagan's step of putting transit in the highway trust fund as an interim step before they do away

with the program altogether. That's pretty extraordinary stuff. Their vision is that we will go back to this state of affairs in America. We cannot afford that.

Next week or the week after, the temporary highway funding expires. The Senate has passed a bipartisan bill by an overwhelming majority. The Republican leadership has threatened that their right-wing devolutionists will do away with Federal transportation by saying, We might make you vote on that Senate bill. That passes for a threat in the Republican Caucus. We might make you vote on a good bill that would continue the current system with some improvements for a couple of years—that's what passes for a threat—unless you vote for our crazy H.R. 7, which does away with transit funding and basically dismantles the program over a longer term, or the Ryan budget, which would immediately end the program next year.

But they won't let us vote on that because they know that a bunch of Democrats—just like in the Senate, where Democrats and Republicans came together with an overwhelming majority and passed a transportation bill, they know that would happen here. So they got 80 or so ultraright-wingers who wouldn't vote for it. Big deal. I could match that with 150 Democrats, and we could have a bipartisan bill next week, putting millions of Americans back to work, rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure in this country. But instead, they want to devolve us back to the future.

Smaller government. Smaller government. Yes, that's great, guys. A transportation policy for the United States of America, competing in a world economy, set by the 50 States without funding. What a great vision.

#### WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on March 21, a very special day, to celebrate the many contributions of those with Down syndrome, also known as trisomy 21. Today, March 21, has been officially designated by the United Nations as World Down Syndrome Day. The date is significant in and of itself because the origins of Down syndrome and the underlying cause is a duplicate 21st chromosome. We are all born with 23 pairs, an X and a Y. Those with Down syndrome have an extra 21st—therefore, three and 21. And today is March 21. The reason it's called Down syndrome is because these characteristics were discovered by a doctor by the name of Dr. Langdon Down. He had a wonderful heart, a caring heart, for those with disabilities; and, therefore, we call it Down syndrome today.

Five years ago, my husband, Brian, and I gave birth to a beautiful little

baby boy whose name is Cole, and he was born with that extra 21st chromosome. Cole has given me a whole new perspective for being a mother and also for being a Member of Congress. Cole's birth has given me a whole new purpose for serving in Congress, and he reminds me every day of the significance, the tremendous positive impact that every single person has on this world. And the fact that he has Down syndrome today only makes me more curious as to the impact he's going to have both on our lives and this world. He is an inspiration, and he makes me a better person.

Through Cole, I've been introduced and welcomed by the disabilities community, a wonderful group of people in America who every day also celebrate the tremendous impact and the potential of every life in this world.

□ 1040

I find myself grateful to so many who have walked this path before me and have improved the opportunities that Cole, as well as anyone with disabilities, is going to have. Today, there's greater opportunities through early intervention, education, advanced education, and lots of opportunities for independent living. However, there's so much more that needs to be done, and so today is my turn to help carry the baton to help work to unleash the potential of all those living with disabilities.

I'm proud to cochair the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus with Representative PETE SESSIONS, Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. We are committed to working on policies that are going to enhance the quality of life for those living with Down syndrome and other disabilities. It's within the walls of Congress that we will do just that. We're working to pass legislation, hold briefings, and promote policies that will help those with Down syndrome all across the country.

So today is World Down Syndrome Day. A few minutes from now at the United Nations headquarters there's going to be a poem read. It's called, "Welcome to Holland." The author is Emily Perl Kingsley. I thought I wanted to read it to all of you today.

#### WELCOME TO HOLLAND

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with disability—to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this:

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip—to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans: the Coliseum, the Michelangelo David, the gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess