

outstanding contributions to her sorority, her community, and our nation. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN HONOR OF ALICIA B. HARVEY-SMITH, PH.D. ON THE HONOR OF HER INAUGURATION AND INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT OF RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the inauguration and installation of Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith as the 10th President of River Valley Community College in Claremont, New Hampshire. River Valley Community College has long been a paradigm of quality education in New Hampshire, and this event signifies the first inauguration in the history of the institution.

Dr. Harvey-Smith has long served as a leader in the academic community with more than a quarter century of experience and training in education. After her years serving as a dean and Vice President of Student Affairs at Baltimore City Community College, Dr. Harvey-Smith has proven her dedication to education and the creation of a world-class learning environment.

Founded in 1968, River Valley Community College has served as a provider for quality education in the state of New Hampshire. With an intensive environment which allows for individualized attention and flexible class schedules that accommodate the lives of busy students, River Valley Community College has proven its commitment to the improvement and expansion of minds.

Over the past decades, River Valley Community College has expanded to provide thirty-five career-oriented programs that provide students with highly specialized skills and knowledge crucial to achievement in the job market in a variety of business, technical, and health-oriented fields. With a sincere dedication to the development of educational programs such as these, River Valley Community College has improved the lives of countless students across the Granite State.

With this ethic in mind, Dr. Alicia Harvey-Smith is an ideal choice for the President of River Valley Community College. Under the dedicated leadership of Dr. Harvey-Smith, I am confident that River Valley Community College will continue to grow and serve the public. She is truly a role model to all of us, and an asset to the State of New Hampshire.

It remains an honor to represent River Valley Community College in Congress. I wish Dr. Harvey-Smith the very best and congratulate her on this proud occasion.

HONORING BARBARA KENDRICK,
FNP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Ms. Barbara Kendrick. Barbara has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Kendrick was born in Chicago, Illinois, the youngest of nine children. She moved to Carthage, MS at five months old to live with her aunt and uncle upon the death of her mother.

Barbara earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1993 from Mississippi College and her Master of Science in Nursing in 2004 from Alcorn State University. She is certified through the American Accredited Nurses Association.

Barbara has practiced nursing for about 20 years; she has worked as a Family Nurse Practitioner for 10 years and has worked at the G. V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center for 7 years. She has served about 933 veterans at the VA Medical Center. Barbara has a great appreciation for veterans because she was raised by her uncle who was a Korean Veteran.

Barbara is an active member of the American Nurses Association and volunteer with the American Kidney Foundation by conducting screenings. She also assists with outreach for Veteran enrollment. She is a member of Faith for Life Church located in Jackson, MS. Barbara enjoys singing gospel in her spare time.

Barbara lives in Clinton, MS along with her three sons. She strives every day to have a positive impact on her patients while remembering her motto, "If I can't help you, I'll find someone who can."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Barbara Kendrick for her passion and dedication to serving our great Country and a desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

LINGLESTOWN FIRE COMPANY
80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Linglestown Fire Company as they celebrate their 80th anniversary.

The Linglestown Fire Company was officially founded in 1934 after a local barn caught fire during the month of February. However, attempts to create a fire company for the area date back to the mid 1700s, at which time Linglestown was established as the third oldest community in Dauphin County. While the company began with simple technology and resources, it has continued to undergo many changes in an effort to better improve service for the people of Linglestown and the sur-

rounding areas. The Linglestown Fire Company is currently staffed by 52 active firefighters, as well as dozens of wildland firefighters, emergency medical technicians, fire police, and other members who provide support. These brave men and women repeatedly put their lives on the line to keep the people of Linglestown safe.

Mr. Speaker, on the 80th anniversary of its founding, I thank all of the members of the Linglestown Fire Company, past and present, for their continued efforts to protect the citizens of Linglestown and Dauphin County, and wish the organization many more years of successful service.

CELEBRATING MR. MERL DEAN
SWIHART 86TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mr. Merl Dean Swihart as he celebrates his 86th birthday. Merl is an extraordinary individual who has enriched the lives of many Hoosiers throughout Marshall County.

Merl was born in Argos, Indiana on July 7, 1928, to Ford and Faye Swihart, where along with his five siblings; spent their childhood working on the family's 80 acre farm. On the farm he helped raise livestock and tended to the crops. The values Merl learned while working on the family farm would have a profound impact on his future endeavors. Merl graduated from Argos High School in 1948. After high school Merl worked for two years at Indiana Metal and on his neighbor's farm. In 1951, Merl was called to serve his country and was drafted to the United States Marine Corps, where he served in Santa Ana, California at the Air Facility. In 1953, Merl was honorably discharged and returned to working for Indiana Metal and farming. Merl moved to Chicago where he used his G.I. Bill to further his education in agriculture at the Illinois School of Technology.

After several years in Illinois, Merl returned to Marshall County where he worked as a custodian and maintenance technician for Plymouth Community School Corporation for 36 years. Merl retired in 1993, and was awarded the key to the City of Plymouth for his dedicated service to the community. During his retirement Merl served as the Grand Marshall of Plymouth's Blueberry Festival Parade and generously donated his time and efforts to the community by mowing lawns, shoveling snow and volunteering to do handy work at the local church.

Throughout Merl's life, he has demonstrated a deep-rooted commitment to his family, friends and country. Our community owes a great deal of respect and gratitude to the incredible service of individuals like Merl who have devoted so much of their time to serve others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebration of Mr. Merl Dean Swihart's 86th birthday and admirable service to our great communities and nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT "BOB" W. GATES, USAF RET.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on August 9, 2014, Northwest Florida and our Nation lost a warrior—Colonel Robert "Bob" W. Gates, USAF Retired. Colonel Gates, a devoted family man and decorated veteran, honorably served as a member of the Armed Forces for over thirty years. He was a member of the Greatest Generation and served in three wars. I am humbled to rise and pay tribute to his life, his unwavering commitment to service, and his dedication to our Nation's heroes and their loved ones.

Born in Bradley, South Dakota on January 23, 1919, Colonel Gates joined the Army Air Corps, prior to World War II, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force in April 1942. His various tours of duty included commander of the 88th Troop Carrier Squadron, a C-47 squadron that dropped paratroopers over Normandy on D-Day; commander of the 4087th Air Transport Group, tasked with providing air supply for the Distant Early Warning Line across the Arctic; and commander of the Huron Task Force, which established the Huron radar sites on the Greenland Ice Cap. Following his command of the 6200th Material Wing at Clark AFB in the Philippines, Colonel Gates became the first commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, located in the Florida Panhandle and home to the Air Force Special Operations Command, before serving as the Inspector General for the 13th Air Force.

During his distinguished career spanning three decades, Colonel Gates served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War and logged over 16,000 flight hours in several aircraft, including his assignment to fly entertainer Bob Hope and crew on a USO tour around the world. Colonel Gates received a Presidential Citation from President Franklin Roosevelt and was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation medal, the French Croix-de-Guerre, and the USO Spirit of Hope Award for his lifetime contributions to the USO. Under his leadership, the 1st Special Operations Wing was bestowed the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and Hurlburt Field was named the Most Improved Base in the Tactical Air Command.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1972, Colonel Gates began a career in real estate and was integral in the construction of the Bob Hope Village, which provides home and care for Air Force widows. From 1978 to 1983, Colonel Gates served as mayor of Fort Walton Beach. He was a founder and charter member of The American Air Museum in Britain and the Air Armament Museum at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and was a member of various community and veterans organizations, including the Elks, Daedalians, Krewe of Bowlegs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Air Commando Association, which inducted Colonel Gates into its Hall of Fame.

To many, Colonel Gates will be remembered for his devotion to his country and com-

munity, and to his family and friends, a loving family man with a great sense of humor. Without question, Colonel Gates lived a life full of service and has earned our Nation's highest respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a privilege for me to honor Colonel Robert W. Gates' lifetime of service. My wife Vicki and I extend our prayers and sincere condolences to his children—Robert, Bill, Michael, Kimberly, and Kathleen; ten grandchildren—Paula, Robert W. Gates III, Steve, Matthew, Sarah, Mary Kathryn, Peyton, Austin, Trevor, and Kendall; ten great-grandchildren; his loyal companion, Lucky, his rescued dog; and the entire Gates family.

THANKING MY STAFF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor and privilege to serve in this body for 34 years. I have come to the floor countless times over the years to speak out and help give a voice to the voiceless for humanitarian causes, to raise national and international policy issues, such as getting our nation's spending under control, bringing attention to national security threats, like terrorism and cyberattacks, and focusing on ways to protect children and families from the scourge of legalized gambling. I also have raised issues important to the people of the 10th District of Virginia, such as improving transportation, preserving historic sites and educating the public about health threats from Lyme disease.

Today, though, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the dozens of men and women who have been on my staff over the years. As every Member knows, our jobs in the people's House would be next to impossible without the staff that works with us. I certainly would not have been able to accomplish so many of the projects and public policy initiatives I have been able to do without them by my side.

And in all honesty, if it were not for some loyal and dedicated staffers who stuck with me during my first term—when the growing pains of a new congressional office are the toughest—I am not sure I would have been re-elected early in my career.

I want to single out my first press secretary, Stephanie Bolick, who later became my chief of staff, or as we called it back then, my "AA" or administrative assistant. She may have been among the first women in a Hill office in the early 1980s to break that glass ceiling. I was blessed to find Stephanie, who helped me focus my work and build a foundation of public service. She was wise beyond her years and I am forever grateful to her for her counsel and for being there from the start.

I have been fortunate to have two long-tenured chiefs of staff. Charlie White was my top aide for 14 years, until cancer took his life in the summer of 2000. A retired Navy captain and submariner, Charlie had a heart of service and not only helped manage my office, but became a dear friend. A humble man, he had a way of putting everyone around him at ease. Even in the pain of illness, he inspired us by his grace. Charlie was a "Johnny Appleseed" kind of a guy. He was a mentor to young staff-

ers and sowed seeds of goodness and kindness to scatter to all those we meet in our lives.

I believe it was providential when Dan Scandling followed Charlie as my chief of staff. Dan had been the top aide to my Virginia colleague Herb Bateman, who died suddenly just four months before he was to retire from the House. Dan was just the right person at the right time. A trusted and loyal adviser and friend, he has been with me since late 2000.

When I would tell Dan that we needed to jump on a plane and get to a place in the world where people were suffering or war was imminent, he made it happen. He was there with me to document the trip in photos and write the report that I would share with House colleagues, leadership and the administration to help get the ball rolling to focus attention on a humanitarian cause. A superb journalist, Dan also has served as my press spokesman. He is indefatigable and a true professional and I cannot thank him enough for his counsel and public service.

I was a former staffer, both on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. I know the daily grind—writing mail, stuffing envelopes, and answering phone calls from disgruntled constituents. Staffers are consumed by long hours with modest pay. Yet I also know how rewarding this job can be. So many of my staff over the years have told me that being in a position to help make people's lives better was really what counted the most.

I always said I wanted a staff that was on par with the late Senator Ted Kennedy's top-notch staff. There is no doubt in my mind that my staff was. I have no hesitation in saying I have had the best staff on Capitol Hill.

I have tried to treat my staff as family, whether they worked for me for only a year before heading off to law school or graduate school, or stayed with me for many years. I actually had two staffers who worked for me for more than 25 years. Judy McCary and Janet Shaffron served as the backbone of my office.

Judy was my longtime District director and worked more cases, particularly immigration cases, than you can count. Through the years I could rarely go anywhere in my District without someone thanking me for something Judy or someone else on my District staff did to solve a problem.

Judy, and all my District staff, were tireless—and continue to be tireless—advocates for the people of the 10th District, regardless of political strife. When you called my District staff with a problem, it didn't matter if you were a Democrat, an Independent or a Republican. You were a constituent and they were there to help.

Janet Shaffron was my legislative director for 28 years. She had an encyclopedic knowledge of every issue and every vote and was responsible for compiling my complete annual voting record, which I published for constituents. She was a whiz at parliamentary procedure and an extremely gifted writer and editor. Nothing rattled Janet. I don't think she ever had a bad day—even when she wore two hats and filled in as chief of staff, helping hold the staff together when Charlie became ill. My Washington staff adored Janet. She always was willing to help with a letter or speech. She was a mentor and always knew when to give a young staffer an encouraging word. And she