

Shortly after joining the RC-26 program, its mission expanded to include missions outside the United States to locations such as Colombia, South America, various locations within Iraq and Afghanistan, and more recently to Lima, Peru. Lieutenant Colonel Kem courageously deployed ten times with the RC-26 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom. Five of those deployments were to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem has dedicated 26 years of service to the United States of America. Lieutenant Colonel Kem earned his pilot wings at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, and throughout his career he has earned the rating of Command Pilot, while logging 7,600 military flight hours, 1,115 combat hours, and 277 combat sorties. Lieutenant Colonel Kem worked his way through the ranks to earn the title of Lieutenant Colonel in September 2007. His effective dates of promotion are: Second Lieutenant—May 1989; First Lieutenant—May 1991; Captain—May 1993; Major—September 2000; Lieutenant Colonel—September 2007.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem's major military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal with ten devices, Aerial Achievement Medal with two devices, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two devices, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with ten devices, Combat Readiness Medal with two devices, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one device, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two devices, Iraq Campaign Medal with two devices, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Kem on his retirement and to thank him for his selfless service to our country.

CONGRATULATING COACH JOHN CALIPARI, NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate John Calipari, Head Basketball Coach of the University of Kentucky Wildcats, on his induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Over his career as a basketball coach, Calipari has received many well deserved awards and the Hall of Fame recognizes the years of successful accomplishments.

In twenty two years as a head coach in college basketball, Coach Cal has an overall record of 593–174 (.773). He has led three schools to the Final Four; UMass, Memphis, and Kentucky. At the University of Kentucky, his teams have reached the Final Four in four out of the last five years. As all Kentuckians know, the 2012 Kentucky team won the national championship. He has twenty official twenty win seasons and eight official thirty win seasons as a college head coach.

In addition to his amazing won-loss record and his successful teams, Coach Cal can be

very proud of the positive affect he has had on the lives of many young men. Numerous former players are now successful stars in the next step of their careers, the NBA. Coach Cal continues to follow their careers after they go to the NBA and takes time to show continued interest in their lives.

Coach Calipari can also be proud of the positive contributions he has made to the communities where he has coached through philanthropic efforts. Not only does he give generously to the community in many ways, he teaches his players to do the same. Young men on his teams are known for spending time with those who are less fortunate, especially children. He teaches players to be positive role models and good citizens.

For all the accomplishments of his college basketball coaching career, Coach John Calipari has been honored with membership in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. As a proud alumnus of the University of Kentucky and lifelong Wildcat fan, I am happy to be able to congratulate him before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF EBBY HALLIDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a proud Dallasite and a true American. Ebby Halliday, known in North Texas as the “Queen of Real Estate,” passed in Dallas on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. The 70-year-old company that she founded, Ebby Halliday Real Estate, has nearly 1800 real estate agents and in 2014 amassed sales of \$6.6 billion. The impact of her company was only outweighed by the impact of her character.

The life and work of Ebby Halliday is a part of the social and economic fabric of Dallas. Mrs. Halliday approached philanthropy with the same way she approached real estate. Always graceful, she explained her work ethic by saying: “I work like a dog and act like a lady.” Her intensity and charm only intensified with age.

Praise for Mrs. Halliday rings far and wide in Dallas, from the state capitol to her many employees. Twenty-three years ago, she placed 49 percent of the company that she had built into a stock portfolio for her employees. She believed that they should be rewarded for their work.

She changed the scope and nature of the real estate industry in Texas, by including, recruiting, and mentoring talented women to lead the industry. Some of the largest real estate firms in North Texas today are owned by women who received their training under the prudent tutelage of Ebby Halliday.

At a celebration for her 100th birthday four years ago, this graceful lady donned a ukulele and sang “Happy Days Are Here Again.” She was as joyous as the youngest person in the room.

Because of Ebby Halliday, Dallas grew not only in size, but in the capacity to love. I want to take this time to remember her, on behalf of her family, the city of Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, Ebby Halliday is an unforgettable public servant and leader. A woman

fueled by passion and concern for others, she was a trailblazer for women throughout the state of Texas. She left a powerful legacy that will live for generations.

RECOGNIZING MR. THOMAS MARTIN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 3, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Thomas Martin, the Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent of Lincoln County Hospital, for his years of service and advocacy to Eastern Washington. A visionary leader, Mr. Martin served for more than twenty-six years as a hospital administrator in Lincoln County. Mr. Martin will be retiring at the end of January and I am pleased to recognize his accomplishments and countless contributions to our great community in Eastern Washington.

Throughout his illustrious career, Tom gained a reputation as a visionary and innovative leader. In Northeastern Washington, his legacy includes numerous programs that were developed and utilized during his tenure, namely Level One Cardiac Care, F.A.S.T Stroke, Remote Presence Physicians using robotics, Telehealth, and other key partnerships with tertiary facilities and services. Due to his tireless work, these programs and initiatives will continue to better the lives of those in Eastern Washington for generations to come.

Furthermore, through the years, Tom received several prestigious healthcare and leadership awards including the American College of Healthcare Executives Regents Award, the Qualis Health Award of Excellence in Healthcare Quality, and the Healthcare Leadership Award from the Washington Rural Health Association and the Becker's National Review. These awards exemplify Mr. Martin's incredible service to our community.

Constantly working to advance the health and well-being of those in the Inland Northwest, Tom continually positioned his hospital and programs for success. Through his efforts, he provided increased access to healthcare throughout our community and continues to remain an important advocate for rural health care and Critical Access Hospitals all across our State. Mr. Martin is a true testament to what an involved and devoted member of a community looks like and continually goes above and beyond to advance healthcare efforts in Northeastern Washington.

I would like to thank Mr. Thomas Martin for his years of dedication to Lincoln County and to the greater Inland Northwest. I applaud his commitment to advocating for rural healthcare access all across our State and for his devotion to bettering the lives of those within Eastern Washington. I wish him the best of luck in the next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DE-SHAUN SWANSON

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart, as I grieve along with the entire City of Indianapolis for the loss of a young man whose life was cut tragically short by senseless gun violence. Today, we remember De-Shaun Swanson, a 10-year-old boy who was taken from this world too soon on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

Although he was only with us for a short time, I am confident that the memories of De-Shaun can provide some solace in the face of this tragedy. De-Shaun was one of six children and a fifth grade student at Stony Brook Elementary. Family and friends have described him as an energetic young man who loved to rap, play football, with his team the Steelers, and joke around.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending prayers to De-Shaun Swanson's parents, Antwuan Lawrence and Shannon Swanson, his siblings, friends, coaches, teammates, teachers, as well as the entire Indianapolis community. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on September 25th. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On roll call 508, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 509, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 510, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 511, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 512, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 513, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 514, I would have voted No.
On roll call 515, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 516, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 517, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 518, I would have voted No.

HONORING JILL JOHNSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jill Johnson upon her retirement from the Napa County Office of Education. Jill has served in this office for 30 years, and she will end her career as Director of General Services this September. Her commitment to our local community is notable and deserving of recognition.

Over the past thirty years, Ms. Johnson has led a remarkable career. She began as an aide, and worked her way up to teacher, and eventually head teacher. Her administrative

background includes time as purchasing agent and purchasing supervisor. She then moved on to become an Admissions Coordinator for Fairs, and currently serves as the Director of General Services for the Napa County Office of Education.

In addition, Ms. Johnson has been awarded several titles and held several offices throughout her professional experience. She served as an Alternate Board Member for the North Bay Schools Insurance Authority. She was part of the California Schools of Business Officials as a Sacramento Section Director, as well as part of the Sacramento Section Research and Professional Development Committee. Jill is a former member of the Sunrise Soroptimist and is currently a Member of the School Nutrition Association and Women of the Moose.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Jill Johnson at this time and thank Jill for her invaluable service and wish her a most enjoyable retirement. Her commitment to serving her community and her level of dedication will not be easily replaced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2015, I missed rollcall vote number 495 and number 496 due to difficulty traveling because of a broken leg. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 495 and 496.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AVOIDANCE ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, although it appears the federal government will narrowly avert a shutdown on October 1, the second shutdown since 2013, I rise today to offer the District of Columbia Government Shutdown Avoidance Act of 2015 to permanently authorize the District to spend its local funds during a federal shutdown and therefore to remain open during a shutdown. Congress has recently exempted D.C. from shutdowns on an annual basis, and this bill simply makes those exemptions permanent.

The District has an \$8 billion local budget, which is comprised entirely of local revenue sources, such as taxes and fees. The District should be free, as every state and city is, to spend its own local funds during a federal shutdown. The shutdowns involve congressional disputes about federal funding, but the federal government does not provide a dollar of D.C.'s local budget. The D.C. government should never have to wonder whether it will be part of a federal shutdown, have to prepare in case of a shutdown, or even have to ask Congress to be exempted annually. No Member of the House or Senate has spoken up in favor

of shutting down the D.C. government, and I do not believe any Member wants to shut down the D.C. government and bring a large, complicated city to its knees over purely federal matters in which the city is not involved.

There is unprecedented bipartisan and bicameral support, as well as support from the Obama administration, for preventing D.C. shutdowns. In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, for the first time ever, Congress exempted D.C. from shutdowns for an entire fiscal year (fiscal years 2015 and 2016, respectively). The pending House and Senate fiscal year 2016 D.C. Appropriations bills each exempt D.C. from shutdowns for fiscal year 2017.

Among the most important reasons for a permanent shutdown exemption would be the significant financial and operational benefits for the District. If the District shuts down, it could default under certain financing agreements and leases. The financial importance of eliminating shutdown threats to the District were definitively shown recently. The three leading bond rating agencies have cited the annual shutdown exemption as a positive credit factor in upgrading or maintaining their ratings on the District's bonds. The city's partners, Wall Street and vendors alike can charge a risk premium for the uncertainty created by shutdown threats. A permanent shutdown exemption would undoubtedly improve D.C.'s creditworthiness even more.

The 650,000 D.C. residents do not suffer alone when vital city services cease during a shutdown. Federal officials, federal buildings, foreign embassies and dignitaries, businesses and tourists rely daily on the city's services as well. Successive continuing resolutions (CRs) do not help much. Not only do successive CRs make it difficult for the city to plan its activities for the year, they increase the city's costs of doing business. Shutdown threats force the District to invest time and money preparing contingency shutdown plans.

Although federal shutdowns have shut down the District in the past, the District did not shut down during the 2013 federal shutdown, only because D.C. was able to use previously appropriated contingency funds to remain open. However, the District had to severely ration its payments, risking its credit standing, and if the federal shutdown had continued for much longer, the District would have exhausted those funds and shut down, too.

It is clear that Congress does not intend such risks and consequences to the District. Congress loses nothing by allowing the District, which submits a balanced budget, almost always with surpluses, each year, to remain open.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. VALERIE JONES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Valerie Camille Jones, Ed.D. an educator at the Ron Clark Academy located in my congressional district. I am proud to share that the President of the United States recently honored Dr. Jones with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and