

program, as well as strengthen their long-term commitment to Scouting and provide them with valuable leadership skills. In order to earn the Wood Badge, the Scout Leader must go through the Wood Badge course, in which the Scout Leader must complete two separate phases: the practical phase and the application phase. During the practical phase, the Scout Leader will spend two weekends at camp with a group of fellow Scout Leaders, learning how to better lead their troop with a hands-on camp experience. Also during the practical phase, the Scout Leader will develop what is called a "Ticket," which is a set of five tasks or goals developed to strengthen and improve their troop. After completing the practical phase and developing their ticket, the Scout Leader will move in to the application phase, in which the Scout Leader will complete their five tasks within eighteen months of finishing the practical phase.

Chris began his Wood Badge journey in October of 2014, and finished his requirements in June of this year. For his ticket, Chris worked with his troop to allow some of the young men to become patrol leaders, which allowed them to take up leadership positions within the troop and provide these members the opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience. In addition, Chris recruited more members to Troop 527 and created a "Scouter of the Year" award, as well as a special summer camp just for his troop. Chris has worked tirelessly to improve the scouting experience for the members of Troop 527, and his efforts have certainly made a difference.

During Chris' Wood Badge ceremony, he received the Wood Badge beads and regalia, as well as a certificate detailing his accomplishments. This is a very special ceremony that I am sure Chris will remember for the rest of his scouting days, and he should be extremely proud of the hard work it took to accomplish this feat. As a former Boy Scout, I am thankful Chris took the time to better himself so that he could better serve the members of Troop 527. I am confident they will be better off as a result of Chris' hard work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking Chris Maples for his service to the young men of Troop 527, and to congratulate him for earning the distinguished Boy Scouts of America's Wood Badge Leader recognition.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN NAVARRETTE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Navarrette as he celebrates 31 years of service to the County of Fresno. Mr. Navarrette will be retiring as the Chief Administrative Officer of Fresno County, a position that he has served in for the last six and a half years of his career. John's extraordinary career and service to the County of Fresno deserves to be honored.

John was born and raised in Mendota, California. He attended Mendota Unified schools including Tranquility High School, and graduated from California State University, Fresno in his early twenties. Throughout his career, John has achieved a multitude of goals while

working in government. He started his career with the County of Fresno in 1985 as an entry level staff analyst. John subsequently went to work in Sacramento for the California State Legislature in 1997, retaining a position in the Speaker's Office. One of his early achievements was obtaining funds for City and County parks, as well as the now infamous bookmobile.

In 1999, Mr. Navarrette got a job in the Lieutenant Governor's office. During his time there, he managed special projects and economic development trade missions to Mexico and Italy. In 2003, returned to his roots in California's Central Valley and went back to work for the County of Fresno, becoming the Director of General Services in 2004.

As previously mentioned, the last six and a half years, John has served as the County Administrative Officer, and led 5,000 Fresno County employees towards solving many of the community's issues. He was able to form a senior team that showed drive and dedication, and his extensive experience in government has allowed him to implement policies in an effective manner.

John's tenacity and willingness to work hard got him where he is today. His leadership skills allowed him to lead Fresno County during one of the most difficult times his community has ever experienced. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. John Navarrette for the contributions he has made to the State of California and County of Fresno. His dedication to our community is inspiring and deserving of recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REMOVE J. EDGAR HOOVER'S NAME FROM THE FBI BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I introduced today to remove J. Edgar Hoover's name from the Federal Bureau of Investigation building in Washington, DC.

J. Edgar Hoover did terrible things when he served as FBI Director.

His infamous "COINTELPRO" program harassed civil rights workers, political activists and homosexuals.

He was downright abusive.

His efforts to silence Martin Luther King, Jr. and out homosexuals working for the federal government were deplorable.

It has been reported that, at one point, he even had a letter sent to Dr. King threatening to expose information about his private life. The letter appeared to suggest that Dr. King should kill himself to save himself from the embarrassment.

The letter said, "King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do (this exact number has been selected or a specific reason, it has practical significant [sic]. You are done. There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation."

His treatment of homosexuals was no better. He called them "sex deviates."

He ordered the FBI to undertake extraordinary efforts to identify everyone who was even suspected of being homosexual in the federal government.

There is a very good documentary about this by Michael Isikoff on Yahoo News entitled "Uniquely Nasty: J. Edgar Hoover's war on gays". I encourage my colleagues to see it.

In 1951, Hoover issued a memo to top FBI officials saying that "Each supervisor will be held personally responsible to underline in green pencil the names of individuals . . . who are alleged to be sex deviates."

The FBI eventually collected more than 360,000 files on gays and lesbians.

It has been reported that in 1952, Hoover outed a young campaign aide who was in line to be hired by President-elect Eisenhower. The young man, Arthur Vandenberg, Jr., was the son of Republican U.S. Senator Arthur Vandenberg. But that didn't matter.

The young Vandenberg was promptly rejected.

And Hoover didn't even stop there. Years later, the FBI went on to out the young man to Confidential magazine, which then outed him publicly—reporting, "Once upon a time there was a famous senator's son who had a limp wrist."

J. Edgar Hoover was a terrible man. Even the FBI's own web site declares that his infamous COINTELPRO program was, "rightly criticized by Congress and the American people for abridging first amendment rights and for other reasons."

Yet, his name continues to adorn the FBI building in Washington, DC—one of the most prominent buildings in our nation's capital.

This is just wrong.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and remove his name from the FBI building.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHIL RATLIFF

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Phil Ratliff who passed away unexpectedly on August 9, 2015, after suffering a cardiac event. We send our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, Jenni, and their two children, Haley and Dylan.

Coach Ratliff dedicated his life to inspiring young student athletes through the game of football. After an impressive collegiate career, twice being named to the nation's All-American team, Coach Ratliff passed along his understanding of the game of football and inspirational outlook on life as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Marshall University, and then at James Madison University.

Coach Ratliff later joined the new football program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, my alma mater, as the program's Offensive Line Coach and Recruiting Coordinator. Under his leadership, the Charlotte 49ers' offense averaged more than 484 yards per game last season. A beloved father, husband, friend, and coach, he will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Coach Phil Ratliff for his service to the student athletes of Marshall University, James Madison University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; in addition to the countless lives he impacted in his community.

RECOGNIZING DONALD ELLIS
WILLIAMSON, M.D.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the long and devoted public service of Donald Ellis Williamson, M.D. After serving more than two decades as Alabama's State Health Officer and three years as the state Medicaid Commissioner, Dr. Williamson is stepping down from these positions next month.

Dr. Williamson attended the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, graduating Cum Laude in 1979. He pursued his internship and residency at the University of Virginia, and was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1982.

With his education complete, Dr. Williamson then began his long career in public health. After serving four years as the State Tuberculosis Control Officer in Mississippi (1982–1986), he held a series of positions in the Alabama Department of Public Health. He began as the Director of the Division of Disease Control (1986–1989) before serving as the Director of the Bureau of Preventive Health Services (1989–1992). On November 18, 1992, he started his service as the head of the Department.

During his tenure, Dr. Williamson became known for addressing key public health issues, such as disaster preparedness and advancing the health of children, in the name of improving health for all Alabamians. For example, in recent years, he led the state health efforts related to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and also those related to the April 2011 tornadoes. He was responsible for the design & implementation of the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as ALLKIDS. This was one of the first Children's Health Insurance Programs in the nation and lowered the rate of uninsured children in Alabama from 20 percent to under 7 percent. He was also intent on doing a better job of reducing infant mortality and increasing children's immunization rates.

I wish Dr. Williamson all the very best as he steps down from the Department of Public Health and moves into his new role as president of the Alabama Hospital Association. I know that he will bring fresh insight to the Association and carry the organization to new heights. I look forward to working with him in this new position.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MASON GREGORY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mason Gregory of Mooreville, Mississippi who joined his Heavenly Father on Monday, October 12, 2015.

Only 12 years old, Mason was a 7th grade student at Mooreville Middle School. He excelled at sports and was a member of the Mooreville Junior High Football team as well as Saltillo Park and Recreation baseball.

Outside of school, Mason was an active member of New Hope Baptist Church where he loved being a part of the youth group.

Mason spent most of his time outdoors, and his favorite activity was hunting with his dad.

Full of happiness and love, Mason was adored by his family, friends, and teammates.

Survivors include his parents, Bert and Angel Gregory of Tupelo; sister, Anna Gregory; grandparents, Mike Seawright (Norma) of Flora and Betty Stembidge (Mike) of Mooreville; his special cousin, Ally Grace Bounds who was like a sister to him.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Anderson and Nudane Gregory.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mason's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING DONNA CARPENTER
FOR RECEIVING THE SOUTHEAST
TOURISM SOCIETY'S BEACON
AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Carpenter, who serves as President and CEO of the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau, for receiving the Southeast Tourism Society's Beacon Award. The Beacon Award recognizes an individual who best exemplifies outstanding leadership in the pursuit of excellence and who has advanced the tourism industry.

Ms. Carpenter joined the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau as President and CEO in 2009, but has been actively involved in the Charlotte area for nearly fifteen years. Ms. Carpenter has been instrumental in the improvement of the Cabarrus County and Charlotte-area tourism industry, working with leaders in the area to improve infrastructure development and create long-lasting relationships between local municipalities. One of Ms. Carpenter's greatest achievements during her time at the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau has been her leadership in ensuring the implementation of the "Destination 2020 Plan," a proposal to develop Cabarrus County as a premier travel destination and outline key components for reaching this goal.

Furthermore, Ms. Carpenter has worked tirelessly to grow the image of Cabarrus County's tourism industry and connect with visitors and residents alike. Under her leadership, the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bu-

reau office, as well as the Visitor's Center, were relocated to better serve the area and act as a central hub for visitor activity. As a result of her efforts to improve the tourism industry in our area, the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau was accredited by the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program by Destination Marketing Association International in 2013.

In addition to her work within the Cabarrus County and Charlotte-area tourism industry, Ms. Carpenter is actively involved in our community. She is a member of several area organizations and serves on multiple boards, including the Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce. As a proud alumnus of the university I am extremely grateful for her involvement on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Advisory Board. Clearly, Ms. Carpenter is an asset to our area, and I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Donna Carpenter for receiving the Southeast Tourism Society's Beacon Award, as well as her dedication to making Charlotte and Cabarrus County a world-class tourism destination.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF DR.
EARL BROOKS, II

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifteen-year tenure of Dr. Earl Brooks, as President of Trine University in Angola, Indiana.

Having once been a student at Trine University, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Brooks for his many years of service to the academic community in Northeast Indiana.

During his fifteen years at Trine, Dr. Brooks has significantly increased enrollment while maintaining a remarkable, above-average career-placement percentage for his students. He transitioned the university from undergraduate to graduate and doctoral degree status and even moved university athletics to the NCAA.

Mr. Speaker, I submit an article from the publication, Business People, highlighting Dr. Brooks' fifteen-year tenure and his many notable accomplishments.

In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Brooks for his distinguished service and wish him well as he continues to lead Trine University.

[From Business People, August 1, 2015]

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

(By Jon Detweiler)

While The American College President Study reports a downtrend nationally in average leadership tenure—from eight and a half years in 2006 to an average of seven years in 2011—Trine University President Dr. Earl D. Brooks II completes 15 years at the helm, with ongoing plans firmly in place for years to come. When Brooks stepped into leadership 15 years ago, he was the youngest college president in the state. Now, he ranks second on the list of longest tenures at Indiana colleges and universities.

Why is Trine celebrating Dr. Brooks' tenure? What has defined his success over the past 15 years? His list of accomplishments is