

Maryland to Salisbury University on the Eastern Shore. Nine of these universities have ranked among the best in their category by the US News and World Report.

Dr. Kirwan began his career in 1964 as a math professor at the University of Maryland—College Park. For the next five decades—fifty one years—he dedicated himself to higher education. I believe part of why Dr. Kirwan was such an effective leader was the depth and range of his experience. Prior to leading our University System, he was a professor, he was the Chair of the Math Department, he was a provost and he was ultimately President of the University of Maryland College Park and President of Ohio State University.

I believe Dr. Kirwan should be an example to us all. He was a skilled administrator who never lost sight of what education is all about—students learning in the class room. To conclude, thank you Dr. Kirwan. Thank you for your service to the people of Maryland, to the students and parents of Maryland. Your dedication, insight and passion for education will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY
TWO DOGS COPLIN

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vietnam Veteran and Native American artist, Jimmy Two Dogs Coplin, who recently passed away in his Cicero, Illinois home at the age of 57.

Mr. Coplin lost his sight to diabetes but continued to create striking works of art with Native American themes using ceramics, silver, feathers and arrows.

Kiowa men and women have served in the armed forces since World War I and Mr. Coplin continued this honorable tradition by serving in the Army during Vietnam.

Mr. Coplin will be remembered fondly by his family, friends and many of his patrons. Mr. Coplin's dedication to his art and country will continue to live on and inspire others.

Mr. Coplin is survived by his mother, Edith Rokita, sister, Vicky Whitaker, daughter, Melissa Rokita, son, Bubba James Rokita, and two grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF MILDRED
HAILEY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mildred Hailey, tenant activist and community leader, who passed away on November 18, 2015.

Mrs. Hailey was born in Jackson, Mississippi eighty-two years ago. As a child, her family moved to Boston. At the time, Boston was not as open to diversity as it is today. Mrs. Hailey's family, being among the first African-American families in their neighborhood, suffered from discrimination and were treated by some of their neighbors with antipathy. Mildred

approached this as a challenge to become a community leader.

By the 1960s, Mrs. Hailey had taken a leadership role at the Bromley-Heath housing development and, with co-founder Anna Mae Cole, incorporated the Bromley-Heath Tenant Management Corporation (TMC). The TMC was the nation's first tenant-run public housing development.

Initially, TMC, under Mrs. Hailey's leadership, tackled basic quality of life issues on behalf of Bromley-Heath residents: fixing broken windows, making sure basic utilities were in working order, ensuring trash pickup. Eventually TMC moved on to residents' greater needs, such as creating a day care program, developing a health center on the Bromley-Heath campus and running its own security force. Finally, Mrs. Hailey and TMC became instrumental in guiding development around Bromley-Heath, partnering to bring a supermarket to the neighborhood, protesting to successfully halt a planned highway close by and lending an outspoken voice in planning the Southwest Corridor Park. Through it all, Mrs. Hailey always had time and energy to bring together the members of her beloved Bromley-Heath community to work out disagreements and support one another. She was truly an indispensable leader.

In closing, I salute Mildred Hailey for her leadership, selflessness and passion for her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 I was not present to vote on H.R. 158 and H.R. 3842. I wish to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for roll call No. 679, I would have voted "YEA."

Had I been present for roll call No. 680, I would have voted "YEA."

HONORING KALEB STOLBA

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kaleb Stolba for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Kaleb is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Kaleb is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman

year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Kaleb Stolba for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING GERRY
HYLAND ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District Supervisor on the occasion of his retirement from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors following 28 years of faithful service.

Gerry was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987, serving as Chairman of the Fire Commission and co-chair of the Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Committee. He also served as a member of the Budget Policy, Development Process, Environmental, Housing and Community Development, Human Services, Information Technology, Personnel and Reorganization, and Transportation Committees.

Yet serving on the Board of Supervisors was just one part of Gerry's commitment and service to our community. Prior to being elected to that position, he also served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and as both President and Member of the Board of United Community Ministries and the Fairfax Human Rights Commission.

Gerry's commitment to service has extended across regional boundaries. He served on the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Virginia Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties, as past chairman of the Virginia Railway Express, and as a past board member of both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

Gerry was also appointed by the Governor of Virginia to serve on several boards and commissions including the Virginia History Initiative, the Commission on Population, Growth and Development, and the Local Government Advisory Committee for the Chesapeake Bay over the course of his career.

In addition to his numerous contributions at the civilian level, Gerry served 30 years in the United States Air Force, 6 years active duty (4 of which were spent overseas) and 23 years in the Reserves. He retired at the rank of Colonel while serving as a White House Liaison.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award for Outstanding Leadership to the Washington Metropolitan Area from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, Cooperator of the Year Award from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Dedicated Support Award from the Medical Care

for Children Partnership, and the Gold Medal for Lifesaving from the Grande Prix Humanitaire de France.

These awards and accolades are testimony to Gerry's quality as a leader and the determination with which he approached his work. One need look no further than his own Mount Vernon district for evidence of this. Whether it was shepherding the community through the BRAC process and helping to manage the enormous growth at Fort Belvoir, to the establishment of the Richmond Highway Express Bus Route, the creation of the South County Government Center, advocating for the construction of a new high school and middle school to serve the growing population, the preservation of Inova's Mount Vernon facilities or the securing of affordable housing for seniors at Gum Springs, you could always count on Gerry Hyland being knowledgeable and fully engaged with every situation that was brought to him. Gerry truly cares about his constituents and has dedicated every minute of his time in office to improving their lives and our South County community.

I will always remember the grace with which he approached his work. Even in the face of unimaginable tragedy brought by the death of his wife, he continued to put the needs of others before his own. When we served together on the Board of Supervisors, he would routinely bring fresh produce from his farm on the Eastern Shore to share with us, a tradition that continues to this day. Just when you didn't think it was possible for one man to give any more, Gerry would prove you wrong.

Mr. Speaker, Gerry Hyland has been a fixture of the community in Fairfax County for more than 35 years. While he may be officially retiring from the Board of Supervisors, I suspect that he will remain an active advocate for the causes that are dear to him. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his retirement, in thanking him for his immeasurable dedication and commitment to our community, and in wishing him all the best for continued health and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR ADAM
F. MCCOMBS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Major Adam F. McCombs for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to our great nation. Most recently, Adam served as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). He will be transitioning from his present assignment to serve as an Advisor in the Office of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard, United States Army.

A native of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, Adam was commissioned as an Armor officer after his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree. He has since earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Adam has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Prior to

working as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison, Adam's assignments included serving as Scout Platoon Leader and Troop Executive Officer in 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado; Company Commander of a Warrior Transition Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Assistant S3 in the 25th Infantry Division Headquarters Battalion and Cavalry Troop Commander in 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Adam has commanded Soldiers in combat as a Platoon Leader and Troop Commander. He deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq in 2005–2006, and deployed to Afghanistan in 2008–2009 and again in 2011–2012.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and knowledgeable resource in 2013 when Adam was selected to work in my Washington, D.C. office as an Army Congressional Fellow. In this capacity, Adam handled military and veterans issues from a legislative and casework perspective and worked closely with the staff on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, he continued to collaborate with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, ensuring that the Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Committees.

Major Adam McCombs' leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Major Adam F. McCombs for his distinguished service to our nation. In addition to gratitude for his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Major McCombs has the respect, admiration, and affection of many on Capitol Hill. We wish him and his wife, Traci, all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

U.S.-GEORGIA RELATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Georgia Caucus along with Congressman GERALD CONNOLLY, I would like to take a moment to discuss the importance of a strong U.S.-Georgia relationship.

Our ally Georgia is a beacon of hope for democracy and capitalism in Eastern Europe. In a region full of turmoil, Georgia continuously strives to spread the ideologies of democracy and freedom to all. While there is still work to be done, Georgia has made many advances in recent years to strengthen democratic values.

Georgia has proved to be a strategic trade partner. U.S. trade with Georgia has increased over the past several years as Georgia continues to bolster its democratic and market-economy institutions. In light of this growth, it

would be a smart move to initiate negotiations on a U.S.-Georgia Free Trade Agreement. In 2012, President Obama announced that Georgia and the U.S. had agreed to a high-level dialogue to strengthen trade relations, including the possibility of a free trade agreement. Now is the time to make this idea a reality.

Another critical reason why we must strengthen our ties with Georgia is because Russian aggression in the region is more threatening now than ever. In 2008, I was in Georgia and saw Russian tanks roll in to Georgia, occupying 25% of the country. Back then I knew Putin's radical agenda would continue to threaten our ally for years to come. Sadly, I have not been proven wrong. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is another example of Putin's greedy appetite for conquest. The best deterrent we can offer Georgia is the protection we have given to European countries in the past from Russian bullying: NATO membership. It is time for the United States to put our full weight of support into ensuring that Georgia is given NATO membership.

Even with the regional security threats stemming from Russia, Georgia has demonstrated time and again its commitment to being a force for good in the international community. For example, Georgia has provided more troops to the effort in Afghanistan than any other non-NATO member. Georgian troops have fought and died on the battlefield alongside our own American troops. We must recognize and reward their bravery and sacrifice. Georgia's ascension to NATO must be a priority for next summer's NATO conference.

Mr. Speaker, we all should recognize the importance of strengthening our relationship with Georgia. It is in our national security interests to support this ally, and it is our duty to ensure we foster a healthy, mutually beneficial partnership.

And that's just the way it is.

MEDIA IGNORE ADMINISTRATION
SCANDALS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national liberal media repeatedly comment that the current administration is "scandal free." But that's because they ignore scandals involving Democrats.

For example, Hillary Clinton claims that everyone knew she used a private email server as Secretary of State. Yet, White House officials stated they were unaware of the server. The media has yet to pursue what was known or why the use of this server was allowed.

The national media also has failed to uncover who gave the orders for the IRS to target conservatives or if White House officials helped cover up the incident.

And when an American is murdered by an illegal immigrant, the press never connects the loss of life to the president's refusal to enforce our immigration laws.

The only people who believe the administration is "scandal free" are its allies in the national liberal media.