

teaching at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the Law Department.

Upon leaving his position at West Point, Ambassador Smoak became a legislative liaison officer in Washington, D.C. In this position, he assisted in drafting legislation and performed liaison duties with Congress, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense. During his time in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Smoak became Chief of the Legislative Drafting Division for the Judge Advocate General. He served as Chief until his retirement from military service in 1961, leaving with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his retirement from the Army, Ambassador Smoak returned to Aiken County, South Carolina along with his wife, Mary Frances Meister, and their three children, Fred, Mary Frances, and Pat. Serving as a practicing attorney in Aiken County, Ambassador Smoak sought office in the South Carolina State Senate and went on to win the election in 1966. Ambassador Smoak was among the first five Republicans that served in the South Carolina State Senate since Reconstruction. While in the State Senate he served on six committees that included: Agriculture, Atomic and Nuclear Energy, Commerce and Manufactures, Military, and Veteran Affairs. Ambassador Smoak fought for the Compulsory School Bill, realigning voting precincts, and compulsory auto inspections. From 1967 to 1968, he also served in the State Constitutional Revision Commission.

Upon completing his term in the Senate, Ambassador Smoak went on to work at the State Department as the Deputy Chief of Protocol and Chief of Protocol for the President and the Secretary of State from 1969 to 1974. During his time at the State Department Ambassador Smoak participated in many significant events including: the inauguration of President Prastrana of Colombia in 1970, the inauguration of President Echeverria of Mexico in 1970, and the funeral of King Frederick IX of Denmark in 1972. When he retired from the State Department in 1974, he was given the title of Ambassador. His glorious career continued when he was named Co-Chairman on the Committee of Finance for then Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan. Ambassador Smoak went on to practice law at Shipley, Smoak, and Henry of Washington, D.C., where he practiced International Law and officially retired.

Among all his involvement and activities, Ambassador Smoak served as Director of the Ackokeek Foundation and the American Friends of Jamaica. He also served as President of Georgetown Club of Washington and the Fairfax Hunt of Northern Virginia, and assisted in the production of the Red Cross Ball in Palm Beach, Florida as Diplomatic Chairman. Currently, Ambassador Smoak is a member of the Chevy Chase Club and the Metropolitan Club of Washington, the Everglades Club and the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club of Palm Beach Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and noble service of Ambassador Smoak. It is with great pride that we thank him for his service, and wish him continued health and happiness with his friends, family, and loved ones.

HONORING JUDGE ROGER L. GREGORY OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Judge Roger L. Gregory on his ascension to the rank of Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on Saturday, July 9, 2016. As the highest ranking judge of the Richmond-based Fourth Circuit, Judge Gregory will preside as "first among equals" over 15 active and two senior judges that are responsible for appellate cases rising from Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina—a jurisdiction that includes almost 30 million people.

Judge Gregory's service on the bench is historic in a couple of respects. He is the first African American to serve on the Fourth Circuit, which was the only remaining federal circuit in the nation where all of the judges were white. He came to the Fourth Circuit as a recess appointment of President William Jefferson Clinton on December 27, 2000. Despite the bipartisan support of the Commonwealth of Virginia's two U.S. Senators, John Warner (R) and Charles Robb (D)—and the fact that the Fourth Circuit had several vacancies—Judge Gregory's nomination in June 2000 to the Fourth Circuit was effectively blocked by Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina who opposed efforts to diversify the courts.

Judge Gregory made history again when he became the only person in United States history to have been appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals by presidents of two different political parties. He was reappointed by President George W. Bush, with the support of Senator John Warner and newly elected Senator George Allen, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 20, 2001.

During the past 15 years on the bench, Judge Gregory has developed a reputation as a distinguished and brilliant jurist. He is seen as a leader in forging consensus in the Fourth Circuit and providing legal analysis that has helped to evolve the thinking of the court. Judge Gregory was on the panel of judges that heard two groundbreaking cases that were eventually heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2014, Judge Gregory was part of the Fourth Circuit's unanimous ruling in *King v. Burwell* to conclude that the government's interpretation of the final rule implementing the premium tax credit provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act should be given deference. On July 28, 2014, Judge Gregory was part of the Fourth Circuit's majority decision that ruled 2–1 in *Bostic v. Schaefer* to strike down Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage as "impermissibly infring[ing] on its citizens' fundamental right to marry." The Supreme Court eventually affirmed the ruling in *King v. Burwell* and denied a writ of certiorari in *Bostic v. Schaefer*, letting that decision stand.

Judge Gregory's legal stewardship was displayed in the case of *Henry v. Purnell*, an important case about excessive force by police and qualified immunity. In the original three-judge panel opinion, he filed a dissenting opin-

ion. But when the case was heard en banc, before all the judges of the Fourth Circuit, Judge Gregory amassed a wide 10–3 majority of the court to support his position and hold that the use of force was objectively unreasonable. Judge Gregory's reasoning in his Fourth Circuit dissents was also the basis of two U.S. Supreme Court's majority decisions. One case that reversed a Truth-in-Lending Act decision in the *Koons Buick Pontiac v. Nigh* (2004) and another that approved Judge Gregory's approach in *FEC v. Beaumont* (2003).

Equally remarkable is Judge Gregory's personal story and professional successes. Roger Gregory was born in Philadelphia, but was adopted by a family and raised in the "Heights" section of Petersburg, Virginia. On reflecting on his parents, Judge Gregory said "I think about my parents. They worked in a tobacco factory and had very little formal education. They got up early and worked more time to earn wages so I could learn my letters."

Judge Gregory "learned his letters" and then some. He attended segregated schools until the eleventh grade and became the first person in his family to graduate from high school. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Virginia State University and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1978. He also holds honorary degrees from Virginia Union University, Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Widener University and Saint Paul's College.

After a stint at corporate law firms, he formed the law firm of Wilder & Gregory with former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder. He practiced law at Wilder & Gregory and served as managing partner and head of the litigation section of the firm until his appointment to the Fourth Circuit in 2000.

Judge Gregory is widely admired and respected by his colleagues on the bench and in the Virginia Bar. He has supported numerous charitable, legal, and educational organizations and currently serves on the board of trustees of the University of Richmond and the John Marshall Foundation. Judge Gregory is a past rector and member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University and served on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University, where he taught as an adjunct professor of Constitutional Law.

Judge Gregory is an active member of Good Shepherd Baptist Church, in Petersburg, Virginia, where he serves as Artistic Director of the Drama Ministry. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Alpha Beta Boule of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

The appointment of Roger Gregory as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit will be celebrated by many who value the wisdom of a wise jurist who holds the deepest respect for the U.S. Constitution. This honor is celebrated especially by his wife Velda Edwards Gregory; his daughters Adriene, Rachel and Christina; and Kai, his only granddaughter and the "apple of [his] eye."

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Judge Gregory. The people of the Fourth Circuit should be reassured that they have a defender of justice and fairness.

COMMEMORATING INDIANA UNIVERSITY TRACK COACH SAM BELL

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my hometown community in Bloomington, Indiana, and the many Hoosiers who crossed paths with legendary track coach, Sam Bell.

It's difficult to estimate just how many Hoosiers it is I speak for today, but suffice it to say, Coach Bell had a tremendous impact in his three decades coaching at Indiana University.

It would take all of the time allotted here and then some, to try to list all of Coach Bell's accomplishments.

But among the brightest in his long line of successes, was being a father of four, a grandfather to nine, and a source of confidence for so many young people that he coached.

Sam Bell remains one of the most highly-regarded coaches in the history of Indiana track and field—and for good reason.

He won hundreds of titles. He coached Olympians. He commanded a reputation for greatness which preceded him everywhere he went.

His athletes will be the first to tell you Coach Bell was intensely demanding. He was tough—some say old school or conservative even. But they respected him for it.

I was especially struck, Mr. Speaker, by one former Olympian who, years later, finds himself constantly quoting Coach Bell to his own children.

You see, because of the type of person Coach Bell was, he had the ability to transform not just a single athlete's life, but the lives of those who come thereafter.

There is perhaps no greater legacy one can leave, and I am privileged to share it here today—and offer my respects to the Bell family and all who called him "Coach."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 390 on the Palmer of Alabama Amendment No. 41 to H.R. 5485, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present. Roll Call No. 367, Yea. Roll Call No.

377, Nay. Roll Call No. 378, Yea. Roll Call No. 379, Yea. Roll Call No. 380, Yea. Roll Call No. 381, Yea. Roll Call No. 382, Yea. Roll Call No. 383, Yea. Roll Call No. 384, Yea. Roll Call No. 385, Yea. Roll Call No. 386, Yea. Roll Call No. 387, Yea. Roll Call No. 388, Yea. Roll Call No. 389, Yea. Roll Call No. 390, Yea. Roll Call No. 391, Yea. Roll Call No. 392, Yea. Roll Call No. 393, Yea. Roll Call No. 394, Nay. Roll Call No. 395, Yea. Roll Call No. 396, Yea. Roll Call No. 397, Nay. Roll Call No. 398, Yea.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BOB" WEGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert "Bob" Wege of Council Bluffs, Iowa who recently retired as a member of the Citizen's Police Advisory Board of Council Bluffs. The Citizen's Police Advisory Board acts as a liaison to strengthen relationships between the citizens of Council Bluffs and the local Police Department. Bob has served on the Advisory Board for over 30 years.

When Bob retired in 1984 from the U.S. Army he knew he wanted to do something for his community. He became a member of the Citizen's Police Advisory Board because it had a history of loyalty and structure similar to the U.S. Army. He served five different police chiefs while serving on the Advisory Board. Mr. Wege said he could remember something that President Lyndon Johnson had said, "Law enforcement cannot succeed without the sustained and informed interest of all citizens." When he read this statement, Bob knew this was something he could do for his community.

Bob was raised in Norfolk, Nebraska and attended Norfolk High School. There he met his future wife, Mary Ann, and they married in 1948. Bob joined the U.S. Army later that year and spent the next 36 years serving our country. Bob has not asked for any special recognition but has been motivated by his desire to serve his nation and his community.

I commend and congratulate Bob Wege for his service to our country and his commitment and dedication to Council Bluffs, Iowa. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bob Wege for his service and wish him the very best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK MCCARTNEY OF THE LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Mark McCartney, the Master Police Officer of the Leesburg Police Department, for his many years of service to the community of Loudoun County. Mr. McCartney has been a part of the Leesburg Police since August 1986, and his many years of service have been hallmarked with distinctions worthy of

such a dedicated officer who will soon be retiring exactly 30 years after he first started.

Mark began his police training in 1985 when he was enrolled in the Municipal Police Academy of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and then subsequently attended the 64th session of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. He served the following 10 years as a patrol officer before being promoted to the rank of corporal in 1989. He was furthermore a motorcycle officer for 18 years during which he investigated countless road accidents, and was a member of the Crash Reconstruction Unit. More notably still, Officer McCartney also acted as the sniper for the Special Operations Team, whilst also returning to the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy as a radar instructor. He was decorated as Master Police Officer in 2003.

Officer McCartney has gone beyond his duty throughout his years of service as evidenced by his exemplary record, and this record has not gone unseen. Indeed, Mark McCartney has been honored with multiple awards throughout his career including that of Officer of the Year, the Loudoun County Chamber Life Saving Award, and of course the Leesburg Police Outstanding Service Award. This is a man who deserves all our thanks and gratitude for all that he has done for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to congratulate Officer McCartney for his service, and to join me in wishing him a happiness and fortune in his future endeavors.

DR. AND MRS. PRAVINCHANDRA H. PATEL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an outstanding man, distinguished medical professional and special friend, Dr. Pravinchandra H. Patel, MD in his union of holy matrimony with Ms. June Cassman. They exchanged nuptials on Saturday, June 25, 2016, in San Francisco, California and the wedding will be followed by a reception as well as a traditional Garba and Raas ceremony, which will take place at the Columbus, Georgia Convention and Trade Center on Saturday, July 9, 2016.

Pravinchandra, or "P.H.", as he is known by his loved ones, is an extraordinary physician who specializes in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine. P.H. graduated from Kasturba Medical College in 1979. He went on to intern at the Jewish Hospital For Chronic Diseases in 1982, and then attended Eastern Tennessee State University College of Medicine where he completed both his residency (in 1984) and his fellowship (in 1987). He is now one of the leading physicians at Gastrointestinal Diseases, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia. Dr. Patel's gastrointestinal practice serves as a primary source of professional care for digestive diseases in the Columbus area.

He has provided extraordinary medical care to the patients in the Chattahoochee Valley Area for more than 34 years. Moreover, Dr. Patel is an exemplary entrepreneur and philanthropist. Having immigrated to the United