

her, her husband Kenneth, three children, and five grandchildren much joy as they celebrate Sarah's place in history.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JAMES PEARCE BRICE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of The Honorable James Pearce Brice, a devoted jurist and public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who was born in Roanoke, Virginia, on August 7, 1926, and passed away on September 15, 2016, at the age of 90.

In our years of practicing law, both Congressman GOODLATTE and I had the pleasure of arguing in front of Judge Brice. We benefited from the expertise and wisdom he shared, as a street lawyer and a personal mentor, accumulated from an accomplished life.

At the age of 16, Judge Brice entered the Virginia Military Institute. He joined the Merchant Marines, as soon as he turned 18, during World War II. He bravely served as a helmsman on an oil tanker in the North Atlantic and suffered the loss of his brother, Robert, on Omaha Beach in 1944.

Before war ended, Judge Brice joined the United States Army and became a Japanese translator and interrogator. With his intelligence and flare for foreign languages, he continued serving with distinction in the Army Counterintelligence Corps in northern Hokkaido after Japan surrendered.

Upon returning from abroad, Judge Brice went back to school and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, then earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1954.

He launched his legal career in private practice back in his hometown of Roanoke. He spent time working for the Veterans Administration, and then the United States District Attorney's Office, as an assistant prosecutor. Judge Brice was dedicated to his vocation. At the age of 42, he was appointed to the bench of the Roanoke General District Court, where he served as judge from 1967 through 1987. He retired as the chief general district judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, but continued to travel across the commonwealth as a substitute jurist until the early 2000s.

Judge Brice had a tremendous impact on many of our communities, as well upon countless individuals all across the region. Judge Brice will be remembered as a family man and a friend to many. We always appreciated his outgoing nature and shared his love of history. Judge Brice left the repeated impression of being a compassionate and fair arbiter, and he will be forever remembered by how much he believed in redemption. May his spirit of fairness and compassion remain with us. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and influence will be long remembered across the entire western region of Virginia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Brice's wife of 62 years, Phyllis; his three sons, James, Steven, and Michael; his three

grandchildren, Taryn, Trey, and Melissa; his family, friends, and many loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 26th, 2016, while recovering from a surgical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll no. 557 and YES on Roll no. 558. I applaud my colleagues on passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. Recent reports show that as many as one-third of calls to VA's veterans' crisis line go unanswered. Mr. Speaker, this is as unacceptable as it is appalling and I intend to push Secretary McDonald for answers and see that this atrocity is quickly rectified.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI
RURAL LEGAL SERVICES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS).

This organization, formed in 1966 at the University of Mississippi, makes it possible for low-income and elderly residents to have access to legal services they could not otherwise afford.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys provide a wide range of counsel in 39 counties across North Mississippi. Their cases are as diverse as the people they serve. Attorneys have built cases to preserve civil rights, protect vulnerable children, and defend the elderly.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has committed leadership in Executive Director Ben Thomas Cole II and Director of Litigation Ruby White. While serving as District Attorney of Mississippi's First Circuit Judicial District, I saw firsthand the dedication to NMRLS of my former colleagues Nebra Porter of Tupelo and current NMRLS board member and Brian Neely of Tupelo who served on the NMRLS board for ten years. North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys work tirelessly to ensure that the ability of citizens to exercise their rights under the law is not contingent on their ability to navigate the legal system on their own. I look forward to hearing of the good work they will continue to do in the communities of North Mississippi.

I commend North Mississippi Rural Legal Services as they continue their pursuit of justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 26, 2016, I was absent from the House and missed roll call Nos. 557 and 558.

Had I been present for roll call No. 557, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call No. 558, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016 I was absent for recorded votes Number 557 and Number 558.

On Roll Call Number 557 I would have voted no, and on Roll Call Number 558 I would have voted yes.

CELEBRATING THE COUNTRY OF
GEORGIA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF REGAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE
FROM THE SOVIET UNION

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the country of Georgia's 25th anniversary of regaining its independence from the Soviet Union. In these two short decades, Georgia has embraced freedom and made remarkable progress.

Georgia has worked to become a leading example of democracy in a region where dictatorship is all too common and is reaping the fruits of free market reforms that bolster growth by reducing government regulation, fighting corruption, and simplifying the tax code. Through these efforts, Georgia strengthens its commercial, political, and security ties with the West—particularly with the United States through a strategic partnership built on shared democratic principles.

Georgia has been a steadfast ally of the United States, strongly supporting U.S. security initiatives in the fight against terrorism and is the third largest contributor of troops to the Global War on Terror's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

These accomplishments shine all the more when taken in context of the challenges Georgia continues to face from Russia's voracious appetite for aggression in the region.

Today marks the 23rd anniversary of the fall of Sokhumi, Georgia, to Russian troops and local separatist forces in 1993. The brutal massacre, torture, and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Georgians from their

homes that followed marked the beginning of Russia's efforts to occupy Georgia's territory. The U.S. State Department reported that:

"The [Abkhaz] separatist forces committed widespread atrocities against the Georgian civilian population, killing many women, children, and elderly, capturing some as hostages and torturing others . . . they also killed large numbers of Georgian civilians who remained behind in Abkhaz-seized territory . . ."

"The separatists launched a reign of terror against the majority Georgian population, although other nationalities also suffered. Chechens and other north Caucasians from the Russian Federation reportedly joined local Abkhaz troops in the commission of atrocities . . . Those fleeing Abkhazia made highly credible claims of atrocities, including the killing of civilians without regard for age or sex. Corpses recovered from Abkhaz-held territory showed signs of extensive torture."

It is in the interest of the American people to support Georgia's long-term stability by promoting its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgia's primary foreign policy goal is to attain membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, thereby integrating itself into the Euro-Atlantic community and containing Russia's expansionist efforts in the region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to the U.S.-Georgia strategic partnership. We must stand with the Georgian people as they continue to pursue free and democratic reforms in the face of Russian hostility.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Georgian people on their 25 years of progress as an independent state, wish them well in the upcoming parliamentary election on October 8, 2016, and offer my support of our continued friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, on Roll Call Number 557 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537, Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537.

On September 26, 2016, on Roll Call Number 558 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392, No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392.

TRIBUTE TO BRET PERRY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sergeant Bret Perry, of Adel, Iowa, for being awarded the Soldier's Medal, the highest honor a soldier

can receive during peace time, for rescuing three people from a burning house.

Staff Sergeant Perry was traveling to work at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Urbandale, IA, in August 2015 when he noticed the smoke from a house fire on a nearby hill. Once he arrived at the house, he found the neighbor tapping on a window trying to wake those inside. After no one answered the doorbell, he burst through the front door with his shoulder and rolled down the stairs to the bottom floor of the split-level house. Forced to crawl up the stairs because of the smoke, he checked each room. In one, he found a woman who was only awakened by his kicking open the door. He got her outside to safety. He then entered the house two additional times to rescue two young adults in the house. After his last daring rescue, the local fire department arrived. Bret left the scene and went to work. His co-workers did not believe his incredulous story behind arriving to work late until they smelled the smoke on his uniform.

This was not the only time Staff Sergeant Perry has rushed to the aid of others. A few months after the fire rescue, according to the Army Times, Perry ran to a car which had lost control, rolled over several times, and ended on its side in a ditch. Perry rushed to the vehicle, rescuing the woman and her baby in the back seat as the car began to smoke. He was awarded the U.S. Army Achievement Medal for his actions. Years earlier when he was stationed in Italy, he ran to the aid of two off-duty U.S. soldiers caught up in a vicious fight, successfully driving off the assailants.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Staff Sergeant Perry for the selfless heroism that has earned him the Soldier's Medal. Throughout his life he has chosen to protect and serve others, and it is because of Iowans like him that I'm proud to represent our great state. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Perry and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

VOTING RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, to help my constituents gain a better understanding of the negative impact of the Supreme Court decision *Shelby County v. Holder*, on May 20, 2016, I hosted a forum titled "Protect Your Future: Restore the Vote." My co-chairs were Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Representative JUDY CHU, Chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus; and special guest, Representative KAREN BASS.

Members from our communities heard expert testimony from the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund. For that reason, I include in the RECORD testimony from Tom Saenz of MALDEF.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. SAENZ

PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

MALDEF

REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF *SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER*

Since 2009, I have had the great honor of serving as President and General Counsel of

MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund), a national legal civil rights organization whose mission is to promote the civil rights of all Latinos living in the United States. MALDEF pursues its mission through litigation, policy education and advocacy, community education, and media/communications in the areas of education, employment, immigrant rights, and voting rights. In the area of voting rights, MALDEF is one of a small handful of national non-profit organizations that have been involved in both litigation and advocacy under the federal Voting Rights Act over several decades. MALDEF currently coordinates a consortium of ten voting rights litigation organizations striving to better coordinate activities nationwide in the aftermath of the 2013 United States Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Our nation and its most precious democratic values have unquestionably suffered from the Supreme Court majority's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* and the subsequent refusal by congressional leadership to consider, much less vote upon and enact, well-crafted proposals to reaffirm and strengthen the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) by implementing new formulas to apply the impactful pre-clearance provisions in section 5 of the VRA.

In *Shelby County*, the Court voted 5-4 to strike down the pre-clearance coverage formula in section 4 of the VRA. The coverage formula had been overwhelmingly approved by bipartisan supermajorities in both houses of Congress in the latest VRA reauthorization in 2006. The coverage formula that the Court majority struck down required those jurisdictions—mainly states, with some counties and other parts of states—with histories of low electoral participation and of efforts to suppress participation by minority voters, to comply with a pre-clearance obligation as to all proposed electoral changes. The effect of the Court's decision was to completely disable the application of the pre-clearance obligation absent a rarely-issued federal court order subjecting a specific jurisdiction to pre-clearance for a limited period of time. Of course, the Congress can, at any time, subject to the requisite constitutional showing of adequate findings, enact a new coverage formula or formulas to subject other jurisdictions to the pre-clearance obligation with respect to specific or all electoral changes.

It is no exaggeration to label, as it has now often been characterized, section 5 of the VRA and its pre-clearance mechanism as one of the most effective civil rights provisions ever enacted in federal law. Before the Court decision in *Shelby County*, pre-clearance had, through almost half a century, blocked the implementation of numerous proposed electoral changes that were intended to suppress minority participation or to limit minority electoral power, and numerous other proposed changes that would have been retrogressive in effect, threatening to reduce acquired minority electoral power.

In addition, however, a full appreciation of the damage the *Shelby County* decision has wrought requires recognizing that section 5 is also one of the first enactments of an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism into federal law. ADR can be powerfully efficient and effective in resolving disputes without requiring resort to litigation in court. Ironically, the same Supreme Court majority that struck down the VRA coverage formula and disabled section 5 has strongly embraced ADR in the form of mandatory arbitration contracts, even where serious concerns have been raised about bias against employees or consumers in arbitration and about unequal power in negotiating arbitration agreements. Indeed, Section 5 actually includes the very kinds of protections