

HONORING ROBERT PARTRIDGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Partridge. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1096, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Robert has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Partridge for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ENDING SECRECY ABOUT WORK-
PLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT
ACT**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Ending Secrecy About Workplace Sexual Harassment Act.

We are experiencing a national moment of reckoning. Millions of people who have been victims of sexual misconduct in the workplace are telling their stories and initiating a movement to create real change. We have an obligation to listen to all those who have come forward and recognize that many are still suffering in silence. And we also have an obligation to take action to make things better going forward.

The Ending Secrecy About Workplace Sexual Harassment Act will help lift the shroud of secrecy surrounding these cases that have concealed them for years or even decades by requiring companies to annually report all out-of-court settlements involving claims of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and assault to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

When employers don't have to disclose these internal settlements and there is no public record about abuse, it can cause great harm to victims, other employees, and even the public at large. More complete data and a transparency requirement will help identify institutional problems that should elicit further investigation by EEOC. This bill also has the potential to spark a change in the workplace, inspiring corporate leaders to focus on prevention if they know that complete secrecy is no longer an option regardless of how a claim is addressed and resolved. With total secrecy, companies have absolutely no incentive to focus on preventing sexual misconduct if they know they will never be held accountable.

In 2015, there were nearly 30,000 reports filed with the EEOC involving sexual harass-

ment. That is one-third of the total harassment reports filed that year alone. If companies had to report all of their private settlements, that number would likely increase. The EEOC can also use these reports to take action, if appropriate, and go after violators.

I believe this is an important first step toward increasing accountability in the private sector to ensure a safer, fairer workplace for everyone. I thank my colleagues, Representatives KHANNA, NORTON, CUMMINGS, DAVID SCOTT, SHEA-PORTER, RASKIN, CONNOLLY, SUOZZI, KUSTER, MOORE, DINGELL, and PAL-LONE for joining me as original cosponsors on this legislation, and hope that more members will support as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 697; YEA on Roll Call No. 698; YEA on Roll Call No. 699; YEA on Roll Call No. 700; and NAY on Roll Call No. 701.

HONORING SERGEANT BRITTE'S
CAREER OF SERVICE**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Joseph Britte, Jr. After protecting our neighbors for more than 20 years, Sergeant Britte will be retiring from the Gainesville Police Department.

On a leap of faith, Sergeant Britte and his family moved from their home in Providence, Rhode Island to Gainesville in 1996. Upon arrival, he joined the Gainesville Police Department and began a job of public service that has characterized his life.

As a law enforcement official, Sergeant Britte has demonstrated a servant's heart and professional excellence. He dedicated countless hours to training and eventually earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in organizational leadership and criminal justice.

When he wasn't on duty, Sergeant Britte still took an interest in the wellbeing of those around him. He mentored local students and taught self-defense classes all across Hall County.

Mr. Speaker, my staff and I have had the privilege of getting to know this man over the years. We believe that Hall County residents looking for examples of leadership and empathy should look no farther than our friend, Joe Britte.

I thank this officer for his service to Gainesville and congratulate him on the adventures that lie ahead.

COMMENDING NORTH JERSEY
MAYORS**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the mayors of North Jersey, who convened last weekend for my Fifth District Mayors Summit. I'm proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these local leaders to help save residents' property tax dollars, improve our schools, and get police and firefighters the tools and resources they need to protect our communities from crime and terror.

I am humbled every day to have the opportunity to work with our mayors. This past weekend, I watched first-hand as they put party aside and worked across the aisle to help claw back federal tax dollars in their towns—an urgent need, now more than ever, given the tax hike we are facing.

In North Jersey, we are paying far too much in taxes, and not getting enough in return. My District pays some of the highest taxes in the nation; yet, we only get 33 cents back for every dollar that we send to Washington. Compare that to "Moocher States," like Mississippi, which gets \$4.38 on the dollar. These states are giving themselves relief and sticking New Jersey with the bill.

The Tax Hike Bill passed yesterday is only going make matters worse—gutting our State and Local Tax deductions, increasing our taxes, and lowering our property values. We must continue working hard at the local level to blunt the impact of this harmful legislation and stop New Jersey from becoming America's piggy bank.

In New Jersey, we must be vigilant about clawing back as many federal tax dollars as possible to boost our return on investment for roads and bridges, for firefighters and law enforcement, and the resources they need to help fight crime and lone wolf and homegrown terror. Working closely with my office, and my Director of Return on Investment, these mayors have already seen record successes this year to support our cops, firefighters, and towns. For example, in Paramus, the police department will be hiring five new post-9/11 veterans as police officers, thanks to a \$1.875 million federal COPS grant. Harrington Park also brought back nearly \$213,000 in AFG grants to help protect firefighters and our families. These are dollars that would be going to Alabama and Mississippi if we didn't fight to claw them back here. Our bipartisan work together is about fighting for North Jersey and helping our residents reduce their property tax burden.

I'm leaving no stone unturned and hope that by shining a light on these public servants, our mayors can build on their success and save more money for their towns and taxpayers. Getting this done is all about problem solving, and reaching across the aisle to do what's right for our communities. These are not Democratic or Republican issues; they are about what's best for New Jersey.

This holiday season, I am thankful for the twenty-one mayors and leaders who attended our summit, rolled up their sleeves, and put in the weekend hours to help their towns. Countless other mayors, councilmen, and councilwomen across the District have also worked

around the clock. Currently, as we head into the new year, I rededicate myself to being their partner in making towns and communities even safer, more prosperous, and more affordable.

Alpine Mayor Paul Tomasko
Bergenfield Mayor Norman Schmelz
Dumont Councilman Carl Manna
Emerson Mayor Lou Lamatina
Fair Lawn Councilwoman Lisa Swain
Franklin Lakes Mayor Frank Bivona
Glen Rock Mayor Bruce Packer
Hackensack Mayor John LaBrosse
Harrington Park Mayor Paul Hoeschler
Mahwah Mayor Bill Laforet
Montvale Mayor Mike Ghassali
Oakland Mayor Linda Schwager
Paramus Mayor Rich LaBarbiera
Park Ridge Mayor Keith Misciagna
Ramsey Mayor Deirdre Dillon
River Edge Councilman Thomas Papaleo
Rochelle Park Committeeman Michael Warren
Teaneck Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin
Westwood Mayor John Birkner
Wyckoff Mayor Rudy Boonstra
Wyckoff Administrator Bob Shannon

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WALTER HOWLETT, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Walter Howlett, Jr. Walter was a beloved member of the Birmingham community, investing not only in the city's business development but in community development as well.

Walter was born to Walter Howlett, Sr. and Laura Richardson Howlett, the second of seven children. Walter grew up understanding the importance of a good education. His parents often stressed that a quality education was the key to improving one's lot in life.

A proud graduate of A.H. Parker High School in Birmingham, Walter took his parents' advice to heart, holding dreams of attaining a business degree. But those dreams were put on hold when he was drafted into the United States Army shortly after finishing high school.

After serving for a year in the military, Walter returned home and completed his college education. Attending both Jefferson State Community College and the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Walter attained a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and went on to earn his Certified Public Accountant license.

As his parents had said, Walter's education would indeed impact his lot in life. Soon after graduation he became a beloved protégé of civil rights activist, A.G. Gaston. Mr. Gaston created the first black bank and the first African American funeral homes along with countless other firsts for the black community.

It was his endearment and admiration for Mr. Gaston that helped to spur a more than 30-year career with the Gaston Corp., devoting countless hours to the development of some of Birmingham's most affluent and successful black-owned businesses. In 2003,

Walter was appointed CEO of the A.G. Gaston Construction Co.

In spite of all his success in business, Walter still considered his family and faith to be his highest priorities, specifically his four children: Mondra Howlett, Cadeshia Howlett Samuel, Tameka Howlett, and Damien Howlett, and his wife, Deborah Howlett.

The Howletts' love story began in 2012. Shortly after the loss of his mother, friends and family say the meeting was a true blessing in Walter's life, and that she put a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. Two years later, in September of 2014, the couple exchanged vows. Mrs. Howlett says her life's greatest joy was the time they had together. Walter was an active member of Bethel Baptist Church in Collegeville, participating in various areas of ministry from the choir to serving as an usher. Walter lived by the motto, "find a need and fill it," a lesson learned by Mr. Gaston. He believed service to one's community was not an obligation but a privilege. In the course of his life Walter served on numerous boards including the United Way of Central Birmingham, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. He considered it a great joy to give back to the community he said gave him so much.

In his passing Walter leaves behind four siblings including: Birdie Lee Howlett, Patricia Howlett Peterson, James Lee Howlett, and Fredia Gail Howlett, his other siblings Willie Maud Jenkins and Jay Jerome Howlett are both deceased.

On a personal note, Walter was a cherished mentor and a dear friend. He was a dedicated servant-leader who knew the importance of "each one, teach one." Walter believed in mentoring young people and I was grateful that he was so supportive of my candidacy and always offered his wise counsel. His commitment to excellence and passion for business and entrepreneurship will live on through the many lives he touched.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Walter Howlett, Jr. We pay tribute to his distinguished career and contributions for the betterment of the State of Alabama, and extend deep appreciation for his exemplary service to the community of Birmingham, Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHARLES BURRELL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of an extraordinary Denverite, Charles Burrell, who on November 28th was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame.

I've known Charlie my whole life. His distinguished career included playing in the Al Rose Trio founded by my uncle, Al Rose, together with Lee Arrelano. It was the first racially integrated jazz group in Colorado, and in the 1950s and '60s, they played at some of Denver's best-known destinations for music. When my uncle died unexpectedly at a relatively early age, Charlie volunteered to be my "honorary uncle," a role he has embraced.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1920 and raised in Detroit, Charles Burrell studied music at Cass-Technical High School, then one of the most prestigious music schools in the nation. Although a dedicated student of classical music, Charlie and his friends embraced jazz and practiced it whenever possible. At seventeen, he was even asked to join the Lionel Hampton Big Band, affording him the opportunity to travel the country with some of the jazz greats of the time.

Charlie attended the New England Conservatory of Music and then joined the Navy, where he was selected to join the first-ever all-Black Navy band, which was used in recruiting to help encourage African-American enlistment. After an honorable discharge, he attended Wayne State University with an eye toward teaching music in the public schools, and eventually made his way to Denver to do just that in 1949.

A chance meeting with John VanBuskirk, the lead bass player with the Denver Symphony Orchestra, led to an audition, and Charlie became the first person of color in the nation to be hired by a major orchestra.

Charlie is equally comfortable in an orchestra or a jazz band. He was known to finish a performance at the DSO and then wrap up his evening playing jazz at the Rossonian Hotel in the Five Points neighborhood.

In 1959, Charlie became the first person of color to join the San Francisco Symphony, fulfilling a childhood dream. He played under conductor Pierre Monteux until 1965.

Always a generous man, Charlie has been an inspiration and mentor to many, including his niece, the two-time Grammy award-winning vocalist Dianne Reeves, and his cousin the renowned pianist George Duke.

At ninety-seven, Charlie has proved that age is just a number, frequently playing live bass on KUVU, Denver's preeminent jazz station.

Charles Burrell has been called the Jackie Robinson of classical music for his ability, class, and poise, helping forge change in American institutions that weren't always inclined to widen their circles.

It is my honor today to add to the accolades of this accomplished trailblazer.

IN HONOR OF BOB AND DONNA FRYER'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Bob and Donna Fryer on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Bob and Donna on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.