

Center. Working with city staff, community, and the city council, he led many projects over the years that resulted in major improvements to the city's parks, facilities, and infrastructure. One of Clay's favorite projects was the redevelopment of Old Town Coppell, which has blossomed into a unique, mixed-use area, which embraces the city's history along with bringing together businesses and residents.

Clay is a lifetime resident of Coppell. In 1978, he graduated from Coppell High School where he received Valedictorian honors. Most recently, Clay was recognized as the Class of 2004 Distinguished Alumni. Clay has served on numerous professional and philanthropic organizations throughout North Texas and Coppell including the first Board of Directors of the Coppell ISD Education Foundation and Coppell ISD Strategic Planning Initiative. Clay is an active member of his church where he serves as elder and in the music ministry. Clay and his wife, Terry, are proud parents to two children and one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing Clay Phillips many years of continued success and congratulations as we celebrate his service to the City of Coppell.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATALIE GELB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Natalie Gelb, Executive Director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority works to preserve, conserve, and educate the public about the historical, cultural, economic, and natural resources of Lackawanna County. On March 30, Natalie will officially retire from her ED position after twelve years of outstanding service.

A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Natalie attended Scranton Central High School and then the University of Maryland, where she graduated magna cum laude with degrees in English and history. Natalie joined the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in 2004.

As Executive Director of the Authority, Natalie rehabilitated the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and worked to foster closer relationships with other area organizations and institutions. The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is part of a unique, seventy-mile, multi-purpose trail system. The trail begins at the confluence of the Lackawanna and Susquehanna Rivers in Pittston and continues north where it connects with the Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail. When Natalie began her work in 2004, the trail system was underdeveloped. But under her leadership, it was transformed into a highly utilized attraction in Lackawanna County, now drawing over 300,000 visits a year.

In addition to serving as Heritage Valley Authority's Executive Director, Natalie has compiled an impressive personal record of service to others and her community. She currently serves on the boards of the Jewish Family Service, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, and the NEPA Health Care Foun-

ation. She is a member of the President's Advisory Council of Keystone College, Living Independently for Elders (LIFE), the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and the Steering Committee for Women in Philanthropy.

It is an honor to recognize Natalie for all that she has done while leading the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. I wish her the best in retirement.

TAR SANDS TAX LOOPHOLE ELIMINATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act. This bill will ensure that oil companies can no longer sidestep paying their fair share into the dedicated trust fund created so that, in the event of an oil spill, there are resources immediately available for cleanup.

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, authorized in 1990, ensures we have funding available to pay for the immediate costs of cleaning up oil spills. It is funded by an eight cents per barrel excise tax on crude oil and petroleum products. In 2011, however, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a misguided decision stating that oil derived from tar sands is not considered crude oil and is therefore currently exempt from the tax that pays into the Fund.

Oil that comes from tar sands is a thick, sticky form of crude oil that can be more difficult and costly to clean up than other types of crude. In 2010, for example, a pipeline owned and operated by a Canadian company, Enbridge, spilled more than 850,000 gallons of tar sands oil into a waterway that flows into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. That has been one of the largest and costliest pipeline spills in American history, with the price tag now at \$1.2 billion dollars.

While I do not support the development of tar sands—doing so is environmentally destructive and carbon-intensive, we should not keep in place a loophole that lets big oil companies off the hook for cleaning up their tar sands spills. The Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act would add oil derived from tar sands and oil shale to the definition of crude oil, closing the current loophole and ensuring that oil companies pay into the fund. Oil companies already get billions of dollars in taxpayer-based subsidies, and this bill will ensure they will not be given an additional free ride on tar sands and any future oil shale development.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE CLEMENCY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Home Rule Clemency Act, a bill that would give the District of Columbia exclusive authority, like the

states and territories, to grant clemency to offenders prosecuted under its local laws.

While District law appears to give the mayor authority to grant clemency (D.C. Code 1–301.76), it is currently the opinion of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that the president, and not the mayor, has the authority to issue clemency for most local offenses prosecuted under D.C. law, particularly felonies prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney in the D.C. Superior Court. Under current practice, clemency petitions for D.C. convictions, like federal convictions, are submitted to the DOJ for the president's consideration.

Whether or not the DOJ's view is correct, my bill would remove all doubt that the District, and not the president, has the authority to issue executive clemency for local offenses. The District, like states and territories, should have full control of its local criminal justice system, the most basic responsibility of local government. Since the D.C. Council has the authority to enact local laws, District officials are in the best position to grant clemency for local law convictions. My bill would provide all clemency authority not currently reserved to the Mayor under D.C. Code 1–301.76 to the District government and would give D.C. the discretion to establish its own clemency system.

This bill is an important step in establishing further autonomy for the District in its own local affairs. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING EDDIE J. FAIR, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Eddie J. Fair, Jr. who is a product of Ruleville, MS.

At an early age Mr. Eddie J. Fair, Jr. learned the importance of education, while attending and graduating from Ruleville Central High School. He also learned the meaning of hard work, as he was the son of a sharecropper, who worked for \$3.00 a day. With those principles embedded in his soul, Mr. Fair went on to become a proud graduate of Jackson State University. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration. He quickly learned that public service was his niche during the five years he spent working in the office of Student Affairs of his alma mater. Mr. Fair then went on to work some 20 plus years in the automobile business, which he mastered in and out. From selling cars to becoming a finance manager then the promotion to finance director, he knew he wanted to be a helping hand to his community. In 2003, Mr. Eddie Fair was the first elected African American Tax Collector in Hinds County (the largest county in the state of Mississippi). He is currently serving in his third term and looks forward to many more years of serving the citizens of Hinds County. This small-town country boy believes that "No dreamer is ever too small and no dream is ever too big!" This is the very reason that he continues his efforts to remain involved with community issues and educates the public with frequent informational sessions.

As an active member in the community Mr. Eddie J. Fair stays involved with many organizations that included but are not limited to:

1. Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
2. Member of the Sollie B. Norwood Lodge Number 699.
3. Life Member NAACP.
4. Member of Leadership of Jackson 2005–current.
5. Member of the Jackson Rotary Club.
6. Member of the National & Mississippi Tax Collector/Assessor Association.
7. Former President of the Jackson Pan Hellenic Council.
8. Former Basileus, Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Beta Alpha Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eddie J. Fair, Jr. for his dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote Nos. 195 and 196. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on both.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHERS AWARD

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.

An independent panel has chosen the following teachers from Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough Counties to receive Florida's 16th District 2017 Congressional Teacher Award for their accomplishments as educators:

Danielle Murphy for her accomplishments as a teacher at Boyette Springs Elementary in Riverview.

Carol Pelletier for her accomplishments as a teacher at Sarasota Military Academy Prep in Sarasota.

Emilee Vermilion for her accomplishments as a teacher at Southeast High School in Bradenton.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO WILL SMITH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest gratitude that I rise on this bittersweet occasion to recognize Will Smith, who is leaving Capitol Hill after more than two decades of distinguished service.

Will has been my right hand in the halls of Congress for nearly two decades, and I cannot imagine a more thoughtful advisor, a more capable strategist, or a more loyal friend. A native of Beattyville, Kentucky, Will began his career on Capitol Hill in 1994, working for now-Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL. In 1998, he brought his talents to my personal office, where he eventually became Chief of Staff in 2002.

Over his 12 years in my personal office, the people of Kentucky could not have asked for a better advocate or a more capable public servant. Will's upbringing in his small eastern Kentucky hometown and his Appalachian roots have always been reflected in his work, and his legacy will be felt throughout the region for decades to come. He has championed numerous projects that benefitted the people of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District from flood protection, to water and sewer expansion, to transportation improvements, and the like. He was instrumental in standing up Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, an organization focused on environmental clean-up, as well as our nation's pre-eminent regional anti-drug organization, Operation UNITE, that has become a model for nationwide replication. And holding true to Kentucky tradition, Will has always loyally cheered on the UK Wildcats from the Nation's capital. He has never forgotten where he came from or the people he came to serve.

This remained true when I assumed the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Appropriations in 2011. Will stayed by my side—first as Deputy Staff Director for the Committee and then in 2013, was promoted to Clerk and Staff Director. During his tenure, he helped shepherd 70 bills to passage—bills that saved the American taxpayers more than \$126 billion.

His steady demeanor and strong leadership have been an asset to the Committee—particularly during some of the most trying times of the past six years. Even in the face of shut-downs, Will led with tact, professionalism, and thoughtfulness, working tirelessly to find a solution and get the job done. He is truly beloved by his colleagues and those congressional staff who have been fortunate enough to call him their boss and mentor.

As we all know, these congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running smoothly. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and we also owe a debt of gratitude to Will's lovely wife, Kim, and his cherished children, Morgan and Matthew.

Will is not going far away. But his absence will nonetheless be felt deeply throughout this institution. Will, on behalf of the Appropriations Committee and this Congress, I thank you for your service to our country. I wish you all the best in the future. Godspeed.

ROSENBERG FIRE CHIEF RETIRES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wade Goates of Houston, TX, and thank him for his leadership at the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department.

Wade joined the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department in 1992 and began working as a full-time firefighter in 1995. His commitment to public service led Wade to several promotions throughout his time with the fire department, from fire fighter to fire marshal and then fire chief in 2012. Wade received the Firefighter of the Year award in 2001 and the American Legion's Firefighter of the Year award in 2002. In 2008, the City of Rosenberg awarded Wade the Willie D. McQueen Award for his service to residents and coworkers. Wade retired from the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department on February 24th and plans to join the Fulshear-Simonton Fire Department. Both communities are lucky to have his dedication and commitment to service.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I would like to thank Wade Goates for his 25 years of service with Rosenberg. We wish him good luck with the Fulshear-Simonton Fire Department and thank him for his continued dedication to keeping TX-22 safe.

HONORING LITTLE ZION M.B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Little Zion Missionary Baptist of Money, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

The Little Zion M.B. Church in Money, Mississippi was built in 1871 by field-hand laborers. Mrs. Bloodsol gave the people of Wade, Whittington and the Bloodsol Plantations the property. It sits in the center of these plantations.

The bible states that "Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". Taking this verse into consideration the church's name became Little Zion. The name is significant because the Hebrew meaning of Zion is Jerusalem and Little Zion is the little Jerusalem.

After the construction of the church, Mrs. Bloodsol gave her yard-boy a letter to deliver to the preacher of the church explaining to the church members what the letter deed meant. She told the yard-boy to tell the members that if they did not understand the letter deed, she would send a rider to explain it.

When the church was built, it was facing the Tallahatchie River which during that time was the main route of travel. In 1929, a fire partially burned the church. When it was repaired, it was built facing the road.

The early leaders of the church were: R.L. Reynolds, A.D. Williams, A.D. Burke, H.L. Collins and S.T. Taylor. They were the cornerstones of the church and they were mainly responsible for the church's continued existence.