

IN MEMORY OF SKIPPER PERRY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina lost a devoted public servant with the death of former State Representative Skipper Perry. He was a courageous early pioneer for the Republican Party, helping develop the two-party system in South Carolina. On June 21, 2017, a Service of Worship Celebrating the Life, Death, and Resurrection was conducted at First Baptist Church in Aiken, South Carolina, by Reverend Dr. Fred Andrea, III, Instrumentalist Joyce M. English, and Soloist Vince Cloud.

The following thoughtful obituary was appropriately published in the Aiken Standard on June 20, 2017:

Robert Spence (Skipper) Perry, Jr. of Aiken died peacefully Father's Day, surrounded by his beloved wife and family.

A lifelong resident of Aiken, Skipper was the son of the late Robert Spence Perry, Sr. and May Seigler Perry. He is survived by his wife, Anne Straus.

In addition, Skipper is survived by his two sons, Stanley (Meg) of Charlotte, NC and Richard (Kristin) of Washington, DC. He leaves four grandchildren; Spence, Anne Healey, Liza May and Burke. He is also survived by his brother, William Perry (Rosaline) of Naples FL, Mary Ann Gunneson (Dave) of Chattanooga, TN, Susan McCarty of Aiken, Jeannie (Earle) Robinson (Earle) of Augusta, GA, Addison deAurora (Eric) of Savannah, GA, and the late Otto McCarty, brother-in-law.

Skipper's life was remarkable for its deep devotion to family—enjoying contact with a brother or sister every day. His family was the warm embrace that sustained him every day of his life.

He repaid that gift by devoting himself to the public good—whether in elected office or in the service of those who were unable to help themselves. He ministered to the sick—most among us. He offered support for the mentally and emotionally disabled. What you know of his public deeds pales by what he did for countless individuals privately and unnoticed.

He redefined the role of grandfather as an active participant in their lives, interested in even the smallest details of their routine.

Skipper was honored recently as the Aiken Chamber "Man of the Year". He has also served in the South Carolina State Legislature, Mayor Pro Tempore City of Aiken, City Council of Aiken, President Aiken Center for the Arts, President Mended Hearts of Aiken, Founding member and Chairman of the Tri-Development Center, Chairman of the Adult Development Center, Founding member of the Historic Aiken Foundation, President of the United Way of Aiken, President Aiken Symphony Guild, Chairman of the Heart Walk, President of Pinecrest Elementary PTA, Chairman of Palmetto Amateur Golf Tournament, Sertoman of the Year, Order of the Palmetto, President Aiken Jaycees, President of the Aiken Sertoma Club, American Legion Post 26, and Announcer Aiken Polo Club.

Skipper was larger than life. He milked every ounce of living from life until the moment of death.

The family will receive friends from 5:00–8:00 PM Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at Shellhouse Funeral Home, Inc., 924 Hayne Ave., Aiken, SC.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 PM Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at Aiken First Baptist Church with The Rev. Dr. Fred Andrea, III officiating. Interment will be held immediately following at Historic Bethany Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be Aiken Sertoma Club, American Legion Post 26, and the Mended Hearts of Aiken.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to Aiken Center for the Arts, 122 Laurens St SW, Aiken, SC 29801, Mended Hearts of Aiken, PO Box 976, Aiken SC 29802 and the American Legion Post No. 26 (Boy's State Program), 602 Hampton Ave NW, Aiken, SC 29801.

**HONORING KENNEDY ALLYSA WRIGHT****HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison Shannon Palmer High School in Marks, Mississippi.

Kennedy Allysa Wright is eighteen years old and a senior at Madison Shannon Palmer High School. She was born in Clarksdale, MS, but she grew up in Marks, MS. She has two siblings, Shadrick Wright, IV and Kaitlyn Wright. Her dad, Shadrick Wright, III works for a local factory and her mother, Cathy Wright, is an LPN II. When she graduates from high school, she plans to attend Mississippi State University and obtain a master's degree in Biological Sciences.

Throughout her tenure at Madison Shannon Palmer High School, she has participated in many organizations and a sport. She has held leadership positions such as President of the FCCLA, Vice President of the Student Council in her eleventh grade year, President of the Student Council in her twelfth grade year, and Treasurer of the Beta Club. She has also participated in other clubs and sport such as the Science Club and Powerlifting.

Along with her participation in various clubs and organizations, she has received many awards for her impressive academic standing and citizenship. She has received many academic awards, such as Highest Average, Superintendent's List, and Perfect Attendance. She has also placed second and third in many of the powerlifting competitions. For her Citizenship Award, she participated in many volunteer and community service projects. She has packed lunches for the needy, donated blood and clothing items, and helped the elderly. She has also been assisting her peers in applying for college.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kennedy Allysa Wright as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

**COMMENDING THE WORK OF GEORGE AND GLORIA SMITH****HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend George and Gloria Smith for all of the great work they have done in our commu-

nity to raise awareness and funds for mental health research.

After the tragic loss of their son, Adam, the Smiths established AdamFest in their son's honor—an annual event to raise awareness and resources for mental health research. The Smith's steadfast beliefs and courage in a time of tragedy has inspired strength within our community, and for that I am very grateful. As a mother of three sons, my heart aches for the Smith's loss—and I deeply admire and share their resolve to ensure that no other family endure the pain they have felt. Their story is the reason awareness and research for mental illness is essential, and why events such as AdamFest are so important.

I am extremely grateful to be a part of such a strong community and I hope that we can continue to come together and share our support for one another. Mr. Speaker, again I want to formally thank George and Gloria Smith for all of the great work they have done for our community.

**IN CELEBRATION OF MARY N. LONG'S 76TH BIRTHDAY****HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2017*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to an extraordinary nurse, activist, advocate, and pioneer, Ms. Mary N. Long, who is celebrating her 76th birthday on Monday, June 26, 2017. On this day, there will be a celebration at Paschal's Restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mary N. Long was born in Guthrie, Kentucky in 1941. She moved to Atlanta in 1960 to attend the Grady Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing and went on to graduate in 1963. Soon after, Mary embarked on what would become a distinguished career. Starting as an ambulatory care nurse at Grady, she gained extensive experience while volunteering at Atlanta's free clinics and assisting local health organizations. She soon became an influential figure at Grady, developing the hospital's satellite clinics while at the forefront of Grady's participation in Economic Opportunity Atlanta's health affairs to reach the greater Atlanta community.

In 1971, Mary developed and became the first Coordinator of the Central Referral Department at Grady. This program provided both information resources for those unfamiliar with the hospital system and advocacy within the community regarding policies and procedures so that proper treatment was readily available for patients. Her dedication and devotion built the program from the ground up and her work reflected such.

While working at Grady, she became involved with the Georgia Nurses Association (GNA), and its philanthropic organization, Georgia Nurses Foundation (GNF). As an active member and chairperson of GNA's Government Affairs Commission, Mary became the first minority woman to be their advocate at the Georgia legislature. In 1981, Mary was the first African American to be elected as the President of GNA where she served two terms. As a member of the City of Atlanta's Homeless Task Force, she was instrumental

in the partnership between GNF and the city that led to the establishment of Atlanta's first clinic for homeless.

In 1985, Mary Long became the Vice President for Legislative Affairs for the Arthritis Foundation and was later promoted to the Foundation's Group Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy in 1996. In addition, she was elected to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Board of Directors and served as ANA's Second Vice President.

While Mary has made tremendous contributions to health care issues, she also made great strides in other areas. For example, she was active in the movement to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in Georgia. She has an extensive record of service at the local, regional, and national levels. Her work has transcended through organizations such as the YMCA, Atlanta Food Bank, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, and the Atlanta Women's Foundation. She has received numerous awards for her groundbreaking innovation, actions, and creative thoughts. As an active member of her church, Trinity United Methodist in Atlanta, she has held onto her faith the entire journey.

As a friend of long standing, I have had the great privilege of witnessing Mary's work and the impact she has had on our state and nation. She has established a legacy of providing support for underrepresented groups on health care issues and I am very grateful for her tireless advocacy to improve the health care system in Georgia as well as her steadfast sup-

port for patients and their families. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise in her field are unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in honoring an outstanding citizen, advocate, and cherished friend, Ms. Mary N. Long, for the inspiring life that she leads. We extend our best wishes to her as she, her family, and friends celebrate her 75th birthday.

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HONORING KAYLA MICHELLE  
RIGGS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious young woman, Kayla Michelle Riggs. Kayla has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Kayla Michelle Riggs was born on May 16, 1992 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to Jeffrey and Sherry Riggs. She attended her Elementary, Junior High School and High School in the Vicksburg/Warren School District.

Kayla graduated from Vicksburg High School in 2010 and went on to attend Northwest Community College in Oxford, MS for

one year. She transferred to the University of Mississippi in 2011 and Graduated with a Bachelor of Science in the field of Criminal Justice in 2014.

In 2014, Kayla started her criminal justice career with the Mississippi Gaming Commission and started to work on her Master's Degree from Delta State University. In April 2016 she resigned from the Mississippi Gaming Commission to work on her Master's Degree.

In July of 2016, Kayla join the United States Army in the military occupation skill of Infantry and was placed in the delayed entry program until the United States Army could set a date for the first integrated class of women in the infantry military occupational specialty. In December of 2016, she finished her Masters Work in the field of Criminology and Social Science.

On January 30, 2017, Kayla reported to the United States Army reception station on Sandhill at Fort Benning, Georgia. Then on February 2017, she started in the first enlisted integrated female infantry basic training and advanced individual training class. She received the Infantry Blue Cord on May 18 and graduated on May 19, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kayla Michelle Riggs for being a part of a historic class, and her dedication to serving our great Country and strong desire to achieve.