

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PETTY OFFICER JAMES ELLIOTT WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and it is such an honor to recognize the official renaming of the United States Post Office located at 201 Tom Hall Street in Fort Mill, South Carolina, as the J. Elliott Williams Post Office Building.

James Elliott Williams was born in Fort Mill, South Carolina, and lived an extraordinary life. Mr. WILLIAMS was in the United States Navy for 20 years and served in and during the Cold War, the Korean war, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam war.

One example of his heroic actions occurred during the Vietnam war where he and his men fought off enemy combatants behind enemy lines for 3 hours in south Vietnam. Under Petty Officer Williams' leadership, the American Naval force killed roughly 1,000 Vietcong guerillas, destroyed over 60 vessels, and disrupted a major enemy logistics operation.

James E. Williams retired on April 26, 1967, as the most highly decorated enlisted sailor in the history of the United States Navy. He was the recipient of multiple awards during his service in the Navy; including, the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. Additionally, during his last 7 months in the Navy, he received every sea service award for heroism.

On May 14, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in the name of Congress, presented James Elliott Williams the Medal of Honor. In the 20th century, three sailors of American Indian heritage received the medal. Petty Officer Williams was one of the three.

Mr. Speaker, it was my great privilege to put forward this legislation with the entire South Carolina delegation and have it signed into law to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of James Elliott Williams.

HURRICANE MICHAEL AFTERMATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, just over a month ago, Hurricane Michael, the third most powerful hurricane to ever make landfall on the United States mainland, ravaged areas of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Hundreds of Americans lost everything, and more than 30 people were killed.

Hurricane Michael appears to have done its worst in Panama City, Florida, and nearby areas, but Alabama's Second District was also badly impacted in several counties in the Wiregrass Region. In fact, Hurricane Michael is the most powerful storm to

ever hit Houston County, according to recorded history.

In my district, the agricultural community faces the most significant devastation. While the full scale of the damage to local agriculture is still being assessed, Hurricane Michael dealt a terrible blow to our cotton, timber, and peanut farmers.

In the aftermath of the storm, I traveled to the Wiregrass several times to be with our farmers and to see firsthand what they were experiencing. The devastation is heartbreaking, to say the least. The farmers in southeast Alabama are in the midst of a very real crisis.

In Alabama's Second District, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Throughout my time in Congress, I have made it a priority to fight for our farmers of all commodities. Their work to provide the food and fiber we depend on is vitally important. I will continue to advocate for them, especially during this time of uncertainty, as we work to put the pieces back together for these hardworking men and women who have suffered tremendous loss to their livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, I want the people I represent to know that my office stands ready to help during this challenging time. I will work with my colleagues here in Congress to provide the proper resources and assistance to our farmers. We must get this right, and we must ensure Alabama's farmers are included in all recovery efforts.

I encourage anyone in Alabama's Second District who needs assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael to contact one of my offices today. My staff and I work for you, and we are committed to ensuring that the folks impacted know the options available to them.

As we work through this season of rebuilding, I have been encouraged to see and hear about so many acts of kindness and charity in our district and throughout the Southeast. This time of recovery will not be easy, but if we continue to help each other in whatever ways we are able, we will get through this together.

PAYING TRIBUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as I near the end of my 30 years in the Congress, it is only natural to reminisce just a bit.

During my first term in the House, a roving photographer for Roll Call stopped me to ask a sort of humorous question. He asked: If there was a statue of you in the Capitol, where would it be and what would it say? I said: It would probably be in the basement, and it would say: Lucky to be here.

I have always felt very lucky to have this job, and everyone on both sides of the aisle have been very kind to me. But I want to pay tribute this morning

to the three people most responsible for me being here.

A friend of mine in Knoxville told me a few years ago that I won the lottery with parents. I had never thought of it in that way, but it is true. My grandparents in Scott County, Tennessee, were wonderful people, but they had no money, 10 kids, an outhouse, subsistence farm—pure Appalachia.

My dad hitchhiked into Knoxville with \$5 in his pocket to go to the University of Tennessee and worked his way through. Twenty years after coming to Knoxville, he was elected mayor and led the peaceful integration of our city. He got about 95 percent of the African American vote in three non-partisan races for mayor.

He then preceded me in Congress, serving 23½ years and becoming the ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee. A former Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania told me one time: Your dad was the only man I knew who never had an enemy in this town.

I once described my father as the kindest, sweetest, toughest, hardest working man I ever knew, and I meant tough in a good way. I got a really nice handwritten letter from Peyton Manning about that article. He said he had flown out of Knoxville the day it was in the paper and that he could tell from that article that I had the same kind of relationship with my dad that he has with his.

My mother was 2 years older than my father and, after college in Iowa, came to Knoxville to visit an older sister who had married an engineering graduate from the University of Iowa and who had gotten a job at TVA. Her sister talked her into staying, and she met my dad at a YWCA dance.

Dad told one of his brothers that night that he had met the woman he was going to marry, and 3 months later, in Iowa City, Iowa, they were married, in May of 1942. The odds against a farm boy from Tennessee meeting and marrying a girl from Iowa City must have been billions to one, but theirs was truly a marriage made in heaven.

No one ever loved me as much as my mother did, and several times I have told women from the Midwest that I have a very high opinion of women from that part of the country because I thought my mother was the sweetest woman in the world.

My wife, Lynn, was a waitress in Knoxville's finest restaurant when I met her. She later said she married me even though I gave her the lowest tips of any of her regular customers.

Lynn has been my strongest supporter and biggest critic, my number one adviser. I honestly believe, if she had been elected to Congress instead of me, she would have gone much further than I have. She is certainly the speaker of our house and the love of my life for more than 40 years.

During my 30 years in Congress, I was in Washington a lot and gone a lot,

even when I was home. She had to raise four children, and all four have made us both very proud. During much of that time, she worked at full-time jobs, worked in all of my campaigns, and took care of most things at home. It certainly was not easy.

Once President Trump, when he was running, told her: Your husband sounds just like me. Lynn told him: Yes, I know—great for the country but hell to live with.

I could not have had a better wife and certainly could not have stayed in Congress for 30 years if she had not done all she has done for me and our children.

She gave me four children and nine grandchildren, all now living in Knoxville. What a blessing. Our daughter, Tara, has been for several years the head of the Knox County probation office. She has two children. Whitney has three daughters and is a leader in all the activities of the Christian Academy of Knoxville.

Our son, John, was elected as trustee for Knox County, receiving the highest vote total of anyone on the ballot that year, including me. He did a great job, serving 3 years, and then took over running my campaigns in 2014 and 2016 and representing me all over the district. He also is a successful realtor. Our son, Zane, worked for several years as a railroad executive and now serves on the Tennessee Parole Board. The boys both have two children, and the nine grandchildren range in age from 3 to 15.

I told my youngest granddaughter, Emma, who is 7 years old, at my younger son's wedding party: One of the happiest days of my life will be when I get to come to your wedding. She looked at me like I had said something really silly. She said: Oh, Papa, you couldn't do that. You would be dead.

But I am not dead yet, and I am going home mainly to spend more time with those nine grandchildren.

Lou Gehrig, the great baseball player, once said he was the luckiest man in the world, even though he knew he was dying with ALS. I am much luckier and very, very thankful.

HONORING DR. HERB LONDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, our Nation lost an intellectual giant and visionary leader this past Saturday, November 10, 2018.

Dr. Herbert London was a legendary conservative author, scholar, commentator, and defender of freedom. He was a scholar's scholar and a gentleman's gentleman.

A New Yorker of great stature, Herb grew up playing basketball and led his high school team to a city championship. After completing his studies at Columbia University, Herb's hoop-play-

ing skills caught the eye of the Syracuse Nationals; however, an injury blocked his athletic career.

Herb went on to earn a Ph.D. from New York University and later served as the dean of NYU's Gallatin division. From running for political office to leading the Hudson Institute to founding the London Center for Policy Research, Dr. London was the definition of a renaissance man and a true patriot, committed to bringing about a stronger, more principled Nation.

A 6'5" tower of humility, integrity, and vision, Herb will be sorely missed, and his legacy will forever be enshrined in the hearts and minds of many.

My prayers are with the London family as they heal from this tremendous loss.

May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 115TH COMBAT SUPPORT HOSPITAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 115th Combat Support Hospital headquartered in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The 115th Combat Support Hospital was established in 1918 and is recognized as having the highest combat injury survival rate in the world. The unit has been deployed in World War I, World War II, Desert Storm, and the Iraq war.

In World War II, the 115th Combat Support Hospital received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its work while on the front lines across Europe.

The 115th Combat Support Hospital has become the standard for all medical units and a central asset for Fort Polk, the Joint Readiness Training Center, and the United States Army.

I had the incredible opportunity to witness the work that the hospital does when the unit set up at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Louisiana, to celebrate their centennial anniversary.

These soldiers enter the field, build a facility, and become a fully functioning hospital in a matter of hours. The unit and its facilities, which include an emergency room, operating room, pharmacy, and lab, are all trained to set up in 12 to 18 hours.

The 115th Combat Support Hospital also contains subordinate units that provide optical care, veterinary services, preventive medicine, and a ground ambulance company.

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The work they do saves lives and allows troops to return home and back to their families. I am thankful for the honorable men and women that comprise the 115th Combat Support Hospital, as they reflect the absolute best of the United States Army.

The 115th Combat Support Hospital is truly a great asset to our military. Today, I join our country and all members, both past and present, of the 115th Combat Support Hospital in celebrating 100 years of lifesaving work. I look forward to continuing to witness their successes and achievements at Fort Polk for many years to come.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week is Rural Health Week in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and today is National Rural Health Day.

It is a time to promote awareness of the full range of issues that impact approximately 60 million rural Americans. Pennsylvania ranks as one of the States with the highest number of rural residents, with 23 percent of Pennsylvanians residing in rural areas.

Rural communities face unique healthcare concerns, such as a lack of providers; accessibility issues, particularly in terms of transportation and technology; affordability issues as a result of larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and greater out-of-pocket health costs.

Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field assisting those facing life-changing diseases and disabilities. I am acutely aware of the challenges many face when it comes to obtaining reasonably priced healthcare. It is especially critical for rural America, like much of my congressional district.

We are facing a healthcare crisis in our Nation's rural areas. These often disadvantaged populations are still struggling to access affordable quality care. Many remain uninsured; most are underinsured. However, access to quality care remains the largest challenge.

Even when people gain access to health insurance, it does not equal access to care. Rural hospitals across the country are closing, leaving patients without access to their emergency rooms and their long-term care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, 90 rural hospitals have closed since 2010, and nearly 700 are at risk. One in three rural hospitals is financially vulnerable. At the current closure rate, more than 25 percent of rural hospitals will close in less than a decade.

Continued cuts in hospital payments have taken their toll, forcing hospitals to operate in the red until they finally make the painful decision to stop providing care. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of rural hospitals operating at a loss rose from 40 to 44 percent.

In addition to hospital closures, a workforce shortage plagues rural America. Mr. Speaker, 77 percent of