

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
JACK T. BRINKLEY, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant, dedicated statesman, mentor, and dear friend of longstanding, The Honorable Jack T. Brinkley, Sr. Sadly, Jack passed away on January 23, 2019, at the age of 88. His passing marks the close of a long and prolific life, and his departure leaves a void in the hearts of many Georgians. He leaves behind an impeccable legacy of service that will never be forgotten. A funeral service was held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Evangel Temple in Columbus, Georgia.

Jack Thomas Brinkley, Sr. was born on December 22, 1930, to the union of the late Lonnie and Stella Brinkley in Faceville, Georgia. A product of the Decatur County Public School System, he graduated from Attapulgus High School in 1947 and Young Harris College in 1949 before working as an educator and basketball coach from 1949 to 1951. In 1951, he joined the United States Air Force where he served for 5 years as a combat crew pilot. After honorably serving his country, he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Georgia School of Law, was admitted to the bar, and became a prominent lawyer with Young, Hollis, and Mosely and later with Coffin and Brinkley, both in Columbus, Georgia.

He served in the General Assembly of Georgia for two one-year terms from 1965 to 1966. While serving as the State Representative for District 112, he was appointed Chairman of the Local Affairs Committee, authored legislation to require phenylketonuria (PKU) testing for newborn infants, and spearheaded the protest against the closure of the Warm Springs Institute for which he later sponsored funding legislation.

In 1966, he was elected to Congress from the 3rd District of Georgia at age 35, and served for eight terms, retiring from the 97th Congress in 1983. While serving as the representative for Georgia's Third Congressional District, Jack authored several key pieces of legislation. Following the Vietnam War, he was the author of legislation establishing the Gold Star Wives Charter. He also authored dual use legislation in Civil Defense during the Carter administration which authorized, by statute, federal response to natural and wartime disasters. Jack was also the author of legislation designating Andersonville as a National Historic Site, which transferred it from the Department of the Army to the Department of Interior. With the help of his Co-Chairman, the Honorable Rudy Hayes of Americus, he was able to place the Georgia Memorial at the site.

During his last Congressional term before retirement, he was Chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee, which had juris-

diction over military acquisitions and disposals, and as such, blocked the transfer of land at Fort Gillam chosen for the Region IV Veteran's cemetery. Subsequently, under Jack's leadership, the Fort Mitchell VA cemetery was approved by the Reagan Administration.

During the last terms of his service in Congress, there was intense competition for the location of an army plan for One Station Unit Training (OSUT), where basic infantry training was to be combined with advanced infantry training to reduce costs. Endorsements from the New England Mid-West Coalition for Fort Drum in New York and Senator Strom Thurmond for Fort Jackson in South Carolina initially blocked the Army's choice of Fort Benning. However, Jack's move to Chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee led to the authorization of the reception station at Sand Hill at Fort Benning. Jack was also pivotal in establishing Interstate 185 connecting Interstate 85 to Columbus, Georgia. As a Congressman, Jack placed a huge emphasis on constituent service and attendance, as he was known for passionately advocating for citizens facing the heavy hand of bureaucracy and rarely missed a vote or quorum call.

He was a CIVITAN, a Master Mason, and an attorney for 50 years, but he was a Christian for all of his life. He was baptized when he was almost ten years old at Betts' Mill Pond and he practiced the requirements of Micah to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God. He faithfully took his family to Edgewood Baptist Church and taught Sunday School there for many years, before joining Evangel Temple, where he served until his passing.

Jack was more than a legislator, he was a servant to all humankind. He gave of himself to countless causes and organizations. Dr. Maya Angelou once said that "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back." Jack threw a prodigious amount of love and service back to the state and nation he loved so dearly.

Jack achieved much in his life but none of it would have been possible without the love and support of his loving family. While he was preceded in death by his late and dearly beloved wife, Lois Kite Brinkley, and his son, Jack, Jr.; his legacy lives on through his dearly beloved wife, Sally; his son, Fred; and a host of family and friends who will miss him deeply.

On a personal note, Jack Brinkley was a mentor to me. But more importantly, he was indeed a role model for my career in public service. From his strong example of constituent service, to his eloquent use of poems and appropriate quotations in his oral and written presentations. Jack Brinkley has been the model I have sought to emulate. He held fast to his promise to "remember who I am, where I'm from, and who sent me." The world and human kind are better because Jack passed this way.

Jack was truly a great representative for Southwest Georgia and a stellar example of

how a public servant should serve his constituents. His friendship, leadership, and counsel will be sorely missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with thousands in the Chattahoochee Valley and across America in paying tribute to former Georgia Congressman Jack T. Brinkley, Sr. for a life well lived and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement. Moreover, we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING WILLIAM MARVIN AND
BETTY ANN KNIGHT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Marvin and Betty Ann Knight, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on January 26, 2019.

Bill and Betty have spent their lives serving their community. Whether Betty's service in the County Treasurer's office and guiding Platte County as the Presiding Commissioner for 16 years, or through their volunteer efforts on boards and community organizations, Bill and Betty have always been pillars of the community. It is my hope that they can enjoy this time of celebration and look back on all of the joyful times they have shared as a couple, from quiet family moments to trips in far flung locations across the continent.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, their friends, daughters, and grandchildren in congratulating William Marvin and Betty Ann Knight on their 50th wedding anniversary and in wishing them many more years of continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, I was absent from the House because at the time of votes I was attending to a family matter back in my home district. Due to my absence I did not record any votes for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 64; and YEA on Roll Call No. 65.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE CAREER OF STEPHEN R. BAUMAN—DIRECTOR OF THE VA CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague, Stephen R. Bauman, as he retires from his position as Director of the VA Central California Health Care System in Fresno, California. Throughout his distinguished career with the United States Navy and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Stephen has dedicated his life to public service and the care of our nation's veterans. Stephen has left an indelible mark on the Central Valley through his commitment to the veteran community.

Stephen honorably served our country for 36 years in the United States Navy. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War. As a reservist, he was activated in support of Operation Desert Storm and completed a tour in Iraq and Kuwait in 2004 as a Command Master Chief in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He attended Grantham University in Lenexa, Kansas and obtained a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2011.

Stephen began his career with the Department of Veteran Affairs in 1977 as a staff nurse at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System. He has served at eight VA facilities throughout his career, including the Northern California Health Care System, Sierra Pacific Network and Los Angeles. He was appointed Director of the VA Central California Health Care System in November 2015. His proven experience and sound leadership qualities made him the perfect fit to guide the Fresno VA.

As director, Stephen was responsible for the delivery of health care for approximately 96,000 veterans throughout Central California, with an annual operating budget of \$212 million. He oversees both the main campus in Fresno and the outpatient clinics in Tulare, Merced, and Oakhurst, California. My staff and I have had the pleasure of working closely with Director Bauman throughout his tenure. Stephen has gone above and beyond to help veterans in need of assistance in the Central Valley. I commend him for his exemplary work on behalf of the veterans who have sacrificed so much for our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of Director Stephen R. Bauman, in honor of his remarkable career and contributions to the Department of Veteran Affairs. I wish Stephen the very best as he enters a new phase in his life. I ask that you join me in wishing Stephen and his family continued happiness and prosperity.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER EARLY COUNTY SHERIFF JIMMIE R. MURKERSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remem-

brance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding public servant, the former Sheriff of Early County, Georgia, Mr. Jimmie Ray Murkerson. Sadly, Sheriff Murkerson passed away on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 1, 2019, at 2 p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church in Blakely, Georgia.

The Blakely, Georgia native was born on June 7, 1947 to the union of the late Leon and Cherrie Murkerson. In addition to being a loving father, son, husband, and friend, Jimmie was also a Vietnam Veteran, store owner (Early Tree Service and Blakely Floor Covering), farmer, former Blakely City Councilman, and former Early County Sheriff.

Sheriff Murkerson was employed with the Early County Sheriff's Office for more than 34 years and he proved to be a strong and revered leader. As the chief law enforcement officer, he was responsible for patrolling and responding to calls within the 516 square mile area of Early County, where the population is just over 10,000 people. During his tenure as Sheriff, he spearheaded the consolidation of various law enforcement services in the county, which resulted in more efficient, resourceful, and proactive law enforcement for the citizens of Early County.

Sheriff Murkerson embodied the definition of a public servant through his strong leadership, steadfast dedication, and unwavering compassion. He served on the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council; the Governor's Children and Youth Coordinating Council; the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; the Board of Directors of the ABAC Police Academy; and the Executive Board of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. He also served as the 1997–98 President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and the President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

Sheriff Murkerson's dedication to enforcing the law and protecting the public earned him several awards including the 2011 Georgia Sheriffs' Association's Sheriff of the Year award; the Georgia Sheriffs' Association's Distinguished Humanitarian Award (which he received twice); and the Governor's Peace Officers Award.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Sheriff Murkerson is undoubtedly great because of his distinguished service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for his friends and loved ones.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah; children, Tracie and Jimmie, Jr.; and a host of family, friends, and loved ones who will miss him deeply.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to former Early County Sheriff Jimmie Ray Murkerson for his legacy of service to Early County and the great state of Georgia. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement. Moreover, we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting with several of my constituents in Washington, DC. Due to that meeting, I missed a vote during the vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 065.

RECOGNIZING MS. RITA VIDAURRI EDEN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Rita Vidaurri Eden, who passed away on January 16, 2019. A true Latina musician and icon, Ms. Vidaurri Eden hails from my hometown of San Antonio. She is survived by her daughter, Linda Palewich Alvarado; her sister Henrietta Rodriguez; a stepbrother, Ruben Vidaurri; four step-sisters, Yvan, Rita, Sofia, and Ellena Vidaurri; numerous nephews, nieces, and 5 generations of grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

Ms. Rita Vidaurri Eden was born in San Antonio on May 22, 1924 to Juan and Maria Castillo Vidaurri. At an early age, Ms. Vidaurri Eden showed a keen interest in the performing arts and was encouraged most notably by her mother who passed when she was a teenager.

Left with the care and responsibility of her younger siblings, Ms. Vidaurri Eden persisted, keeping her passion for singing alive while attending night school by performing on Mexican radio, competing in music contests, and working as an advertising model.

Ms. Vidaurri Eden was known for her unrivaled performance in Ranchera, a traditional Mexican country music genre that often features love ballads and odes to home. She soon earned the nickname "La Calandria," or the "Lark" whose powerful voice resonated throughout every venue where she performed. By the late 1950s and at the height of her career, Ms. Vidaurri Eden retired from the stage, only later reviving her singing career at the age of 80. In 2001, Ms. Vidaurri Eden along with Beatriz Llamas, Blanca Rodriguez and Janet Cortez, formed a group of elder cantantes—referred to as "Las Tesoros del Westside," or the beloved "the Treasures of the Westside."

Ms. Vidaurri Eden performed across Latin America and the nation. She performed on stage with Mexican artists such as Jorge Negrete, Cantinflas, and sang alongside Nat King Cole, Eydie Gorme, and Celia Cruz. She continued to sing until the end of her life.

Madam Speaker, I stand with confidence knowing that the passing of Ms. Rita Vidaurri Eden does not mark the conclusion of her legacy. Ms. Vidaurri Eden's journey will be forever carried by her timeless music, by fans, and the countless aspiring singers who look to her as a beacon of possibility.

Ms. Vidaurri Eden's passion for music could only be matched by her perseverance. Her