

Elkins II on his retirement and exemplary service to North Carolina.

# RECOGNIZING THE RETURN TO OUR EL PASO ROOTS REUNION

## HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Return to Our El Paso Roots Reunion. This reunion, which originally started as a decennial reunion of the Douglass Grammar and High School alumni, will honor the contributions and heritage of the African American community in El Paso, Texas.

There is special importance in passing down the rich history and culture that we experience throughout our lives and this event seeks to do exactly that. The reunion serves as an opportunity for participants to share stories, explore the growth of El Paso's African American community, and support the University of Texas at El Paso's Black Alumni Network (UBAN) and the McCall Neighborhood Center; both fundamental to El Paso's history and our enduring commitment to upholding civil rights in our community and across the United States.

As a native El Pasoan, it is an honor to recognize the Return to our El Paso Roots Reunion in the House of Representatives. I commend their work and contributions to our community and wish them a successful series of events.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF ABHEY KAPPAMAMMOOTIL VARUGHESE

## HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life of Abhey Kappamammootil Varughese.

Abhey was born on July 29, 1962 to K.T. and Chinnamma Varughese in Kerala, India. He was the youngest of four siblings and was greatly loved by his immediate and extended family. Abhey loved to learn and excelled throughout his grade school years. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Kerala. After immigrating to America, he proudly worked as a research and development chemist for much of his career.

Abhey and his wife Lishba were married on July 29, 1987. He and Lishba resided in Waterford, Michigan and celebrated over 30 years of marriage together.

Abhey passed away on June 30, 2019 surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife Lishba, his son and daughter-in-law Jeremiah and Jincy Varughese, his daughter and son-in-law Hannah and Nathan Gyani, and his newest granddaughter, Ranni Varughese.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the life of Abhey Kappamammootil Varughese and his many contributions to his community in Southeast Michigan.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE HOWARD F. SACHS

## HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honorable Judge Howard F. Sachs' service and commitment to justice throughout his forty years on the bench. Judge Sachs has spent his entire career advancing the cause of justice in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri and throughout Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

A lifelong Kansas Citian, Judge Sachs was born in 1925 to Alex and Rose Sachs. Judge Sachs attended Southwest High School in Kansas City's Brookside neighborhood before serving the country in the Pacific Theatre as a Naval Electrical Technician's Mate aboard the U.S.S. *South Dakota*. While he was anchored in Tokyo Bay on Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz's Flag Ship, the Japanese signed the terms of surrender, ending World War II. Judge Sachs was there, serving his country, during this significant moment in history. Upon discharge from the military, Judge Sachs attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he received his bachelor's degree and graduated valedictorian of his class in 1947. In 1950, Judge Sachs received his Juris Doctor with honors from Harvard Law School.

After completing law school, Judge Sachs returned to his hometown of Kansas City and was a law clerk for the Honorable Albert A. Ridge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri from 1950 to 1951. While clerking for Judge Ridge, Judge Sachs was assigned the well-known Swope Park Swimming Pool case, which challenged the constitutionality of segregated municipal pools in Kansas City. He contributed to the opinion siding with the argument made by the NAACP's chief attorney at the time, Thurgood Marshall, that segregated public swimming pools violated the constitution of the United States. Though this case was profoundly significant, the work of Judge Sachs was only beginning. During his private practice in the 1950s, a tumultuous time for race relations in America, Judge Sachs served as Chairman of the Board of the Urban League of Greater Kansas City and helped orchestrate the admission of women and African American lawyers into the Kansas City Bar Association. In 1962, Judge Sachs drafted the ordinance that finally ended segregated public accommodations in Kansas City, Missouri. Judge Sachs also was a force for change via the significant leadership positions he held within the community, serving as a member of the Kansas City Commission on Human Relations and as President of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau.

After thirty years in private practice, Judge Sachs was nominated for his position on the recommendation of Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, appointed by President Jimmy Carter, and took office in October 1979, making him the first native-born Kansas Citian to serve in the Western District of Missouri. When Judge Sachs was confirmed, he was the first Jewish district judge to sit within the Eighth Circuit in nearly one hundred years. In 1990, Judge Sachs served as chief judge of the court and

took senior status in 1992. While on the bench, Judge Sachs has overseen numerous noteworthy cases, from ruling that inmates had a right to marriage in 1984—a case which eventually reached the Supreme Court—to the writing of a lower court ruling in *Mistretta* that challenged the constitutionality of the Sentencing Commission and produced federal sentencing guidelines. Even in his fortieth year on the bench, Judge Howard F. Sachs continues to maintain a significant docket.

Throughout his career, Judge Sachs has received noteworthy public recognition including numerous awards from the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Truman Award for Public Service, the Difference-Maker Award from the Urban League of Greater Kansas City, and the designation of "Judge Howard F. Sachs Day" on September 26, 2019 by the city of Kansas City, Missouri, in recognition of forty years of distinguished service on the Federal Judiciary.

Judge Howard F. Sachs' reputation equals impressive his legal career. He is widely-known for his unparalleled devotion to the legal profession and his well-analyzed, clearly expressed opinions rooted in the bedrock of justice. Distinguished by his intellectual interest, faithfulness to precedent, and reserved demeanor, Judge Sachs has established an inspirational legacy steeped in justice, fairness, and due process. To this day, at ninety-four years old, he remains as veracious and committed to his duties as his first day on the bench.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating Judge Howard F. Sachs' forty years serving as a U.S. District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Let us honor his unrelenting commitment to the American people, and the rule of law.

# HONORING THE SERVICE OF GUY SWANGER

## HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time law enforcement officer and community advocate, Guy Swanger.

In January 2011, Chief Swanger was sworn in as the Concord Police Chief, taking command of a 154-member department in a city of 127,000 residents. An advocate for families and children, Chief Swanger played a crucial part in bringing the Central County Family Justice Center to Concord to provide support to domestic violence victims.

Prior to joining the Concord Police Department, Chief Swanger spent 26-years with the San Diego Police Department. In that role, he served as Executive Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center under the Office of the Mayor. He also co-authored *Managing Innovation in Policing: The Untapped Potential of the Middle Manager*, which has been utilized and taught at many command colleges and universities.

In addition to his position with the Concord Police Department, he currently serves as a

board member for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and is a member of the State of California AARP Livable Communities Committee.

Chief Swanger and his wife, Lora, have three children: Matt, Cameron, and Hayley. I am grateful for Chief Guy Swanger's dedicated service, and wish him great luck and joy in his retirement.

# INTRODUCTION OF PROTECTING FEDERAL AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act, which would require an act of Congress before any federal agency headquarters may be moved out of the National Capital Region (NCR). My bill would require that the headquarters of any agency located in the NCR on the date of the introduction of this bill remain in the NCR absent subsequent legislation. This bill is cosponsored by Representatives ANTHONY BROWN and JAMIE RASKIN.

The Trump administration has already begun moving agencies out of the NCR to the detriment of federal employees, their families and the work of these agencies. Employees who work in agency headquarters fulfill the indispensable role of keeping Congress and the president informed of agency activities. Congress cannot do its work to write laws and engage in vital oversight without the unvarnished facts that nonpartisan agencies provide. In fact, we have already seen the negative impacts of these relocation efforts. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced that it will be moving its headquarters staff to Grand Junction, Colorado, where agency staff will share office space with a Chevron corporate office, a state oil and gas association and an independent natural gas exploration company.

As for the Department of Agriculture's relocation efforts, two-thirds of impacted highly specialized employees will not relocate to Kansas City, retiring early or quitting instead. Preliminary reports suggest similarly low retention rates for BLM staffers asked to relocate west. While agency leadership touts these moves as cost effective, the work of the agency suffers when experienced personnel leave and relocation efforts appear to favor special interests.

Unless measures like the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act are taken to stop agencies from relocating, the federal government will lose more employees and agencies will be unable to perform critical tasks, like assisting Congress in vital oversight.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CLAY HIGGINS**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was on official business in my district (LA-03). Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 541; nay on Roll Call No. 542; nay on Roll Call No. 543; yea on Roll Call No. 544; yea on Roll Call No. 545; nay on Roll Call No. 546; nay on Roll Call No. 547; yea on Roll Call No. 548; nay on Roll Call No. 549; nay on Roll Call No. 550; yea on Roll Call No. 551; nay on Roll Call No. 552; nay on Roll Call No. 553; yea on Roll Call No. 554; and nay on Roll Call No. 555.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID P. JOYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call vote 548, I was in the Chamber but was unable to execute my vote. I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 548.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on September 27, 2019, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to personal matters in Michigan. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: "aye" on Roll Call No. 555: H. Res. 603—Raising a question of the privileges of the House; "yea" on Roll Call No. 554: H.R. 3722—the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 553: S.J. Res. 54—A joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

## HONORING THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. DAN CRENSHAW**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Spring Fire Department, a public safety agency that has come a long way in its 66-year history, but never so much as in the past decade.

For the first few decades, local residents and businesses passed the hat, and volunteers manned the donated and frequently pre-owned, equipment.

As Spring has evolved from a rural railroad stop into a Houston suburb, the fire department has grown alongside the community. In 1997, Spring Fire began employing profes-

sional firefighters to supplement their volunteers during the daytime hours.

Meeting the expectations of a rapidly growing population is a challenge they meet every day. Six of Spring's nine fire stations were built this decade. Station 74 is the last of the new stations to open for service.

Every day, the men and women of the Spring Fire Department provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, and more to over 152,000 people in 62 square miles of northern Harris County.

From a fire department where volunteers heard the siren and rushed to a station to pick up a fire engine, Spring has evolved into a combination department that staffs all its nine stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Today, the department has a mix of full-time, part-time and volunteer firefighters to answer the calls. With a fleet of over two dozen pieces of fire and rescue apparatus, along with more than a dozen support vehicles, Spring firefighters respond to fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and highwater rescues.

Built to withstand strong hurricane-force winds, the new Station 74 is already home to an engine and a tanker. Designed with the future in mind, Station 74 will be able to house more fire equipment, an additional crew, and a District Chief in the years to come.

The new Spring Fire Station 74 is a testament to the commitment of the department, their command staff, and the board of Harris County Emergency Services District Number 7 to serve Spring today and in the future.

It is my honor to be part of the Spring Fire Station 74 Grand Opening Celebration on October 5. May God bless these crews putting their lives on the line for this community every day, and may God continue to bless Texas and the United States of America.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, my votes were not recorded on September 27, 2019. I am not recorded because I had to attend to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 553, "yea" on Roll Call No. 554, and "yea" on Roll Call No. 555.

## CONGRATULATING PASTOR JIM GRAFF AND TAMARA GRAFF ON FAITH FAMILY CHURCH'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Jim and Tamara Graff for their over 30 years of serving Faith Family Church.

Faith Family Church began with humble origins as a home Bible Study. In 1989—after favor and growth from the Lord—Faith Family Church called Pastor Jim and Tamara Graff to