

RECOGNIZING JAMES W. OXFORD, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, FOR HIS DECADES OF SERVICE

**HON. HARLEY ROUDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2019*

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James W. “Bill” Oxford, the National Commander of the American Legion, for his service to our nation and his dedication to the American Legion.

Mr. Oxford served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, was discharged as a sergeant in 1970, and later joined the North Carolina National Guard. He ultimately retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Mr. Oxford, a Legionnaire since 1986, was elected National Commander of the American Legion on August 29, 2019, during the American Legion’s 101st National Convention.

Orange County is thrilled to welcome Mr. Oxford as he visits our beloved American Legion Post 291, which has been a fixture in the Newport Beach community for nearly 100 years.

I urge all members to join me in recognizing Mr. Oxford for his work on behalf of American veterans and legionnaires across the United States.

**HONORING BITTLE PORTERFIELD**  
III

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Bittle Porterfield III, a Roanoke native, businessman, and champion of the area’s education and arts, who died on November 29, 2019 at the age of 75. Mr. Porterfield was incredibly involved in the Roanoke community, and his goal was to make the Roanoke Valley and Virginia a better place to live.

Bittle Porterfield III was born on March 9, 1944. He attended Roanoke College for his undergraduate degree. After graduating, Mr. Porterfield served in the United States Army for two years. He then earned a master’s in business administration at Virginia Tech. Mr. Porterfield worked in the beverage industry for most of his career, leading two family-run businesses.

In addition to business, Mr. Porterfield had a passion for education. He was the president of the Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, where he oversaw maintenance for three museums, three performing arts centers, and the region’s arts council. Mr. Porterfield was also the President of the Taubman Museum of Art.

Mr. Porterfield took any opportunity he saw to benefit the Roanoke Valley. This is evident in his service as Chairman for the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, the Foundation for the Roanoke Valley, and the Roanoke Valley Business Council. Mr. Porterfield was also the President of the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The effort that Mr. Porterfield poured into education was noticed, and he was appointed

to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Additionally, he served on the Radford University Board of Visitors.

Mr. Porterfield also used his passion for aviation at the Virginia Aviation Board, where he was a member. He also served as the Chairman of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission.

The Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia were fortunate to have such a strong proponent and leader of education and business in their community.

Mr. Porterfield’s survivors include Charlotte Kelley Porterfield; his sons Bittle Wilson Porterfield IV and wife, Holly, and Forrest Kelley Porterfield and wife, Katie; and grandchildren Bittle Wilson Porterfield V, Jackson Watkins Porterfield, Forrest Shepperson Porterfield, and William Hines Porterfield. I offer my condolences to the Porterfield family on their loss.

**IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN L. SANETTI’S DECADES OF SERVICE**

**HON. ROB BISHOP**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen L. Sanetti for his decades of dedicated service upon his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Steve is a fierce defender and ardent supporter of our constitutional right to keep and bear arms, but is first and foremost an American patriot. A member of Virginia Military Institute’s Class of 1971, Steve graduated with honors before earning his Juris Doctor at Washington and Lee University School of Law. While attending VMI, Steve was a member of the Executive Committee, Battalion Operations, president of the Rifle and Pistol Club, and four-year member of the Rifle Team. I venture to say that Steve is a pretty great shot. From 1975 to 1978, Steve proudly wore the uniform of the United States Army in the First Cavalry Division Staff Judge Advocate at Ft. Hood, Texas, attaining the rank of Captain. Steve continues to live by the Army core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage to this day and holds true his oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

Following a two-year stint as Litigation Counsel at Marsh, Day & Calhoun in Connecticut, Steve was hired by Bill Ruger in 1980 as the first general counsel for one of the nation’s leading firearm manufacturing companies. For nearly three decades, Steve rose through the ranks to President and has devoted his life to Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. Without question, this prepared him well for taking over the helm as President and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation—the trade association for America’s firearms and ammunition industry—and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute. In his nearly 12 years at NSSF, Steve has guided the foundation through times of both turbulence and growth. Under Steve’s leadership, NSSF’s firearms safety and education program, Project ChildSafe®, has seen tremendous success and new partnerships have been established with the American

Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Department of Veterans Affairs to address suicide and with ATF to prevent firearms from landing in the wrong hands. Because of Steve’s unwavering commitment to both developing genuine solutions that make for safer communities and respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens, NSSF continues to be a leading voice in the national conversation to promote firearm safety and responsibility. Steve can certainly take pride in his work at NSSF and in helping to ensure that future generations have opportunities to enjoy the great pastimes of hunting and the shooting sports.

I thank Steve for his service and love of country. As Steve begins the next chapter of his life, spending more time with family—in particular his grandchildren—and growing the next generation of sportsmen, I congratulate him and wish him, his wife Carole, their children and grandchildren all the best.

**CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. DONALD COLE**

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2019*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I want to express my sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cole on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on December 14, 2019.

Donald Dwight Cole and Edna Earl Mize married on December 14, 1969 at Millport Church of Christ. Their story began when they met in study hall as juniors in high school, where they were the only students in the class. Don grew up Millport, AL, while Edna grew up all over the country as the daughter of a U.S. Air Force veteran until the military brought her to Millport in 1965. It is the classic love story. Don, the football player, and Edna, soon to become Homecoming Queen, fell in love as high school sweethearts and soon found themselves at the University of Alabama.

After college graduation Don was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and Edna began teaching English. Over the next few decades the Air Force would station them in Aurora, CO; Goldsboro, NC; Washington, DC; Uijeongbu, South Korea; Colorado Springs, CO; Nashville, TN; back to Colorado Springs, CO, and then to their last tour back in Bowie, MD.

In their retirement years they continue to serve in their church, Columbus Church of Christ, run the consignment store Cole’s Collections, serve on the South Lamar Rescue Squad, Millport Chamber of Commerce and the C3 Northwest Alabama Economic Alliance.

They learned their strong faith, work and personal ethics from parents, which they’ve also taught by example to their two children, Eric Lee Cole (Kensington, MD) and Emily Cole Monahan (Columbus, MS). They have always stayed close to their roots and family in Lamar County, and remain avid Alabama football fans. Celebrated now by their 2 children (Eric and Emily), 2 grandchildren Thomas Cole Monahan (Columbus, MS) and Ryan Lee Cole (Kensington, MD) . . . theirs is truly a love story of obedience to God, loyalty and perseverance.

Fifty years later their love story, and the Air Force, have taken them all over the world and

included countless adventures and friends, but they will tell you that their faith and their family has been their greatest blessing. Back on November 24, 2019, their children hosted a 50th Wedding Anniversary reception from 2:00 to 4:00 at Columbus Church of Christ in Columbus, Mississippi.

As the Cole's representative to Congress, I send them my best wishes and my prayers that they will have many more happy years together.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHY COOMER

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Cathy Coomer, who will retire on December 31, 2019 after thirty years of dedicated service with the Buncombe County Government.

Ms. Coomer's dedication to serving North Carolina began on January 12, 1990. As Safety Officer, Ms. Coomer is responsible for the safety and well-being of a workforce of 1,500 employees. She has been an integral part of the Buncombe County Emergency Services Operation and earned her certificate as a North Carolina Executive Level Emergency Manager.

Throughout her career, Ms. Coomer has held leadership positions on numerous state and local committees. She served as President for the Western North Carolina Safety and Health School and the Western North Carolina Safety Council. She served as President for the North Carolina Association of Local Government Employee Safety Officials. She was also on the Conference Program Committee with the North Carolina Emergency Management Association.

Ms. Coomer's leadership and dedication to the people in North Carolina was on clear display during her efforts in response to numerous emergency and disaster situations, including the Blizzard of 1993, Hurricane Frances, Hurricane Ivan, Hurricane Irene, and several other various non-declared events.

It is my great pleasure to celebrate Ms. Cathy Coomer before the United States House of Representatives and thank her for diligent

service to her community, the great State of North Carolina, and this country.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SEBASTIAN INLET DISTRICT

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, this year marks the centennial anniversary of the Sebastian Inlet District, which not only serves as a premier recreational destination for families to enjoy but plays an important role in our local economy.

Created in May of 1919 by a special act of the Florida State Legislature, the Sebastian Inlet District was originally chartered to maintain the navigational channel between the Atlantic Ocean and our Indian River Lagoon. In the mid 1800's, the first settlers in the town which would become Sebastian, saw the opportunity to create an opening on the barrier island.

By 1905 there had been six attempts to make the official "cut" but it wasn't until Roy O. Couch, now a very prominent name in the district, formed the Sebastian Inlet Association and persevered to get the necessary permits. His efforts came to fruition in 1919 when the official charter was granted and in 1924, when the Sebastian Inlet was officially opened for business.

Today, the Sebastian Inlet continues to attract visitors and locals alike, having become a popular spot for fishing, boating and surfing, all within the scenic backdrop of Florida's scenic East Coast. Water sports enthusiasts and naturalists have enjoyed Sebastian State Inlet Park, now one of the most visited parks in Florida, for its wildlife and natural beauty.

Since its establishment, the Sebastian Inlet has played an important role in promoting economic prosperity for the area, having an annual economic impact of 200 million dollars for the region. The inlet is also responsible for protecting our natural treasures such as our Indian River Lagoon, home to some of the most biodiverse marine life in the country. Some of the vital work the inlet does in partnership with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection includes bypassing sand to

downdrift beaches, erosion control and ensuring public safety.

In celebration of the inlet's centennial, the Sebastian Inlet District has begun to hold a series of educational lectures by marine biologists and environmental scientists. This will give local residents the chance to learn about what their community is doing to preserve our waterways, particularly the inlet and the Indian River Lagoon.

The role that the Sebastian Inlet District employees and volunteers play in preserving this park is vital to our community, and I salute them for their hard work and contributions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the centennial of the Sebastian Inlet District.

HONORING THE SHAWNEE HIGH SCHOOL RENEGADES FOR WINNING THE SOUTH-CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP 4 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Shawnee High School Renegades football team, who last week won the South-Central Jersey Group 4 Regional Championship.

Led by head coach Tim Gushue and a strong roster from starters to reserves, the Renegades showed outstanding teamwork and perseverance all season. From a stellar offensive line to their lockdown defense, the team's balance and focus helped them bring home the South Central Group 4 Regional title.

In the final, Shawnee's strong passing game and dominant defense helped stand up the opposing rushing attack and propel them to a shutout 34–0 victory over Hammonton. The Renegades played through pressure in the final to finish the season as South Jersey champs, ending the year at 10–3.

I'm proud to be able to celebrate the success of some of the talented student-athletes from my district in New Jersey. I want to congratulate Coach Gushue and the Shawnee team on their tremendous season, and for bringing the title back to Burlington County.