

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAA FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 13, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the FAA family and Medical Leave Act. This legislation will ensure that employees of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are extended the same paid parental leave benefits afforded to other government employees under the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020.

The conference report to the NDAA, which was announced earlier this week and passed in the House of Representatives Wednesday evening, secured a critical provision for federal employees that will provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave in the case of birth, adoption, or fostering. The provision will help the federal government retain talent and remain competitive with private industry.

Unfortunately, this section was drafted to apply to Title 5 only, which has resulted in FAA employees being left out of this very important benefit. More than 35,000 federal employees across our nation are responsible for managing air traffic control, aircraft, and airport safety. I believe we must move quickly to address this oversight and ensure that FAA employees receive the paid parental leave benefits they rightly deserve under the NDAA agreement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this measure and urge this body to provide for its immediate consideration.

IN HONOR OF ALFRED PRESTON "WHITEY" BIRDWELL'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 13, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the 101st birthday of a remarkable Purple Heart recipient and outstanding member of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, Mr. Alfred Birdwell, or "Whitey."

Born on November 18, 1918, Whitey was the second of six boys in his family and grew up on a farm in Minden, Texas. He had a traditional East Texas upbringing, from growing crops and raising animals to hunting with his family. Though he traveled the world while training for and serving in World War II, Whitey has remained a lifelong Texan.

In 1940, Whitey married his first wife, Edith Husband. Together, they had two children before basic training. While at training in 1945, he received a letter that their infant child, Jimmy, was sick and passed away. He went home to help his family through the tragic loss and returned to training more motivated than ever to serve his country. Edith and Whitey would end up having seven beautiful children together before Edith's passing on August 8, 1960.

Whitey began his service in the Army on May 26, 1944. He served as a Medium Tank

Crewman to the 3rd Armored Division, 3rd Regiment and drove the lead tank. Whitey quickly became known for his quick wit and expert rifle skills, and soon became friends with his commanding officer, Colonel Lovelady, who he was charged with protecting during battle. The two bonded over morning coffee and would often joke, "Do you think this cup will carry us to Berlin?"

Whitey earned the nickname "Crazy Texan" for his actions under fire throughout his service. During a mortar barrage, his assistant tank driver sat up out of the tank to try to get a better vantage point but was instead hit by the incoming fire. Whitey grabbed him and ducked into a foxhole, getting hit by the mortar barrage himself. Stubborn and hard-headed as ever, he insisted on fighting although he was wounded. Whitey was sent to the hospital after the battle, and was later awarded a Purple Heart for the incident.

In the 1960s, Whitey worked in Texas City. While dining at a local restaurant, he met Patsy Grimes. The two married later that year and blended their families, raising their 11 children in one household. Although the family was large and the house was always hectic, life as a Birdwell was full of love and laughter. Shortly after celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2015, Patsy fell ill and passed away.

Anyone that knows Whitey can testify that he's never lost his energetic spirit. Last year, he decided to celebrate his 100th birthday walking a mile. The event garnered so much attention that he decided to turn his birthday celebration into a charity event, and successfully raised hundreds of dollars for the Blinded Veterans Association and the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial, two causes close to his heart.

His service to our country, compassion for others and joy for life serves as true example for us all. I am proud to join his 18 grandchildren, 46 great grandchildren, 9 great great grandchildren, and the entire Eighth Congressional District of Texas in wishing Whitey a happy 101st birthday.

ANITA SMITH—AN AMAZING HERO IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST HIV—AIDS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 13, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, Anita Smith is a woman who has made a remarkable and lasting contribution to the global battle against HIV/AIDS, who along with her husband, Shepherd, was instrumental in rallying the faith-based community—in particular, evangelical Christians—to the cause.

She has been heralded as an "early voice" within the Christian community calling for the need to bring God's love and tangible assistance to those stricken by a disease which all too often—particularly in the developing world—led to a wasting away of the body, a social ostracism and a lonely death.

Anita began her HIV/AIDS work in 1986 with Americans for a Sound AIDS/HIV Policy, which became the Children's AIDS Fund in 1996. Vulnerable children were a special focus of her ministry, and to give one example of

that, in one year alone her Holiday Gift Program sent over 10,000 presents to AIDS-impacted kids living here in the United States.

Knowing that the call to be one's brother's keeper knows no boundaries, Anita expanded her work overseas, particularly to Africa. Having become the President of Children's AIDS Fund International—or CAFI—in 1996, she opened CAFI's first clinic in Africa in 2002. Ultimately she established fifteen clinics in Uganda, South Africa, Zambia and Malawi.

Serving along with Louis Sullivan as the co-chair of President George W. Bush's President's Advisory Council for HIV/AIDS from 2002 to 2006, Anita was also there—and a tenacious advocate—when President Bush undertook one of his greatest lifeworks, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. Anita was not only instrumental in garnering Christian support for PEPFAR, but in many respects helped lead the way, as her Africa work was already a shining example of how the faith-based community was effectively responding to the global pandemic.

At that time I was serving as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Africa and Global Health subcommittee, and I saw first hand Anita's passion, wisdom, efficacy and commitment. Hers was the voice of wise counsel and compassion, which helped guide not only the White House, USAID and Congress but my subcommittee as well as we oversaw the work of PEPFAR and USAID.

In 2006, my wife Marie and I joined Anita and Shepherd and Marilyn and Ray Ruddy on a trip to Uganda and we saw firsthand how her work was helping to prevent HIV for many while bringing healing and hope to those infected.

Today, those clinics which Anita founded serve over 100,000 HIV patients. Anita's clinics have had a reputation for the high retention of patients, high engagement of males—which is oftentimes a hard-to-reach segment of the population in Africa—high adherence to courses of medication treatment and high morale.

In sum, more than simply being an early voice, Anita's was a powerful voice which consistently responded "Here I am, Lord,"—I am available—when she heard the appeal "Whom shall I send?"

Anita's lifework is an exemplification of Matthew 25—"when I was sick you looked after me."

Anita Smith is an amazing hero in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

Thank you—I say again thank you—Anita.

CELEBRATING HARLAN FRANK PLUMMER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 13, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate Mr. Harlan Frank Plummer as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

For over a century, Mr. Plummer has chosen to serve, to lead, and to make his community a better place. For over thirty-six years he served in the United States Army Air Corps

and Air Force, ultimately earning the rank of E-8. I extend my appreciation to Mr. Plummer for his sacrifices in order to protect our freedoms in Alaska, Seoul, and Da Nang during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Following this extensive service, Mr. Plummer continued to dedicate his time and energy to support his fellow veterans by volunteering with the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program for over thirty-seven years. From his time as a Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representative, Mr. Plummer has spent over 11,000 hours going beyond the call of duty to help others lead meaningful lives.

To quantify Mr. Plummer's impact is nearly impossible. His enthusiasm is contagious, his

determination and dedication to service is inspiring to all those he meets. I can say, without a doubt, that all of Ohio, our nation, our world is a better place because of his leadership.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Harlan Frank Plummer on his 100th birthday and convey my most sincere appreciation for his service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 13, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote series on December 12, 2019 due to health concerns. If I was present, I would have voted the following ways: Walden Amendment No. 1—YES; O'Halleran Amendment No. 5—NO; Gottheimer Amendment No. 7—NO; Luria Amendment No. 10—NO; Cunningham Amendment No. 11—NO; Republican Motion to Recommit—YES; and Passage of H.R. 3—Fewer Cures and More Government Price Control Act—NO.