

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 133rd Elected and Consecrated Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Harry L. Seawright. Bishop Seawright has spent more than 37 years in ministry as presiding prelate of Alabama's 9th Episcopal District. On June 25, 2019, Bishop Seawright was invested and elevated, becoming President of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a tremendous and well-deserved honor within the church and the community.

Bishop Seawright has been preparing for this most recent and elevated recognition for most of his life. A fourth-generation A.M.E., Bishop Seawright's faith was nurtured from an early age, both at home with his family and within his first church, Prodigal A.M.E. in Swansea, South Carolina. Alongside his faith, Bishop Seawright ingrained an innate work ethic after seeing his mother widowed when he was only five years old. Born to a family of sharecroppers and lacking financial resources, Bishop Seawright's mother worked tirelessly to care for her seven young children. Like his mother's, Bishop Seawright's relentless work ethic, buoyed by his unflappable faith, was and still is, the driving force behind his many accomplishments.

Having witnessed first-hand the challenges that his mother faced in attempting to provide for seven children with only a ninth grade education, Bishop Seawright took his mother's insistence on education to heart, remaining in South Carolina to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Benedict College. He then continued on, earning his Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. Bishop Seawright remains interested and invested in many businesses in addition to his work within the church.

It was not just education that Bishop Seawright's mother emphasized as a crucial guiding force for future success. Bishop Seawright's mother instilled in her son a deep and unwavering faith, which he, in turn, saw mirrored within her, even during the family's darkest struggles. "My mother was a praying woman," Bishop Seawright said. "She had a lot of faith and courage." That faith and courage remained evident over the course of many moves, many job changes and many days of wondering if and how she would be able to feed her children. Nevertheless, Bishop Seawright's mother never gave up her faith in God's will, nor did her son.

In 1976, Bishop Seawright accepted his call to ministry, and in 1977 was admitted to the South Carolina Central Annual Conference, by the late Bishop Frank M. Reid, II. He was later ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in the Washington Annual Conference in 1979 by the late Bishop Henry W. Murph and as an Itinerant Elder in 1981 by Bishop John Hurst Adams.

In 1978, Bishop Seawright served as Interim Pastor of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in St. Matthews, S.C., as well as staff minister at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Washington,

D.C. In 1981 he received his first pastoral appointment, to Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church in Jessup, MD, where he served until 1983. Between 1983 and 1986, Bishop Seawright served as pastor of Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church in Jessup, MD, before being assigned to Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Brandywine, MD.

Bishop Seawright served Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty years, longer than anyone else in the church's history. During his tenure, he led the church in a \$1.6 million construction project, building a gorgeous sanctuary that will serve as a reminder of his commitment to his faith and to Union Bethel for many generations to come.

Early in his ministerial journey, Bishop Seawright met his future wife, Sherita Moon Seawright. He was still a sophomore in college when they met, unaware that she would soon be his wife, partner, inspiration and support. The two married in 1982, and have been blessed with two beautiful children, Shari Nicole and Harry Matthew.

After 30 years of service, in 2016 Bishop Seawright left Union Bethel and prepared to transplant his life and family to Alabama, having accepted an appointment in Alabama's 9th Episcopal District. Moving to Birmingham, AL provided Bishop Seawright fresh opportunity to focus on engaging and mentoring other pastors throughout the region. Further, Bishop Seawright took advantage of the opportunity to develop several new programs, including the Life Center at Daniel Payne Plaza.

The Daniel Payne Plaza is an invaluable community resource, providing struggling community members with the opportunity to earn a GED and gain certifications in a multitude of vocational areas, including food preparation and construction. The program's goal is to transform how the 9th district serves not only the church, but the community. Thanks to the challenges he faced throughout his childhood, and the resilience he witnessed within his mother, Bishop Seawright is uniquely positioned to understand the value of quality education, and as such, is determined to provide educational opportunities to all those he serves.

Bishop Seawright's 37 years of tireless service have earned him a rightfully exalted position within the community. His most recent appointment, to President of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, further solidifies his impressive and well-deserved reputation as a leader, mentor and spiritual guide. He has given more than can ever be repaid, and both the church and community owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. On a personal note, I want to thank Bishop Seawright for his continued support and encouragement of my home church, the Historic Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, AL.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the many accomplishments of Bishop Harry L. Seawright. We pay tribute to his distinguished career for the betterment of the State of Alabama and extend deep appreciation for his exemplary service as the Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 12, 2019 during roll call no. 250, on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF H.R. 2740

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of those provisions of H.R. 2740 that reflect the President's proposals to continue funding for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and State Opioid Response Grants, two programs under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Substance use disorders have ravaged large parts of this country, including parts of my home state of Ohio.

Madam Speaker, over the next 24 hours, about 130 Americans will die from an opioid-related overdose, close to 84 infants in Ohio will be born suffering from the horrific symptoms of drug withdrawal, and over 20 million people across the country will continue to battle with addiction.

In 2017, it is estimated that over 19.7 million Americans battled a substance use disorder. That's not to mention the approximately \$740 billion annually that drug abuse and addiction costs American society in lost workplace productivity, health care expenses, and crime-related costs.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to this crisis. Both addiction and addiction treatment are extremely complex. However, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and State Opioid Response Grants have helped countless communities across the country. To be sure that these funds are being used efficiently, they must be directed toward those programs which employ an evidenced-based approach to treatment and recovery. In particular, community-based recovery support programs, like SMART Recovery in my own district, have proven crucial in encouraging those suffering from addiction to stay on the proper path to recovery.

One of my top priorities has been ensuring the federal funding Congress has provided to combat the opioid epidemic effectively supports the life-saving work our local communities carry out on the front lines of this crisis. While there is still work to be done, it is encouraging to see that Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and State Opioid Response Grants are helping organizations in Northeast Ohio and across the country save lives.

That is why I am proud to rise in support of these provisions.

HONORING FRED AND BETTY ROEDER

HON. LARRY BUCSHON
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring two outstanding Hoosiers—Fred and Betty Roeder—on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary.

Fred and Betty epitomize what it means to be a Hoosier—kind and gracious; with big, warm hearts; and a love for their state and country that is borne out by their commitment to bettering the lives of their neighbors and community.

Fred and Betty—high school sweethearts—were married seventy years ago this month, on June 30, 1949, at Evansville Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Fred Roeder served in the U.S. Army (1952–54) and concluded active service as a Corporal. He served 6 years in the Army Reserve and was honorably discharged in 1960. A Korean War veteran, Fred remains proud of his service to our nation, and that of the many friends he made while in the Army. He worked at Dale Sales warehouse and later at Niehaus Industrial Parts in Evansville.

Betty Roeder is a graduate of Benjamin Bosse High School in Evansville. She dedicated much of her time to leading music and Christian education programs at local Lutheran churches. Betty was beloved by her students and took great pride in her work.

I came to know the Roeders at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Evansville, where we have worshiped together for many years. Despite moving to the Indianapolis-area to be closer to family members, the Roeders remain devoted members at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Fred and Betty are the proud parents of their son Michael F. Roeder and daughter-in-law Lee Ann, and their grandchildren—John and granddaughter-in-law Taylor, Tim and Kurt Roeder. They celebrated their historic milestone a bit early this year with a small group of family and friends on June 22.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in extending to the Roeders the well-wishes and congratulations of the U.S. House of Representatives on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I inadvertently cast a “yea” vote on roll call No. 372, on an amendment during consideration of the Commerce, Justice, and Science division of H.R. 3055. I would like to change my vote on the amendment to “nay.”

The North Atlantic right whale is a critically endangered species iconic to the Eastern seaboard of the United States. We should be empowering the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement regulations to protect this species based on scientific, consensus

recommendations, not disarming the agency. The North Atlantic right whale Risk Reduction Decision Support Tool is a critical piece of NOAA and NMFS’ regulatory framework, and preventing its use undermines their decision-making process.

My record of fighting for the Chesapeake Bay, preventing off-shore drilling, funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, protecting the Arctic, and being an ally to the environmental activists and wildlife conservationists in my district and around the country speaks for itself. My recorded vote is inconsistent with my lifetime record in both state and federal office on matters and policies pertaining to wildlife preservation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. OTTIE JACKSON MOORE, SR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize my constituent, Mr. Ottie Jackson Moore, Sr. Born in Gladys, Virginia on December 26, 1928, Mr. Moore has committed much of his life and career to service of the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation. Mr. Moore has protected our nation abroad, having served in the United States Army, both as an active and reserve member, in addition to protecting the United States at home, as a member of the Virginia State Police and a seven-term Sheriff of Caroline County, Virginia.

In 1951, during the Korean War, Mr. Moore was drafted into the United States Army, going on to serve three years of active duty. Mr. Moore completed basic training school, basic schools of enlisted training and the U.S. Army’s Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Bliss Texas in July 1952. After being commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Mr. Moore was assigned to an anti-aircraft unit as a commanding officer. After three years of active service, Mr. Moore joined the U.S. Army Reserves.

In the Reserves, Mr. Moore served as a commanding officer of a quartermaster unit and in several positions within the United States Army Reserves (USAR) School, including four years as Assistant Commandant. Over the course of his military service, Mr. Moore received the Meritorious Service Medal on two separate occasions. Mr. Moore would go on to serve a total of thirty years in the United States Army Reserves, completing his service having earned the rank of Colonel.

After graduating first in his class in 1955 from the Virginia State Police, Mr. Moore would go on to serve and protect the Commonwealth of Virginia for many years. After being elected Sheriff of Caroline County, Virginia in November 1963, Mr. Moore would serve seven terms until January 1992. In addition, Mr. Moore held several office level positions as a member of the Virginia Sheriff’s Association, including President in 1975. Mr. Moore has actively advised the Virginia General Assembly on the passage of several bills related to advancements in training of local law enforcement personnel and was a founding member of the board that led to the creation of the Rappahannock Regional Training Academy in 1977.

Mr. Moore exemplifies the best of the First District of Virginia, with a life committed to service to his country and our commonwealth. Mr. Moore’s life of patriotism, service, and selflessness should stand as an example to the ideals that make the First District, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States great.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PASSPORT ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will hopefully be the first step in ensuring that students from all backgrounds are able to take advantage of study abroad programs offered by their universities.

As we see a new class of students graduate, I’ve noticed that some of these students are lacking the global skills needed to excel in today’s workplace. Exposure to the world’s diverse cultures and traditions allows oneself to be more understanding and comfortable in a rapidly transforming world while also developing a greater appreciation for the United States and our shared culture.

Over 80 percent of incoming freshmen hope to study abroad as a part of the college experience; however, due to obligations such as coursework, employment and affordability, only 10 percent end up taking advantage of this incredible opportunity offered by many universities. Minority students are greatly underrepresented within this population.

The Passport Assistance for Disadvantaged Students Act of 2019 would establish a pilot program between the Department of Education, Department of State, and 3 public universities, including 1 HBCU and 1 Hispanic Serving Institution. Students at each of these schools who receive Pell Grants and are accepted for a study abroad program would have the opportunity to receive a United States Passport at no cost. The public university would cover the upfront cost and the Department of State would reimburse the institution after they’ve reported relevant information to the Department of Education.

With this bill, we take a step forward in breaking down systematic barriers that prevent certain students from studying abroad while in college. The opportunity to travel and learn in a foreign country offers students the chance to advance their studies in a globalized environment.

Madam Speaker, I believe that students should have equal access to opportunities like study abroad regardless of race or socio-economic status, which is why I am proud to introduce this bill.

MICHAEL BEDKE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless pro bono