

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 219: S. 327 Wounded Veterans Recreation Act—ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL—YEA; Roll Call 220: S. 3147 Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of—ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL—YEA; and Roll Call 221: H.R. 4611 Ocean Pollution Reduction Act—ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL—YEA.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ROGER LEE WILSON OF
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Roger Lee Wilson of Salisbury, North Carolina, who passed away on October 18, 2020.

Roger was a husband to Kate and a father to Matt and Wesley. As a member of Unity Presbyterian Church, he faithfully served as an Elder.

Throughout his life, Roger was a devoted and dedicated educator, mentoring and inspiring countless students at Davie County High School and West Rowan High School. Roger passed on his passion for woodworking and craftsmanship to his students. I just missed having Roger as my workshop instructor at Davie High, but was lucky enough to have his successor, his son Matt, as my teacher.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of representing Rowan County as well as my home county of Davie since 2017. I know firsthand how much appreciation there is for the knowledge and skills that Mr. Wilson passed on to his students. Though he had been retired from teaching for quite some time, I imagine he was encouraged to know that schools have begun to again prioritize teaching the technical, trade, and hands-on skills that seem to have been forgotten over the past few decades.

Madam Speaker, our country needs more dedicated men serving and educating their communities like Roger Wilson. The benefits he brought to students and to his community will be felt for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote on November 17, 2020 for H.R. 4611, the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 221.

HONORING COLE S. CAYLOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cole S. Caylor. Cole is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cole has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cole has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cole S. Caylor for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
2 MARWAN SAMEH
GHABOUR

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a son of Massachusetts, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marwan Sameh Ghabour. He and four other brave American soldiers tragically lost their lives on Thursday, November 12 while on a peacekeeping mission in Egypt.

Mr. Ghabour will be remembered as a hero for his valiant service and commitment to protecting the freedoms and values that all Americans hold dear. This tragic loss serves as a reminder that when our troops bravely volunteer to serve, both they and their loved ones sacrifice more than we can ever imagine. My heart goes out to Mr. Ghabour's family and friends during this difficult time.

Nevertheless, his legacy is secured by the many people who carry his memory forward. In particular, the residents of Marlborough and Arlington, Massachusetts, where he grew up and volunteered, will remember his passion for public service.

I am grateful for patriots like Mr. Ghabour who risk everything to make the United States and the world a better place and are prepared to give the "last full measure of their devotion," as President Lincoln said. We are fortunate that such brave men and women are among us.

Marwan Sameh Ghabour and his fellow servicemembers will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENEE
REYNOLDS

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Renee Reynolds, a Philadelphia difference-maker, before the United States House of Representatives. Ms. Reynolds is a fiercely vocal advocate for women who are battling to beat cancer and who are overcoming domestic violence committed against them.

As she so powerfully puts it, Ms. Reynolds is a domestic violence victor who, for four decades, has used her first-hand experience to fuel her efforts to empower women seeking to change their own difficult and trying situations.

In addition to hosting the annual Pink Diamond Ball to honor the two sisters she lost to cancer and to honor cancer patients, survivors and those that fought the good fight, Ms. Reynolds has sought to expand her ability to spread her message and reach those who need help during the coronavirus pandemic. Among her efforts to do this, she became the Pennsylvania contestant in this year's national Ms. Woman competition, where her platform focused on her advocacy.

Through social media, public speaking, events, partnerships and seemingly more outreach than should be humanly possible, Ms. Reynolds has committed herself to helping people and providing a first-person tale of redemption that highlights her rise from domestic-violence victim to entertainer, business professional and an advocate for women who need a helping hand and inspiration.

Renee Reynolds embodies a commitment to public good. Her efforts are a model for the upwelling of selflessness and giving that has kept America going through these difficult times. She embodies the spirit of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Renee Reynolds for her extraordinary work on behalf of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE "FATHER OF THE FINAL
FOUR" TOM JERNSTEDT

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Walter Jernstedt, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) legend and tireless advocate for men and women student athletes across the country. Tom was known for many things in his career and life, including being referred to as the "Father of the Final Four." I join Tom's family, friends, colleagues and athletes across the country in mourning the loss of this great man who passed away on September 5, 2020.

Tom was born on November 24, 1944, in Carlton, Oregon. Tom attended Yamhill-Carlton High School, where he was an all-state athlete in three sports: football, basketball and baseball. On top of his incredible athletic ability, he was also elected student body

president. Upon his graduation, Tom attended the University of Oregon on a football scholarship, where he was again elected student body president. He graduated in 1967 with a degree in political science and went on to receive a master's in education in 1973. He worked as an events manager at his alma mater until he accepted a full-time position as director of events for the NCAA.

Tom spent the next 38 years working for the NCAA, as a leader and passionate administrator. According to his colleagues and those who worked closely with Tom, he was known to make time for everyone. He was thoughtful, respectable, likeable, honest and a silent power. He is credited with turning the college basketball championship into what it is today, a massive event with fans all around the world and a multi-billion dollar television contract.

The City of Indianapolis benefited greatly from having a leader like Tom in the sports world. He was influential in moving the NCAA headquarters from Kansas City, Missouri to the City of Indianapolis in 1999. Tom not only assisted in making March Madness what it is, he was key in helping the City of Indianapolis host the Final Four. Indianapolis has hosted seven NCAA Men's Basketball Final Fours and three NCAA Women's Final Fours in its history and is scheduled to host the 2021 and 2026 men's finals as well. Tom was very friendly to the City of Indianapolis in many ways, generating events, promoting the city and, according to his friends, there was never a young person who was interested in a career in sports that Tom would not take under his wing.

Tom received numerous awards throughout his lifetime including being inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017. He received the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001 for his outstanding lifetime dedication to basketball, and the University of Oregon honored him with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame enshrined Tom as a contributor to the game, and in 2017, he was awarded Indiana's highest civilian honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash. Posthumously, Tom was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Though it is obvious Tom had a huge impact on the world of sports, it is said that his greatest joys were in his personal life. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and true friend. In speaking with Tom's friends, there is one consistent theme that they all mention. Tom was a wonderful friend who would stop at nothing to help those he cared about. He loved playing golf and watching all sporting events with his family and friends. Though he loved all sports, he remained a loyal fan of his Oregon Ducks, rarely missing an event involving his university. Based on this long-term commitment, the University of Oregon has established the Tom Jernstedt Student Athlete Scholarship.

I am honored to stand today and memorialize Tom. He was a man of character and class, constantly putting the wants and needs of others before his own. I join his family and many friends as well as countless student-athletes in mourning the loss of Tom Jernstedt.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF VICTOR BIRD

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Bird on his retirement after a remarkable 36-year career in public service to the state of Oklahoma.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree and juris doctorate from the University of Tulsa, Victor is a lifelong Oklahoman. After graduating, he started his career in law with the public sector. Victor's career in public service started in 1983 in the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. From there he served at Oklahoma State University, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and again the Attorney General's office under two different attorney generals. It was through this impressive path that led him to the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission as the Director in 2002. With no previous aviation experience, Victor recognized the importance of the aviation industry for Oklahoma and immediately put his knowledge of the state to work.

After 18 years at the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, few have left such a legacy. As the longest serving director in the state's history, his advocacy and implementations have left a distinctive mark on Oklahoma's role in aviation and aerospace. Under his leadership, the Commission has invested \$71 million in state funds and directed \$189 million in federal funds into airport infrastructure statewide. Victor's pro aviation mindset has led to the growth of the annual economic impact to \$44 billion, which has directly resulted in tens of thousands of jobs. Victor Bird played a key role in shaping aviation to become one of the state's largest industries and top employers.

Victor's career has largely gone unnoticed. He is the first and only Oklahoman to serve as chairman of the National Association of State Aviation Officials in its 90-year history. He is also the first and only non-elected public official to receive the Joseph B. "Doc" Hartranft Jr. Award from the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education for his contributions to career and technology education in Oklahoma. In 2009, Bird was the recipient of the prestigious General Thomas P. Stafford Award, which recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to the Oklahoma aerospace industry and who reflect the revolutionary spirit of Gen. Stafford. Additionally, in 2017, Bird received the Kenneth A. Rowe Ambassador of Aviation Award from NASAO in honor of his national accomplishments. Most recently, in 2020, Victor received the President's Award from the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association for his significant work in Oklahoma aviation.

For four decades, Victor Bird's dedication to Oklahoma has continued to help our state make enormous strides in terms of economic growth and innovation. As we reflect on the 36-year career of Victor Bird, let us look at his tireless work to inspire us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Victor Bird on an extraordinary career and wish him all the best in his much-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MS. JEAN D. THOMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy and work of Louisiana Freedom Rider, Ms. Jean D. Thompson. Ms. Thompson made history by participating in the Freedom Rides that helped illuminate persistence segregation in the South despite Morgan v. Virginia and Boynton v. Virginia.

Born in Lake Providence, Louisiana on January 13, 1942, Ms. Thompson was an active member of the NAACP and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Throughout her life, Ms. Thompson participated in a number of sit-ins, was active in Louisiana and Mississippi Freedom Summers, and contributed to anti-war and feminist efforts in San Francisco and Berkeley, California. Starting at the age of 19, her passion and determination made her one of the youngest trailblazers for racial equity.

In response to the federal government's unwillingness to enforce the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions outlawing segregated interstate travel, the Freedom Riders rode integrated buses across state lines in the South to bring awareness to local laws that still required blacks and whites to use separate seating. These intentional actions played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Thompson is a daughter of New Orleans, and without her desegregation efforts, persistence against injustice, and fearlessness, many of us would not be where we are today. It is critically important that we give Ms. Thompson her flowers while she is still here with us so we can celebrate the strides she took to improve racial equality. May we always lift up her name and honor her legacy by continuing to advance equal rights and justice for African Americans and those of African descent all around the world.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and work of Ms. Jean D. Thompson.

CONGRATULATING THE VIENNA EAGLES SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2020 MISSOURI CLASS I STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Eagles softball team for winning the 2020 Missouri Class I State Softball Championship.

This is Vienna High School's third state championship win in the history of their softball program. They should be commended for their hard work and dedication throughout this past year.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Vienna Eagles for a job well done.