

men's work, she was able to persuade the Court and the nation that discriminating on the basis of sex was not only wrong but also a violation of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection to all citizens under the law.

As the courts began to recognize the changing roles of men and women, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was able to advance gender equality with the understanding that women are capable of being heads of households or sole providers for their family.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court, making her the second woman to fill this position.

This historic appointment further symbolized the principle that women were equal to men in every respect, that they could have successful careers and also could, if they chose, be devoted wives or mothers, thereby breaking barriers for generations of women to follow in her footsteps.

In fact, many of Ginsburg's opinions helped solidify the constitutional protections she had fought so hard to establish decades earlier.

While we commemorate Justice Ginsburg's work for advancing the women's movement both as a Justice and as a lawyer, all are in her debt who cherish the progress made in the areas of LGBTQ+ equality, immigration reform, environmental justice, voting rights, protections for people with disabilities, and so much more.

Throughout her life, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked to make the law work so that America would be more just, equitable, fairer, and better for all.

Whether it be in her legendary dissenting opinions or as leader when in the majority, Justice Ginsburg continued to advocate for the marginalized and most vulnerable.

In recent years, she may not have been able to control the outcome of the rulings, but she grew bolder in her dissents, often stating what should have been the outcome.

Throughout her tenure on the bench, Ruth Bader Ginsburg displayed her rigorous and incisive legal mind and employed her formidable skills as a consensus builder, but she could be tough and forceful when the moment demanded.

Nothing illustrates this better than her famous dissent in *Shelby County v. Holder*, in which the 5-to-4 majority negated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by invalidating section 4 of the law, which neutralized section 5, the provision of the act that required jurisdictions with a history of racial and ethnic discrimination in voting to obtain preclearance from the federal government before any changes in voting procedures, from polling stations to voter photo IDs could go into effect.

It was in her scathing dissent Justice Ginsburg stated, "Hubris is a fit word for today's demolition of the VRA" and that the majority's logic was akin to "throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Unlike the others, Justice Ginsburg was able to see the ramifications of the ruling and its allowances for reinvigorated efforts of voter suppression.

Today, I join millions of individuals who are mourning the loss of this legal giant, feminist, and trailblazer.

Justice Ginsburg loved this country, so much so that she served the nation while en-

during illnesses and undergoing treatments that would have incapacitated lesser mortals.

She inspired generations of women then and now to shatter glass ceilings, and her legacy will inspire new generations of women in the years to come.

As the news of her passing continues to reverberate across the country and around the world, it is important that we remember and honor what she stood for and continue fighting to realize the goal of equal justice under law.

I am honored to be able to pay tribute to the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the 'Notorious RBG,' one of the greatest jurists in our nation's history, a tireless and unyielding champion for equal justice, and a fierce defender of the Constitution.

JOHN DORMINEY PAULK III

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. John Dorminey Paulk III of Georgia's First Congressional District, who recently passed away at the age of 85.

He was a teacher, mentor, and friend to countless people, so he was often referred to as the "Mayor of Jekyll."

He loved to enjoy the many golfing opportunities on the island so much that he eventually became a teaching golf professional at the renowned East Lake Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1965, he was one of four local qualifiers in the U.S. Open in Atlanta.

Two years later, he became Jekyll Island's Head Golf Professional and was eventually inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame.

He was such a devoted and accomplished golfer that tournaments were named in his honor, including the "Johnny Paulk Invitational" and the "Johnny Paulk Two Man Classic."

He has shown what it means to be a great ambassador for Jekyll Island and the game of golf.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

FAREWELL LETTER FROM U.S.
REP. TOM GRAVES (R-GA-14)

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, when I was young, my Dad always used to tell me that if I dreamed big and worked hard, I would achieve much. Dream Big, Work Hard, Achieve Much. I have carried that advice with me my entire life. Those words fueled my ability to go from the hall of a single-wide trailer to the halls of Congress.

I write that today as I reflect on what makes America so special: the ability to chart your own course and achieve any dream. My heart is filled with gratitude for our country and the enduring experiment of democracy that has al-

lowed someone like me to end up in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past decade.

Serving as the Representative of Georgia's 9th and 14th districts has truly been the honor of my life. This privilege was made possible by the sacrifice and support of so many wonderful people. First and foremost, my parents "Big Tom" and Penny; my wife, Julie; my children, Josephine, John, and Janey. My family has supported me every step of the way on this path of public service. My wife and children bore a burden that often goes unrecognized in politics. There are many precious days of life that we spent apart. Knowing their sacrifice motivated me every day to do the very best I could. Now it's time to shift the focus to them, and support their journeys and dreams, just as they supported mine.

For my final words entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a member of Congress, I want to share the most essential lesson learned over the past decade: the importance of relationship building. Tone, rhetoric and civility are crucial to opening doors to new and unexpected relationships with lawmakers from across the political spectrum. Often the best policies are the product of broad perspectives and creativity, with input from people who bring experience from different walks of life.

I can think of no better embodiment of that ideal than the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. Committee members hail from opposite sides of the country, with different professional backgrounds and life experiences. Regardless of our political and personal differences, our commitment to those we serve—our constituents—came first. The way our committee operated should serve as a model for this institution. Our bipartisan collaboration resulted in 97 recommendations to make the legislative branch work better. I hope that this work continues, because the American people deserve an institution that is as forward thinking and innovative as they are. Bipartisan relationships are at the heart of anything that can become law, and the American people are far better off when we connect over shared goals and work together to accomplish them.

Serving on the Select Committee is the perfect capstone to my career in public service. I am grateful to my partner, Chair Derek Kilmer of Washington, for his outstanding leadership. Nothing the committee produced would have been possible without Chair Kilmer's bipartisan approach and boundless passion for our work. I am also grateful to Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY of California for appointing me Vice Chair of the committee. It was truly an honor to be chosen from the pool of talented members I serve alongside.

I am also filled with gratitude for my staff, who have delivered incredible service to my constituents and the country. These are people with a heart for public service, who truly care for our nation. I saw tremendous sacrifices made: long hours, late nights, the burden of stress and pressure that comes with the weight of the work, whether it was securing life-saving veterans benefits for one person or passing a policy that affects millions of Americans. My team carried themselves in such a way that it was clear they knew the honor and privilege of working for the U.S. House.

In my tenure, I had two chiefs of staff: Tim Baker and John Patrick Donnelly. They led our

teams in Washington and Georgia, which included the following people:

My current staff, Bud Whitmire, Jason Murphy, Sam Mahler, Danielle Stewart, Ryan Diffley, Kristin Fillingim, Rachel Black, Max Berry, Diane Menorca, Tracey Bartley, Valerie Jones, Ashley Langston, Travis Loudermilk, Linda Liles and Jackie Mooney.

My former staff, Josh Finestone, Jason Lawrence, Bo Butler, Drew Ferguson, Garrett Hawkins, Shivani Vakharia, Rebecca Anderson, Morgan Joyce, Maggie Newton, Kate

Bell, Ansley Rhyne, Alicia Stafford, Matt Hodge, Paige Davies and Ericka Pertierra.

Appropriations and Modernization Committee staff, John Martens, Jake Olson, Tim Monahan, Jenny Holmes, Dena Baron, Marybeth Nassif, Kelly Hitchcock, Ariana Sarar, Amy Catherine Murphy, Brad Allen, Allie Neill, Shalanda Young and Lisa Molyneux.

These are just some of the many extraordinary people who contributed to our work over the years.

Now, it is time for the next season in life. I will be forever grateful for the incredible privilege of serving my country and my community as a member of Congress.

May God bless every person in this institution, those serving now and those who serve in the years to come, with the wisdom, strength and compassion to advance this great and glorious cause we call the United States of America.

God bless America, and God bless Georgia. Go Dawgs.