

COMMENDING AND THANKING THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR THEIR SERVICE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the Virginia National Guard—especially those from Virginia's Seventh Congressional District. Members of the Virginia National Guard serve their country and their communities on a daily basis. Over the past months, the Virginia National Guard has deployed with little notice and often for longer than originally expected. I want to thank and honor the Virginia National Guard for its expeditious deployment after the violent, deadly attack on the United States Capitol and assault on American democracy on January 6, 2021 and for their service since then to maintain security. Members of the Virginia National Guard also played a key role in protecting an essential American tradition—the peaceful transfer of power. I truly appreciate the members of the Virginia National Guard for their service before, during, and after the Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the 46th President of the United States and KAMALA D. HARRIS as the 49th Vice President of the United States.

The Virginia National Guard's willingness and readiness to serve is particularly appreciated given the existing, significant strains on the Guard and on all Virginians. In addition to their service in Washington, D.C., I would like to recognize and honor the Virginia National Guard's instrumental role in assisting with the COVID-19 response in the Commonwealth as well as its continuing training and deployment schedules. We must all recognize that the Virginia National Guard has continued to serve the United States overseas, and continued to prepare for forthcoming needs, while also deploying to serve American communities during a global pandemic and serve our nation in the face of threats at home. Additionally, we cannot overlook the commitment and contributions not only of the members of the Guard themselves, but also of their families, employers, and communities who make their service possible.

CONGRATULATING WHBF-TV FOR BEING NAMED 2020 MEDIUM MARKET TV STATION OF THE YEAR BY THE ILLINOIS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize WHBF-TV for being named 2020 Medium Market TV Station of the Year by the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

The Illinois Broadcasters Association is the leading advocate for the broadcast industry in Illinois and is engaged in shaping public policy to create a positive legislative and regulatory environment for its members. They award TV stations who are the best at what they do, and they have named WHBF-TV the best of the

medium market TV stations in Illinois. As a former journalist, I understand the importance of local media and the prestige carried by this award. I commend WHBF-TV for the work that they do to inform the public and create a positive work environment.

It is because of community leaders such as WHBF-TV that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate WHBF-TV for receiving the 2020 Medium Market TV Station of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING MS. BRIANA MCCREARY AS THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Briana McCreary as the Escambia County Teacher of the Year. For eight years, Ms. McCreary has served Montclair Elementary School with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to serving her students.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. McCreary has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. McCreary attended Florida A&M University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She later attended the University of West Florida and earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her classroom through her involvement in outreach programs, such as SheCounts. Ms. McCreary has served as the Director of this afterschool program since August of 2019. The program is for female students in grades three through five and is focused on improving their confidence and skills in mathematics and STEM courses. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Ms. McCreary as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Briana McCreary for her many accomplishments, and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Escambia County School District. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best for her continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 99TH BIRTHDAY OF ETHEL KLEPIEN CISZEWCZ

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ethel Klepien Ciszewicz on the occasion of her 99th birthday.

Mrs. Ciszewicz was born on January 27, 1922. She was raised in Detroit, Michigan by her mother who worked to provide for Ethel and her three siblings after her father passed away when she was four years old. As a young woman, she loved to dance and would take the streetcar two to three times per week to take part in dances at Detroit's famous dance halls.

During World War II Ethel worked at Woodall Industries as a buckler in the welding process for airplane cowlings. As a Rosie the Riveter, Ethel's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women. Ethel's service to our country did not stop once she left the factory. At the end of the war as soldiers were returning home to their jobs, she joined the US Army Women's Army Corps where she rose to the rank of Sargent.

After the war ended, she married John who served in the Navy and together they had three children. After employment at various factories, the joy she found in cleaning led her to become a housekeeper at the Georgian Inn in Roseville, where she worked for a decade. At the Inn, her outstanding work ethic made her highly requested among guests. A proud Rosie, even now she has remained an active member of our community. Ethel's lifelong commitment to service reminds us all of the impact that the Rosies have had on our state and nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Ethel Klepien Ciszewicz on her 99th birthday. I join with Ethel's family and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our nation.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING LARRY SPENCE

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Larry Spence as he retires as sheriff of Willacy County.

Sheriff Spence's interest in law enforcement began at an early age in his hometown of Clinton, Indiana where he was a patrol boy, and culminated in his service to the safety and security of over 20,000 fellow Texans.

In 1966 he joined the Air Force and served on its police force in California, Illinois and South Vietnam, where he helped secure his base during the Tet Offensive. After he returned home in 1968, he took a job as a patrolman in his hometown of Clinton and married Maria Reyes, a Raymondville Texas native with whom he had a son, Gary. After six

years with the Clinton Police Department, he moved his family to South Texas and rose through the ranks. He was named deputy sheriff on June 1, 1976 and became sheriff of Willacy County on Jan. 1, 1985, a position to which he was re-elected nine consecutive times. During his tenure, he fostered a strong sense of consistency and security in the community.

Sheriff Spence received numerous awards throughout his career, including the Silver Star for Bravery and the J. Edgar Hoover Award for Distinguished Police Service. He also received an invitation from President Ronald Reagan to attend the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America to honor his work in Texas' War on Drugs. An example of Sheriff Spence's honorable actions while on duty include his successful deescalation of a union strike in 1979 when he was just a deputy officer: he heroically placed himself between two individuals and singlehandedly prevented a potentially fatal incident.

Sheriff Spence will be deeply missed by the many people in South Texas that he helped protect over the last 35 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sheriff Larry Spence's years of service and dedication to the people of Willacy County, and wish him an enjoyable retirement and all the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING WRMJ ON RECEIVING THE 2020 SMALL MARKET STATION OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate WRMJ for receiving the 2020 Small Market Station of the Year Award from the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

The Illinois Broadcasters Association is the leading advocate for the broadcast industry in Illinois and is engaged in shaping public policy to create a positive legislative and regulatory environment for its members. Through their Silver Dome Awards, the Illinois Broadcasters Association recognized WRMJ's broadcasting excellence in TV, distinguishing WRMJ as one of the best of the small market TV stations in Illinois. This award is a well-deserved honor, and as a former journalist, I commend the hard work they do to keep the public informed.

I would also like to congratulate Jim Taylor, WRMJ's News & Sports Director, who received the Illinois Broadcasters Association's Best News Reporter and Best Sportscaster Award. His dedication and love for our community does not go unnoticed.

It is because of community leaders such as WRMJ that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate WRMJ for winning the 2020 Small Market Station of the Year Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICE HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Police Home Rule Act, which would repeal the President's authority to federalize the local District of Columbia police department, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). I am very pleased that Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, which has jurisdiction over this bill, is an original cosponsor. The President has no authority to federalize any other local or state police department. Under the Home Rule Act, "whenever the President . . . determines that special conditions of an emergency nature exist which require the use of the [MPD] for Federal purposes, he may direct the Mayor to provide him, and the Mayor shall provide, such services of the [MPD] as the President may deem necessary and appropriate."

Under the section of the Home Rule Act that would be repealed by this bill, the President may federalize MPD for a period of not more than 30 days, unless a resolution passed by Congress extending such federalization is enacted into law. Congress may also terminate the federalization at any time by enacting a resolution into law. This bill is necessary, even with these protections, because, under the principle of self-government, the President should not have control over the District's local police department.

While it does not appear that a President has exercised this authority over MPD, this latent power is totally unnecessary, should not exist and is an affront to MPD, which has always voluntarily assisted federal authorities. Given the events at Lafayette Square this summer, it is imperative that no President be allowed to federalize MPD. Although President Trump did not federalize MPD this summer, we understand the administration looked into the possibility. MPD's first responsibility is to protect District residents and visitors, and it must always remain under the authority of the D.C. mayor to accomplish its mission. Moreover, federalization is outdated in light of current practice. MPD regularly assists the federal government as a matter of comity and to protect the District, not as an aim of the federal government, just as I am sure other local police departments do in the region. There are approximately 30 federal police departments under the President's control in the District. In the case of a federal emergency, the President can unilaterally deploy these federal officers, as well as the D.C. National Guard, and can also request the support of MPD, as the President would do in any other jurisdiction, and as the Capitol Police did during the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD TYLER HOOK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, South Carolina has lost a Favorite Son with the tragic death of Richard Tyler Hook, age 25. His obituary clearly explains his extraordinary accomplishments and his beloved appreciation by all who knew him. The Wilson Family will always treasure his loyalty and devotion.

RICHARD TYLER HOOK

[Jan. 20, 2021]

LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Richard Tyler Hook, the son of Richard and Kristin (Wingard) Hook, passed away on January 20, 2021. Tyler was born and raised in Lexington, South Carolina and leaves a far-flung community of family and friends who will remember his rare talent to be both the "life of the party" as well as one of the most thoughtful and considerate people you could find.

Upon graduating from Lexington High School, Tyler attended Newberry College, where he was a two-term President of his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Order. A well-loved figure on the campus, Tyler was also voted Kappa Delta sorority's "Beau," and he fondly recalled his years at Newberry College as some of the best years in his life. He graduated from Newberry College in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Digital Marketing.

After graduation, Tyler served as a staffer for various campaigns, including campaign staffer for the Republican Party of Virginia, the campaign to re-elect S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, and the campaign manager of the Christian Stegmaier S.C. Senate campaign. Tyler then served former Virginia House Delegate Ben Cline's successful congressional bid for the 6th Congressional District of Virginia, where he was instrumental in leading the campaign to a first term congressional victory. He went on to work on the staff of U.S. Representative Ben Cline of Virginia in Washington D.C. A budding politico, Tyler graduated from The George Washington University in 2020 with a Master of Arts in Media and Strategic Communication.

When he was not out on the campaign trail or roaming the halls of the Capitol, one could find Tyler on the golf course, or with his family at Williams-Brice Stadium cheering on the Gamecocks. From a young age, Tyler's family encouraged his natural curiosity through travel. Tyler's family trips took him all over the country and to many sites, including many museums up and down the east coast and Europe. He had a love of music. When he was six-years old, he experienced his first concert with his parents attending a Madonna concert in Boston. After his high-school graduation, Tyler traveled throughout Europe with his aunt Gwyn Wingard, where he saw the Rolling Stones in concert and fell in love with Scotland and all things Scottish. His Aunt Gwyn has fond memories of Tyler charming the ladies on his tour across Great Britain.

However far his travels and work took him, Tyler remained incredibly close to his family, from whom he learned how to make sweet tea and pork chops the "right way" like a true Southerner.

Tyler's family and friends recall an uncommonly generous and kind young man whose gift of wit charmed all who knew him. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Kristin