

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. REX ARCHER ON HIS RETIREMENT AS KANSAS CITY'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to celebrate Dr. Rex Archer, an individual that went above and beyond to serve our community. His work in public health began more than two decades ago, where he has served as the Kansas City Health Director. His commitment and contributions to better the region are unparalleled, shaping Kansas City's Health Department into a department that we can all be proud to have in Missouri's Fifth District.

Before serving Kansas Citizens, Mr. Archer studied at the University of Kansas where he completed his medical degree then his master's in public health at the University of Michigan. His experience allowed him to hold local and state health positions in Maryland and was even a primary advocate for protection policies for nonsmokers from tobacco smoke. The skills and knowledge he earned, prepared and made him a more than qualified to lead the Health Department in Kansas City.

Under Dr. Archer's guidance, Kansas City, Missouri's Health Department became one of the first in the country to be nationally accredited, demonstrating its continuous efforts to fulfill its mission of providing quality health care options and resources to Kansas Citizens. The department was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials and received the "Local Health Department of the Year Award in Health Equity," in addition to the "Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health" prize.

Dr. Archer dedication to improve public health can be traced to the agency's emergency response to HIV in response to the havoc it had on our local minority communities, the swine flu epidemic, and most recently, his leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He led the fight in combating the spread of COVID-19 with compassion and expertise, even delaying his retirement for eight months to continue to support the city and protect its members through an unprecedented tragedy. A champion of inclusivity and equity, Dr. Archer continuously advocated to bring more resources to the region when Kansas City, Missouri, was not receiving sufficient COVID-19 vaccines. Once received, he pushed vaccination efforts to reach our underserved communities. His leadership and dedication serve as an example of how to unify different sectors of the community such as elected officials, experts, and media for the greater good of the people we serve.

Looking beyond his extraordinary work in emergency health crises, Dr. Archer and his team have prioritized delivering equitable healthcare services and resources on, expanding the range of services at the Kansas City Health Department. Along those new initiatives are the Healthy Homes program that provides sanitary homes for all, efforts to ensure families have access to healthy and quality meals and establishing mental health services to help combat violent crime.

As a result of his successful career in Kansas City, he has held the position of president

for the National Association of County and City Health Officials and served on the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) of Directors, amongst other national public health committees. While he may often be behind the scenes, his work in public health can be felt and seen widely throughout many lives within our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr. Rex Archer for the tremendous accomplishments throughout his career and his tireless efforts in providing Kansas City with equitable healthcare for all. His contributions to our community have made him a valued member of Missouri's Fifth District and I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you Dr. Rex Archer. While he embraces this next chapter, I wish Dr. Archer many rewarding years in retirement and honor his dedication to public health.

TEXAS DELEGATION WELCOMES
NEWEST MEMBER OF CONGRESS,
JAKE ELLZEY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, the Dean of the Texas Delegation, Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, the co-Dean of the Texas Republican delegation, and other members from Texas—the greatest delegation—for the swearing in of our newest Member of Congress, JAKE ELLZEY.

JAKE is a native Texan from Amarillo who left Texas to attend the United States Naval Academy.

He was commissioned in the Navy upon graduation and then earned the coveted gold wings as a Naval aviator.

JAKE served in the Navy for the next 20 years with honor, distinction, and valor.

He served in numerous deployments and in 6 combat tours—five in the skies over Iraq and Afghanistan and a tour in ground combat in the mountains of Afghanistan, where he directed critical and timely air support for members of Seal Team Six engaged in combat there.

He has been decorated with two Bronze stars for his service in combat.

After retiring from the Navy, JAKE returned to Texas but remained committed to public service.

He was appointed by Governor Perry as a Commissioner on the Texas Veterans Commission for six years and was then elected to the Texas House of Representatives.

JAKE also returned to the skies as a commercial airline pilot flying out of Dallas/Forth Worth and raising his son and daughter with his wife Shelby in Ellis County, Texas.

Texans have a great deal of respect and admiration for those who volunteer to go in harm's way in service to their country.

JAKE is the sixth military veteran Texas voters have sent to Congress just this year.

He brings a wealth of experience in national security, military affairs, veterans affairs, business, and aviation with him to Congress.

This day, no doubt, marks the beginning of yet another rewarding chapter in a distinguished career of service.

On behalf of the Texas delegation, I'm thrilled to welcome JAKE ELLZEY, his wife Shelby, and his son and daughter to the United States Congress.

HONORING VERNON RAY HANCOCK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vernon Ray Hancock, who died on June 19, 2021, at the age of 94. Mr. Hancock served nearly 30 years as the Math Department Chair at Emory & Henry College and made a remarkable impact on the students and the university.

Mr. Hancock was born on July 10, 1926, in Baltimore, Maryland to Wheeler Hancock & Rebecca Helm Hancock. In 1943, Mr. Hancock enlisted in the United States Army. After graduating high school, the Army sent him to Virginia Polytechnic Institute for engineering classes. Following WWII, he went on to work as a clerk typist in France and was later honorably discharged in December 1946 with the rank of Tech 4. Mr. Hancock received his graduate degree in math at Johns Hopkins University and his doctorate at Tulane University. Years later, Mr. Hancock returned to the Commonwealth and settled in to make Virginia his life-long home.

Mr. Hancock married Ruth Eileen Farnham in 1950, and the two of them were inseparable as they volunteered together in their community. Throughout his life, both Mr. and Mrs. Hancock were active members of the United Methodist Church. From his appointment at Emory & Henry in 1963 until after his retirement in 1991, Mr. Hancock remained an active member of the academic and service community. He saw his life mission was to serve those around him and he found great joy in this selfless service to his community. Together with his wife, they served with the Boy Scouts of America, chartered the Pi Omicron chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity at Emory (of which I was Member), and they were also heavily involved in the Washington County Republican Party. I personally knew Mr. Hancock when he was my Faculty Advisor to the Emory & Henry College Republicans and through his decades of work with the Republican Party.

Mr. Hancock is survived by his 2 sons; Dale and his wife Nancy, Clark and his wife Frances; his granddaughter, Bethany; and numerous nieces and nephews. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

TRIBUTE TO TODD J. CORBIN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the extraordinary heroism of Todd J. Corbin. Sixteen years ago, as a lance corporal in the United States Marine Corps Reserve serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Todd Corbin rescued several of his comrades at great risk to

his own life—an act for which he was awarded the Navy Cross.

A motor vehicle operator for Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Lance Corporal Corbin was part of a convoy responding to a report of a platoon under fire near Haditha on May 7, 2005. As they approached the scene, a van loaded with explosives charged toward them, detonating between two of the convoy's vehicles. A brutal firefight ensued, during which many were injured and four—three Marines and a Navy corpsman—were killed. Most of the convoy's vehicles were disabled in this initial attack.

Lance Corporal Corbin immediately positioned his seven-ton truck between the enemy and the wounded Marines. After reporting the situation to the battalion, he immediately took charge at the scene, directing return fire. Under this covering fire, and disregarding the continued onslaught of the enemy, he retrieved his wounded patrol leader, placing him over his shoulder and bringing him back to the truck—all while firing at the enemy with his free hand.

He made five total trips through the kill zone to recover his dead and wounded comrades, shielding them from the enemy while returning them to the convoy. Despite the severe damage to his truck, which by this time had three flat tires, Lance Corporal Corbin drove it away from the scene and to an aid station five miles away. Because of his quick-thinking and heroic actions, no Marine was lost after the initial attack.

Lance Corporal Corbin is now Huron County Sheriff Corbin, re-elected to a second term last year. He credits the Marine Corps for helping him enhance the leadership skills that are so essential to his job, encouraging everyone in his command to be at their personal and professional best when interacting with the public.

Madam Speaker, we are grateful that people like Todd Corbin stand up and volunteer to serve this great Nation. He risked his life to save others under the most difficult conditions. For this, each and every one of us owes him a great debt of gratitude. I thank Sheriff Corbin for his many sacrifices on our behalf and wish him every success in the future.

REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF
DEVOYD “DEE” JENNINGS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the legacy of Devoyd “Dee” Jennings—a hardworking and dedicated member of our Fort Worth community.

Dee dedicated his life to ensuring the success, strength and mobility of the Black community in Fort Worth. Dee was born in 1947 in Fort Worth. After graduating from I.M Terrell High School in 1966, he attended Tarrant County College and continued his education at Texas Wesleyan University where he graduated with a marketing degree in 1971.

He began his nearly 30 years of service for North Texas with TXU as a Community Affairs Specialist, and served as the first Black lobbyist for Texas Electric. Dee used his own experiences to help others. He quickly became

an influential mentor to minorities pursuing careers in business as he served on numerous boards including the Texas Association of Business, the North Texas Commission, the Texas Association of African American Chambers and as a chairman of the NTTA's Business Diversity Advisory Committee.

The pinnacle of Dee's career came when he began his most recent position as president and CEO of the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce. He left a powerful legacy by using this position to fight for economic opportunity for the Black community in Fort Worth.

Dee also assisted with the creation of two stand-alone organizations that directly serve to benefit minority development—the William Mann Community Development Corp and Southeast Fort Worth Inc. Because of his work with local government bodies, he was able to establish minority and women-owned business enterprise goals.

His long and appreciated service to the community of Fort Worth has been honored as he was a proud receiver of the Minority Leaders in Business Award in 2017 and was recognized with a proclamation for Devoyd Jennings Day.

Devoyd “Dee” Jennings—a public servant, successful businessman, and strong leader—will be deeply missed by our Fort Worth community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2021, I am not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 253. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF DAVID WITT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Witt on his retirement as the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD).

David graduated with an associate's degree from Bakersfield College and a bachelor's degree in Range Resource Science from Humboldt State University, giving him a unique skill set for tackling the diverse terrain that the Kern County Fire Department covers. His interest in firefighting and emergency response were rooted well before his time in Kern County, as he had served with both the United States Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection before being hired at KCFD.

David served in a variety of roles at Kern County Fire Department, including managing its air program, operations, and logistics. In June 2019, the Kern County Board of Supervisors recognized his leadership and hard work on behalf of our community by unanimously selecting David to become Fire Chief.

As KCFD Fire Chief, David successfully led a department of nearly 500 uniformed staff and oversaw emergency responses over a two-year period that included historic wildfire seasons, massive earthquakes, and a global pandemic. He was not only responsible for the safety of his personnel and the people of Kern County, but he was also responsible for overseeing the finances and operations of the department's \$150 million budget. In that role, he excelled. KCFD was \$10 million in the red when David took over the top department spot. Yet as a fiscally responsible, no-nonsense Chief, David turned the Department's finances around and KCFD is now operating in the black.

Even before becoming Fire Chief, David was well-known for his hard work and contributions throughout our community. In 2010, he was recognized by the American Legion, earning a certificate of commendation. In 2013, he received the Kern River Valley Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year Award. In 2017, he was recognized by KCFD with a letter of commendation, a testament to his work ethic and savvy that set him apart. David also serves on the Board of Directors for Kern County and Eastern Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross, where he lends his expertise to the organization. He also previously served as a Board Director and as Treasurer for the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens.

David knows the needs of the people he protects, and when that includes nine different cities, 41 different distinct communities, and 8,163 square miles, that becomes an incredible challenge. David may be taking a step back from his role as Fire Chief of the Kern County Fire Department, but I am confident that his tenure will be remembered across our community through his mentorship of firefighters and his leadership during times of emergency response and disaster recovery.

On behalf of California's 23rd Congressional District, I want to thank David for his service to our community, and want to also thank his wife Pegeen and their children Andrew and Courtland for supporting him during his many years of public service to our community. I wish David and his family well as he settles into a much-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to salute whistleblowers and to mark a day of appreciation for their critical contribution to American justice and to the safety and security of us all. Whistleblowers, among other things, keep companies that do business with the federal government honest and accountable. Working from confidential tips and insights provided by whistleblowers in qui tam cases, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recovers billions of dollars annually under the False Claims Act. Over a recent four-year period, the government recovered \$11.4 billion in fraud prosecutions and distributed more than \$1.54 billion in whistleblower reward payments.