

I am proud to have them back in Georgia's 11th Congressional District.

On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Sergeant Ferguson for his nine years of outstanding and dedicated service.

HONORING LEE DUDLEY WALKER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Lee Dudley Walker of Martinsville, Virginia, who passed away on January 12, 2021 at the age of 90. Dudley Walker was a business and community leader who made a tremendous contribution to the Martinsville-Henry County area.

Mr. Walker was born on July 20, 1930 in Martinsville to Virginia Dudley and Samuel Stanhope Walker. He graduated as the valedictorian of Martinsville High School in 1947 and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. The next year, he attained a post-graduate certificate from Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia. In 1952, he graduated from North Carolina State University, where he had served in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps and became Cadet Regimental Adjutant. Mr. Walker served for two years in the United States Army and was assigned to the Armed Services Textile and Apparel Procurement Agency in New York City.

Upon completion of his military service, Mr. Walker returned home to join the family business, the Walker Knitting Company founded by his father Samuel in 1928. Samuel Walker also served as president of the Bassett-Walker Knitting Company. Dudley Walker became president of the Walker Knitting Company, and upon his father's death in 1960 he led both companies. They merged in 1964 under the Bassett-Walker Knitting Company name.

Under Mr. Walker's leadership, Bassett-Walker grew. It built a sewing plant in Stuart in 1965 and in Hillsville and Brookneal in the 1970s. It subsequently acquired yarn manufacturer Johnston Mills Co., opened divisions in Ferrum and Stoneville, North Carolina, and opened a distribution center in Henry County. At its zenith, Bassett-Walker owned 13 plants and employed more than 7,000 workers, helping Martinsville earn its reputation as "The Sweatshirt Capital of the World." The company became part of VF Corp in 1984. Mr. Walker operated as Chairman of Knitwear for VF until 1986 and remained on the company's board until 2000. He acted not only as an executive but as a community leader whose businesses were an important support to the people of the area.

Beyond his role in this industry, at the time so fundamental to the Martinsville-Henry County area, Mr. Walker was a dedicated philanthropist. Wanting to keep young people in the region, he became a driving force behind the founding of Carlisle School, playing active roles from helping to choose the school's site to recruiting staff. He donated to Patrick Henry Community College, the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge, among other organizations. He was a lifelong member of

Broad Street Christian Church, which his mother had helped found.

Among the recognitions Mr. Walker received for his accomplishments were the Heck Ford Award from the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the Pillar Award from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Council for "Lifetime Contributions to the Martinsville-Henry County Business Community."

Mr. Walker's survivors include his wife of 65 years, Elizabeth Mitchell Walker; son Samuel Stanhope Walker II and wife Janice Meredith Walker; daughters Virginia Walker Hamlet and her husband Burgess Harrison Hamlet III and Anne Walker Poole and her husband Walker Lynch Poole; grandchildren Andrew Linwood Shelton, Blake Thomas Walker, Harrison Walker Hamlet, Lee Dudley Hamlet, Mitchell Hudson Hamlet, Walker Lynch Poole, Jr., Virginia Buchanan Poole, and Elizabeth Weaver Poole; and sister Spotswood Walker Box. I offer them my condolences on this loss of this great business leader and philanthropist of the Martinsville-Henry County area.

RECOGNIZING MS. JESSICA LANDRY AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Jessica Landry as the Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. For nine years, Ms. Landry has served James E. Plew Elementary School with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to 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 professions in existence—yet it can also be one of the most rewarding. Ms. Landry has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. Landry attended Northwest Florida State College, where she earned a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education. She later attended the University of West Florida and earned a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her classroom through her involvement in other programs, such as the School Advisory Council and Plew's Parent Leadership Association, and serving as the Senior Building Representative for Okaloosa County Schools. Ms. Landry has spent her time outside of school hours as the Academic Team coach, Young Astronaut Club coordinator, and as a mentor to new mathematics and science teachers. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those who 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. Landry as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize

Ms. Jessica Landry for her many accomplishments, and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Okaloosa County School District. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best for her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD RICE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Richard Rice who passed away on Saturday, January 16 at North Mississippi Medical Center. His beloved wife, Jill, passed away in November of 2020.

Richard was born in September of 1940 in Ware, Massachusetts to Thomas and Jean Lech Rice. After attending public high schools, Richard enlisted in the United States Navy. During Basic Training in Millington, Tennessee, he met his wife Jill. The two were married in September of 1960. Throughout his military career, Chief Petty Officer Rice served as a meteorologist, forecasting sea swells and tracking atmospheric changes for missile launches.

In July, 1979, Richard and Jill moved to Tupelo, Mississippi where Richard soon became a household name. He was Northeast Mississippi's weatherman and delighted children each Christmas as the "Santa Tracker." He was deeply invested in the community, frequently speaking to local organizations and schools about his career in meteorology. He mentored colleagues at WTVA and was a role model for local broadcasters. Off screen, Richard was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, as well as an accomplished gardener.

Richard Rice is survived by his daughter, Debbie; three grandchildren, John, Robert, and Scotty; and three great-grandchildren, Lauren, Aaryn, and Chloe.

Richard Rice was a local hero, community leader, and role model to many. I sincerely thank him for his service to the state of Mississippi and extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE U.S. CAPITOL CUSTODIAL WORKERS

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the work of the U.S. Capitol custodial staff, specifically the Black and brown members, for their excellent work every day, but especially for their work across the Capitol complex after it was desecrated on January 6, 2021 by a mob of rioters and insurrectionists trying to reverse the results of a fair and free election. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated stewards of our temple of democracy, and their exemplary work deserves to be acknowledged.

The labor of Black and brown Americans is integral to the history of our Capitol building. When the Capitol was first constructed, enslaved Black laborers were brought in from across the country to build the home of our nation's democracy. Enslaved laborers were involved in nearly every step of construction, from quarrying marble and sandstone to masonry to devising the architectural innovations needed to install the Statue of Freedom in 1863.

Today, our Capitol continues to rely on the labor of Black and brown Americans. Our Black and brown custodial staff make sure the entire Capitol complex is pristine and accessible to all that visit, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they have worked to maintain our community's health and safety. I see the pride they take in their work each and every day and thank them for their endless dedication.

On January 6, 2021, Black and brown custodial staff were in attendance as well. While media coverage has largely focused on the experiences of House Members and Senators, custodial and administrative staff throughout the Capitol complex weathered the siege all the same. Once the Capitol was secured, these dedicated employees were the first back to work, scrubbing the stains inflicted on our temple of democracy by the same rioters who made them fear for their lives.

Our colleagues' work to clean the Capitol is particularly commendable considering the appalling racial nature of the riots. Former President Trump and his supporters spread baseless allegations and lies about the integrity of the 2020 presidential election, including about the validity of votes cast in majority Black or brown cities. When election officials and the courts refused to overturn the results, a predominately white mob, including proud white supremacists, stormed the Capitol. After seeing these white rioters treated more kindly than protestors for racial justice often are, the largely Black and brown custodial staff were left to clean up the mess. They cleaned up broken glass, blood, empty bottles, and other items left by the mob. I read that a staff member described the experience of cleaning up after the insurrection as "degrading." To that end, I say we see you and we appreciate your efforts. Their work was not made in vain, nor did it go unnoticed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished members of the U.S. Capitol custodial staff for their hard work in the aftermath of January 6, 2021 and for the professionalism they show each and every day.

PASSING OF JOHN J. SWEENEY

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I first met John Sweeney when I was 22 and his staff offered me a job helping nursing home workers organize with SEIU in my home state of Michigan. The union was hiring a novice, front-line organizer, but I was ushered into the office of the president of the national union to meet the man himself. He was modest and unassuming that day, and he never changed,

even as he doubled the size of SEIU, even as he became the consensus choice to lead the only insurgent takeover of the AFL-CIO in its history, even as he helped transform its policies to focus on organizing, support immigrant workers and much more. John Sweeney never saw himself as being above any of the workers he came to represent, and he fought for them with unquestioned integrity and an openness to innovation and change possible only with true humility. I ended up spending five years organizing with SEIU, then returning years later to help his campaign to take over the AFL-CIO, and then working 11 years under his leadership there. Throughout that time, I trusted President Sweeney completely—he gave me big assignments and the leeway to make them my own. He drew the best out of me by letting me know he had faith in me. He tolerated mistakes, but not lapsed ethics.

One story that captures John well is that when I was creating Union Summer, a program to put 1,000 young people onto the front lines of union organizing and bargaining campaigns in the summer of 1996, shortly after he became AFL-CIO president, he insisted on making the 'Summeristas' as we called them employees of the AFL-CIO, even though they were essentially doing a three-week summer camp. He knew it would be much more expensive and a lot more work, but he insisted on taking full responsibility for every one of them.

John put the interest of other people and the labor movement above his own, every time. I loved John Sweeney in an uncomplicated way that feels hard to describe and that I hope remains possible in our troubled world. He was an honest leader, a great soul, doing his best to keep faith with his God and lift up his fellow human beings. Godspeed, John Sweeney.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SERGEANT JON MEADOR

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Sergeant Jon Meador for his service with the Grapevine Police Department and to congratulate him on his retirement. His 30 years of law enforcement service is incredibly deserving of recognition, and, on behalf of the North Texans he has dedicated his career to serving and protecting, I am proud to extend my sincere appreciation for his selfless service before the House of Representatives.

I was impressed to hear of Sergeant Meador's background prior to joining law enforcement, specifically his experience in the banking industry that he utilized to investigate financial crimes in conjunction with the FBI, ICE, and the Secret Service. The courage and dedication he has displayed during his many years of service in law enforcement is admirable and the law enforcement community is better for having the benefit of his service and knowledge.

In these unprecedented times, I know it is a source of comfort for North Texans to have law enforcement officers like Sergeant Meador working tirelessly to serve and protect us. It has always been my view that public service is among the most admirable of callings, one

that demands the very best among us tackle monumental challenges in the name of selfless service to others. Sergeant Meador's incredible service to the public will be remembered by many in Grapevine and I join them in congratulating him on not only heeding the call to serve, but for doing so with the devotion and passion he has exhibited for the past three decades.

It is my honor to congratulate Sergeant Meador on his successful career and retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
ROSE ROBERTS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mrs. Rose Roberts who passed away at North Mississippi Medical Center in Pontotoc on January 8 of this year.

Mrs. Roberts was born to Charlie and Rosa Nell Smith Dickerson in March of 1930 in Tippah County. In 1948, she graduated from Ripley High School and attended Wood Junior College before earning her degree in Education from Blue Mountain College in 1956. She taught for many years in Dumas, Centre, Ripley, Hickory Flat and Walnut before becoming a Social Worker in 1963. Rose went on to earn her Master's Degree in Social Work from Tulane University. She continued to serve the state of Mississippi as Supervisor of Region II of the MS Welfare Department and upon her retirement she was EEOC for the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Mrs. Rose Roberts was a dedicated servant to her community. Throughout her career she aided in facilitating both local and overseas adoptions, also serving as a board member for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and the Northeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross. She worked as an associate professor in the Social Work Department at Ole Miss and worked with B.S.W. students in selecting a career path. She was often seen at the schools of her children, serving as homeroom mother, assisting the Girl Scouts, or working in the concession stand at Ripley High School football games.

Mrs. Rose Roberts is survived by her husband, James Roberts Jr.; children, Pat Harrison, Ava Jordan, and Kim Harrison; and grandchildren, Stacy, Shannon, Trey, Megan, Gage, Guy, Rob, and Sarah. Left to remember her are also five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Rose Roberts lived an admirable life of service and embodied dedication to faith and family. My deepest condolences are with her loved ones.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF DENNY
LINABURG

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Frederick County Fire Rescue's Chief Denny Linaburg on his retirement