

If he had access to his loved ones, Mrs. Thompson's husband might still be speaking today. But the moment he was shut off from his essential caregivers, his health took a devastating toll.

Also from Arizona, here is the story from Anne Martinez, who lost her mother in the pandemic, also from the book "Protecting Them to Death":

Every time I visited my mother, she looked like a zoo animal behind the patio door. She would mouth that she was hungry or motion for what I had brought to drink. The blueberries I left got moldy, the almond milk grew stale, and the canned organic soups gathered dust. Nobody was giving them to her. My dad gestured at the closed patio window how much he missed her, and she avoided eye contact so as not to cry. Some days I was allowed to bring home-cooked meals and other days I was not allowed to feed her.

On the day she was transferred to a hospice care facility, I was with her to say goodbye and could see the particles in her dentures that had not been cleaned in weeks and blackened food underneath her fingernails from trying to eat with her bare hands.

I was actually relieved when they told me she had contracted COVID shortly after being vaccinated. Nobody deserves to spend their last years, months, weeks, or even days, alone in a facility without their loved ones at their side.

Anne's story is just one of thousands that are occurring across this Nation.

I will continue sharing these stories and urging immediate passage of the bipartisan Essential Caregivers Act. Denise, Linda, Anne, and their families, friends, and loved ones are depending on it.

HONORING ROBERT HAMILTON HURT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his life to a better Georgia and a better United States: Robert Hamilton Hurt.

Bob Hurt is retiring this year, but his legacy will last generations. You would be hard-pressed to find a better adviser, more loyal friend, or hardworking foot soldier for every cause to which he has dedicated himself than Bob Hurt. This includes his commitment to his lovely wife, Virginia, and daughters Emma and Louisa, who are daily witnesses to Bob's unwavering support.

Bob is a proud graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where he studied history. During this time reporting for and serving as editor for the campus newspaper, The Cluster, Bob both covered and advocated for the school's desegregation.

After graduating, Bob cashed in on a couple of summers interning for the Atlanta Constitution to score a full-time job reporting for the paper.

That career was put on hold as Bob was commissioned as an officer for the United States Army through Mercer's

ROTC program and was then called to defend our Nation in Vietnam.

While in Vietnam, he served as an Army infantryman and military intelligence officer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and with the 5th Special Forces, more commonly called the Green Berets.

Bob returned to Atlanta following the war, where he continued his career as a journalist covering many beats before moving to Washington, D.C., to report on the happenings inside this building for the people of Atlanta.

While in Washington, Bob continued to pursue his goals while studying legislative affairs at George Washington University, where he went on to receive a master's degree.

Bob left the Atlanta Constitution and began an illustrious career in the United States Congress working for both the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Accumulating an incredible 24 years of combined experience, Bob has truly seen it all, but he never lost his commitment to the people of his beloved Peach State. He served as chief of staff to two of my predecessors, Representative Bo Ginn and Lindsay Thomas, as well as staff director for Senator Sam Nunn.

Though his dear friend Frank Norton may have convinced Bob to leave the government service, Bob never stopped working for our State. He has been a trusted adviser to Members on both sides of the aisle to further the interests of Georgians at the Federal level.

For more than 40 years, Bob Hurt has had a hand in nearly every project to create jobs and improve lives in the First District of Georgia. He has also been a fierce advocate for our military installations and for ensuring America's troops are the best equipped, highest trained, and most well cared for in the world.

While he is the first to roll up his sleeves and commit to doing the hard things, Bob is the last person who will ever take credit for getting the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to shine a light on this faithful public servant who I am honored to call my friend.

Joining me in honoring Bob today are former Senator Sam Nunn and my predecessors Lindsay Thomas and Jack Kingston.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD their remarks.

NOVEMBER 29, 2021.

DEAR BOB: It is a pleasure to join with your family and many friends to congratulate you on your well-deserved retirement. (I don't really believe it.)

From your work at The Atlanta Constitution and your service in the U.S. Army—to your time as my Administrative Assistant in the Senate and your hard work at Hurt & Norton, you have had an outstanding, impactful, and I am sure, very fulfilling career. In every role, you have served with distinction, integrity, and a great sense of humor, and you have been a force for good for Georgia and our nation. You've given all

of us who have been blessed by your company a joyful example of how to live a wonderful life.

Considering your news media background, I am reluctant to admit that you are a superb writer, so let's put it this way: I am looking for a speechwriter for my own retirement years. Are you available? I am honored that we've had the opportunity to work closely together over these many years, and I treasure our relationship.

Thank you for your friendship, your leadership, your wise counsel and your good jokes, which you have occasionally shared. Colleen and I send our best wishes to you and Virginia for a relaxing and enjoyable retirement. She is the one who really deserves it, and we hope to see more of both of you on the Georgia coast!

Sincerely,

SAM NUNN.

Though a newcomer to the political arena, I was well aware of the reputation and capabilities of Bob Hurt long before he agreed to serve as my Chief of Staff.

I cannot recall a serious disagreement that came between us throughout those ten years. There were surely times when my naïveté and lack of experience frustrated him greatly but never did it shake his steady, even-handed manner of directing the affairs of our office.

Bob selected our staff, directed the budget, and inter-office proceedings and, with his established knowledge of the First District, precluded any serious opposition during my ten years in office. His careful stewardship of the complex management challenges that face any congressional office enabled me to concentrate on focusing on the district and its people. In doing so, he afforded me the ability to spend the kind of time I found necessary to keep our pulse on the sentiments of the people we represented and the agenda of the First District.

I came to recognize how much respect Bob had on Capitol Hill. Other chiefs of staff and even other Members were aware of his knowledge, experience, and wisdom, seeking his counsel often. On many occasions I was perfectly aware of how Bob felt about various issues before us based on their questions of me.

In serving former Congressman Bo Ginn before me and then Senator Sam Nunn after, I have often thought of what a contrast it must have been to take on the responsibility of such a novice as myself. He did so in a manner that helped me come to a resolution on controversial matters, on the gamut of ordinary issues that affected the nation and the First District, and on the mundane responsibility of assuring the people who elected me that our office was there to serve them in every way possible.

Bob Hurt is a person of sterling character, very deep intellect, and passion for our nation. He has exemplified that passion not only through his years as Chief of Staff for three Members of the United States Congress, a Vietnam veteran, a father and family man, and a consultant to some of the most important enterprises in the country, but also as a friend and trusted counsel to people who shape the nation's agenda.

He is a perfect example of a life well lived, and a person whose service has made our country a better place.

I am truly honored to be his friend and I can say without reservation our longtime friendship and association has made me a better man.

LINDSAY THOMAS,
Member of Congress (1983–1993),
First District of Georgia.

Most of us don't know if Bob Hurt ever officially moved his residency to the state of

Virginia but either way we in Georgia claim him as one of our most outstanding citizens.

As a young man Bob played an integral volunteer role in the election of the late Congressman Bo Ginn. After Ginn was elected Bob stayed on as a staff member. Knowing the hours he worked and the reality of congressional salaries, I'm sure the compensation was only slightly better than what he made as a volunteer!

He worked grueling hours traveling the state of Georgia, meeting its people and dealing with the issues that most affected them. Along with Congressman Ginn, his successor Lindsay Thomas, and Sen. Sam Nunn, Bob was on the forefront of nearly every major public project for the last five decades. He helped push for the development and expansion of our ports, universities, military installations, countless roads, bridges, airports, and industries. As Georgia grew and prospered Bob never forgot the quality of life in which we all believe. He balanced environmental, rural, and urban dynamics so that generations to come will still be able to know and love the same Georgia in which Bob was reared.

In all of these achievements Bob never cut the ribbon or took the applause. He worked quietly behind the scenes and in most cases crafted the message and wrote the very speeches the elected officials gave as they accepted the accolades.

After his retirement from Congressional life Bob continued his public service as a lobbyist. I always describe Bob as a guy who charged you a dollar when he should've charged you two dollars and always gave you three dollars worth of work. He has been an example for many other public advocates. To Bob the mission is always primary, not the dollars or the political impact.

Bob's wife Virginia and daughters Emma and Louisa have been part of Bob's contribution to a better Georgia. Bob puts his family first yet there been many sacrifices that all of them have made to make Bob a success. I hope Bob stays in the game but whatever the future holds he will be known as the premier and most successful public servant and lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

JACK KINGSTON,
Member of Congress (1993–2015),
First District of Georgia.

□ 1100

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Bob Hurt is a great Georgian. He is a great American. Most importantly for me, he is a great friend who has helped me tremendously, as he has helped so many people.

I wish him well in his retirement. I know that he will be living in my district. I look forward to representing him. We need more people in this world like Bob Hurt. We need more people in the United States and in Congress like Bob Hurt.

I thank Bob for his tutelage and for all he has done for our great State and for our great Nation.

MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR RETIRED STATUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, State and local governments across the country are caving to woke demands and removing statues of certain United

States Presidents from their public buildings. Last week, Thomas Jefferson's statue—if you can imagine, Thomas Jefferson's statue—was removed from New York City's City Hall.

Radical leftists want these statues removed because their goal is to erase every part of our Nation's history that doesn't get their stamp of approval. They don't want to see statues of historical figures they don't like. They don't want you to see them, either, Mr. Speaker.

Governments can decide what they want to display in public buildings, but what happens to the statues of Presidents they remove? Will they get covered with a tarp or moved to a dusty corner of a basement somewhere? Or even worse than that, will they decorate our country's landfills?

Instead of taking up space in some storage or waste facility, statues of U.S. Presidents that get removed from government buildings should go to a national memorial garden. That way they can still be viewed by people who want to see them and learn about those who led our country in the past.

In fact, there is a pastor in my district who is a good friend of mine; he is willing to take presidential statues that these politicians don't want. Pastor Clarence Sexton will start the national garden himself at Crown College in Powell, Tennessee, where he serves as president.

Mr. Speaker, he has probably one of the best collections of United States memorabilia that I think I have seen outside of the Smithsonian and has letters and autographs and things from every President since George Washington.

The far left can pretend all it wants that these figures do not exist, but you cannot cancel history, Mr. Speaker.

UFOS ARE OF GREAT PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, last summer's UFO report from the Director of National Intelligence was bogus. The report raised more questions than answers about unidentified objects in the skies. It stunk of a government coverup, Mr. Speaker.

Now the Pentagon is starting a new office to collect information on these unidentified objects. The office is called the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group. I don't know where they came up with that name. I am sure they paid somebody a lot of money to come up with that.

I do not trust this new office, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it will be transparent with lawmakers or the public about its findings. This is a national security issue. Congress needs to know what is going on so we can respond accordingly.

Today, I am requesting the leaders of this new office bring Members of Congress in on their UFO findings. This is a matter of great public interest and has been for a very long time to a lot of Americans. Our government should not hide the truth from us for another second.

If this new office is to be held accountable, our country will get more reports like the one that came out last summer or, worse, they will be silent and hope we all just forget about the phenomena.

We do not need to fear these airborne unidentified objects. They would have shown themselves to be dangerous a long time ago by now if they were a threat. Our citizens and country can handle the truth, Mr. Speaker.

PROTECTING WOMEN'S FREEDOMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, people sometimes ask me what was the greatest moment in my life. I have had a lot of great moments, but I will say three. The first was the birth of my son, Ben, and I would say the next two were the birth of my grandchildren, Ivo and Bruno.

The decision for me to bring Ben into the world, the decision to raise a child, that was a personal decision made by me and my husband, and we didn't have to call a Governor, we didn't call a State legislator, we didn't call our Member of Congress and say, hey, is it time?

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to talk about freedom, freedom of everyone to have the right to make that very, very personal decision of whether or not to bring a child into the world, because we know the raising of a child brings so many blessings but also great responsibility. None of us really know the individual circumstances of other people.

I raise that point today, Mr. Speaker, because as I stand here in the Chamber, across the street at the United States Supreme Court, the Court is hearing a case about a law in Mississippi that would effectively overturn the Roe v. Wade decision that has given women the right to access abortion for the past 50 years.

That Mississippi law is an effort by Republican legislatures, and in this case the Mississippi legislature, to ban abortion. It is about politicians controlling women's bodies. It is about politicians taking away the personal decision of people to access the healthcare that they need.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here today and have trepidation whether or not the Supreme Court is going to uphold this right to access to abortion, it is a clarion call for the United States Senate across the hall to take up and pass the Women's Health Protection Act, which we passed here in the House. That act would forever protect a woman's right to access a safe, legal abortion. Let freedom ring.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.