

Commissioner Daeke will retire from his seat at the end of this year. Through his extensive track record in public service and diligent work as a member of the Board of Commissioners, he has extended the highest level of personal sacrifice in dedicating himself to the service of others. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking him for his efforts and wishing him well as he enters the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Jerry Daeke for his career of exemplary servitude to his community.

HONORING ANTOINETTE GANT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, the first female promoted to Brigadier General (BG) in the United States Army, Colonel Antoinette 'Toni' Gant.

Antoinette Gant is the first African American female to serve as a division commander in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will be the first AA Female (active duty) to reach the rank of Brigadier General in the history of the Engineer Regiment.

Gant was pinned on October 28, 2022. She is the fourth female HBCU graduate to achieve Brigadier General rank. Colonel Gant became the Commander and Division Engineer of South Pacific Division (SPD), U.S. Army Corps Engineers on July 9, 2021. In this position, she was responsible for leading a workforce of more than 2,500 military and civilians, overseeing hundreds of water resource development, military, and interagency design and construction projects valued at more than \$16 billion in support of our communities, our Nation, and our warfighters.

Gant, a native of Port Gibson, Mississippi, graduated from Prairie View A&M University in Texas as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a commission in the Engineer Regiment. She holds a Master of Science in Engineer Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Extension School, National Defense University, in Washington, D.C. She is a certified Project Management Professional. She has served in a variety of command and staff positions for engineering units stateside and abroad. She is a mother of two and married to Leonard Gant, who is a Middle School Math Educator.

A strong advocate for STEM, Gant has worked to develop partnerships with agencies and organizations to promote science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives. She has received several national and community awards, some including: 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Conference Awards (BEYA) Army Stars and Strips Award recipient, the 2020 Women of Color Career Achievement in Government Award, the YWCA Women on the Move Award and many more.

Gant is an initiate of the Zeta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at PVAMU. Her military awards and decorations

include many, the Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (7) and many more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Antoinette Gant as the first African American female to serve as a Division Commander in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

RECOGNIZING COUNTY COMMISSIONER GREG TOMPKINS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Walla Walla County Commissioner Greg Tompkins. On December 31, 2022, Mr. Tompkins will retire from public service, marking the end of a long, impactful career devoted to the people and community of Walla Walla County.

Greg has long been an inspiring leader whom I have had the honor to work with for many years. He first earned the people's trust when he was elected to serve as a county commissioner in January 2003. From day one, Greg worked hard to deliver results for the people who call Walla Walla County home, which earned him the support to serve two more terms before retiring—for the first time—in 2014.

Just four short years later, Greg answered the call to serve—again—following the unexpected passing of his friend and colleague on the county commission, Jim Duncan. He served the remainder of this term as passionately as he did his first three, before seeking re-election to a final term that will come to a close at the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, I have met few people more dedicated to serving Walla Walla County and Eastern Washington than Greg Tompkins. For 16 years, he proved himself to be someone our community could count on. His work on numerous local and state government committees have yielded incredible results on issues related to housing, emergency services, behavioral health, and many other important challenges residents face. Greg is the embodiment of a public servant whose mission was to leave a lasting impression on the world—a mission our community would proudly say he accomplished.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Greg Tompkins for his many years of service to the government and people of Walla Walla County. Together, let us celebrate his faithful service to Eastern Washington and the United States of America by congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

ENDING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of those struggling with the disease of addiction.

The last few years have been brutal on Americans suffering from opioid use disorder.

100,000 dead of drug overdoses in 12 months.

This relentless disease has left heartbroken families across the country asking why there isn't more support for loved ones gripped by addiction.

Today, Leigh Ann Caldwell at the Washington Post reported that a cartel of clinics is trying to block legislation that would help address the opioid epidemic. Her article quotes a special interest leader saying he "doesn't trust doctors."

77 million Americans lack easy access to a clinic, but he doesn't want patients to get treatment because he doesn't "trust" doctors? Maybe he wants to protect the monopoly these for-profit clinics enjoy.

It is time for us to decide what is more important: Ending the opioid epidemic or the entrenched interests of the methadone clinic cartel.

It is time for the Senate to help us get the bipartisan Opioid Treatment Access Act over the finish line.

HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER CATHERINE GRAHAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Graham for 8 years of service as Moore County Commissioner and a lifetime of public service to our community.

Prior to being elected to the Moore County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Graham served as the Clerk of Superior Court for 15 years. Her success in this position allowed her to be elected President of the North Carolina Clerk of Courts. She later served as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Carthage and a member of the Board of Trustees for Sandhills Community College. In 2014, Commissioner Graham was elected to hold Moore County's District I seat as a member of the Board of Commissioners. She is only the fourth woman to ever serve on the board, and in perhaps her most noteworthy achievement, she became the first female elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in 2016. She was reelected to the board in 2018 and currently serves on the Social Services Board and the Sandhills Center Board of Directors in addition to many other local leadership councils.

Commissioner Graham will retire from her current position as Vice Chair of the Moore County Board of Commissioners at the end of the year. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to her community. Through her hard work and leadership, she has served as a trailblazer for all women in public service. I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor her extraordinary career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Catherine Graham for her career of exemplary servitude to her community.

HONORING SERGEANT ANTHONY
BELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated veteran, Sergeant Anthony Bell.

Sgt. Bell served in the U.S. Army for more than two decades, including 3 years with the Third Brigade 101st Airborne, more famously known as the Screaming Eagles. Around

2010, Sgt. Bell served a tour in Afghanistan and started to ponder what his post-active-duty life would be like. His upbringing and exposure to diverse cultures during his military life brought him full circle. Although Sgt. Bell had a great job offer when he left the military, as a GS-13, he wanted to pay it forward by helping a failing education system.

With this mindset, Sgt. Bell built a high school military education program in Columbus, GA, then later became the military instructor on the campus at the University of Mississippi. More recently, Sgt. Bell has been serving in a similar capacity in Sunflower County for the past 4 years. His classroom in-

struction serves as both a complement and enhancement to the traditional curriculum. Part of taking the military instruction elective also delves into a student's physical readiness.

Sgt. Bell's last point of emphasis among his students is to change the perception about what the military is. When students first enter the class the typical concept about the military revolves around going to war. But this instructor's life path has shown that the military is a great career starter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sgt. Anthony Bell for his passion for leadership and service to the United States of America.