

South Dakota telecommunications leader since 1976.

Earlier this year, my friend Bryan Roth died at age 59. He had been a South Dakota telecommunications leader since 1998.

Now, losing one friend, losing one industry leader, is not easy. When you lose four over the past few months, it can be almost more than their friends and family can bear.

These were real leaders. Everybody around here talks about broadband. It has been a hot topic in Congress for the last 2 years, every day—broadband, high-speed internet, broadband, connectivity.

But I tell you, Madam Speaker, those four gentlemen were involved in broadband long before it was cool and long before it was the hot topic in Washington, D.C.

Mark spent 20 years as the CEO of SDN. Originally, it was the South Dakota Network. He turned this into one of the most sophisticated State networks in the country, and he expanded it by 50,000 miles of fiber-optic cable.

For 20 years, Greg, in his work with the South Dakota Telecommunications Act, was probably the most influential person to help set rural broadband policy in the halls of the State capital.

For 30 or 40 years, Rod, in his work as the CEO of Kennebec Telephone Company, made sure that two small towns, Kennebec with 281 residents and Presheo with 472, had high-speed internet that would be the envy of the largest and most cosmopolitan urban areas in the world.

For more than 20 years as CEO of TrioTel, Bryan worked to make sure that that cooperative was the first telephone company in South Dakota, all the way back in 2013, to have 100 percent of its customers connected with fiber.

So, yes, Madam Speaker, these were titans of the rural broadband arena.

But when I think about connectivity and these gentlemen's contribution to it, I don't just think about rural broadband. I think about the connections they made with their families and their communities. It would have been hard to do more for Sioux Falls or for Scouting or for his family than Mark did. It would have been hard to do more for the Pierre community or Pierre athletics or his family than Greg did. It would have been hard to do more for his church or the outdoors or the Salem community than Bryan did. It would have been hard to do more for Kennebec or for Presheo or for the fire department or for his family than Rod did.

The contributions of these gentlemen in their communities were absolutely staggering. So, Madam Speaker, it is altogether appropriate that we focus on the contributions to rural broadband of these four titans of the industry. But I also think it is important to recognize that when they thought of connectivity and when they made a contribution to connectivity, it was about the human connection.

No one could have done more for the people and the places they loved than Mark, Greg, Rod, and Bryan did.

COMMEMORATING THE LEGACIES OF ADDIE MAE COLLINS, DENISE MCNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON, AND CYNTHIA MORRIS WESLEY ON THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the lives and legacies of four precious little girls—Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley—who died within the sacred walls of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, 59 years ago.

On September 15, 1963, as the four little girls were getting dressed in the bathroom of the church basement, preparing to sing in the choir, 19 sticks of dynamite placed under the church detonated and totally exploded, causing the interior walls to actually cave in.

The crowd of about 200 people who gathered for the 11 a.m. service evacuated the church. But the church was filled with smoke, and underneath the debris lie four little girls.

Along with the little girls who lost their lives, dozens of others were injured that day, including Sarah Collins Rudolph, the younger sister of Addie Mae Collins, who was in the basement with her sister and the other girls preparing for church that day.

Due to the violently racist nature of the attack, thousands of African Americans protested across the State of Alabama. In response, George Wallace called the police to break up the demonstrations.

The violent clashes between protesters and police resulted in massive arrests and the tragic loss of two more lives, two little boys who died that day, Johnny Robinson and Virgil Ware. The two boys, one 16 and the other 13, were killed within hours of the church bombing.

Following the attack, several people, many of whom were members of the KKK, were arrested, but none of them—none of them—were actually prosecuted until 34 years later.

Described by Dr. Martin Luther King as one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity, this racially motivated act of terrorism focused America's eyes on Birmingham, Alabama, bringing into sharp clarity the injustices that sparked the civil rights movement.

Although we will never replace the lives lost or injuries suffered, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 proved that their sacrifices were not in vain.

Today, as we reflect on our painful history, we are reminded that every gain in the battle for civil rights has come at a high cost paid by those who

sacrificed everything for a vision and a dream bigger than themselves.

As a direct beneficiary of the legacy of the four little girls, I was honored that the very first bill that I passed in this body posthumously bestowed upon them the Congressional Gold Medal to ensure that this Nation will never forget their sacrifice.

I not only question where I would be today without the influence of the four little girls, but more importantly, I question where America would be today. The premature and senseless deaths of these four little girls awakened the slumbering conscience of America and galvanized the civil rights movement.

It was their memory that carried John Lewis and those brave foot soldiers, unarmed and unafraid, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in my hometown of Selma, Alabama.

It was their sacrifice which burned in the mind of President Lyndon Johnson as he signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It was their sacrifice that inspired a generation of freedom fighters to move this Nation closer to its highest ideals of equality and justice for all.

Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the 59th year since the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, we, as Americans, are called upon to reflect on the legacy of the four little girls and to know them by name: Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Denise McNair, and Cynthia Morris Wesley. These four little girls and the loss of their lives have changed America forever.

The legacy of the four little girls paved the way for a more equitable and more just future. For that, we owe it to them to pick up the baton and carry it forward.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 59th anniversary of the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley.

May we always remember their names: Addie Mae, Denise, Carole, and Cynthia.

REMEMBERING SANDRA DEAL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sandra Deal, a woman whose legacy as a lifelong champion of education will not soon be forgotten.

On August 23, Mrs. Deal passed away surrounded by family after a 4-year battle with cancer. Sandra was the daughter of two educators and was raised in Gainesville, Georgia. After earning both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in elementary education, she went on to teach language arts in public schools for over 15 years.

As Georgia's first lady, she made childhood literacy improvements her top priority. Through this initiative,

she visited schools in every single one of Georgia's 159 counties, spanning across 180 school districts. Across just 8 years, she read to students in nearly 1,000 classrooms, touching tens of thousands of lives. She donated copies of her memoir, "Memories of the Mansion: The Story of Georgia's Governor's Mansion," to every public library in the State.

On top of these accomplishments, she was a devoted wife of 56 years, a mother to four, and a grandmother to six. A shining example of the qualities every person strives toward, Sandra Deal's impact will be felt by many generations of Georgians.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL DONALD E.
"ROSIE" ROSENBLUM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of a true American patriot in my district, Lieutenant General Donald E. Rosenblum.

Rosie was born on June 3, 1929, in Flushing, New York, and was raised during the Depression in Hell's Kitchen in New York.

In 1948, Rosie graduated high school and followed his older brother, Bob, to the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. At the Citadel, Rosie was a member of the varsity baseball team and sports editor of the college paper. Upon graduation, Rosie was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and deployed to lead an infantry platoon in the Korean war.

After Korea, Rosie was placed in command of an infantry company in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and served as a staff officer in Berlin, Germany, when the wall was built.

In between his tours in Vietnam, Rosie also managed to graduate from the U.S. Army War College and later served as the executive officer to the Army's director of operations at the Pentagon. It was there that he received his first of three general officer stars, and he was then transferred to Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Rosie became an institution in our community, serving on boards for the YMCA of Coastal Georgia, the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Savannah, and the Citadel Foundation.

His legacy is one of patriotism, dedication, selflessness, and love for his neighbors. My prayers reside with his family and friends during this time of sadness.

HONORING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PORT
WENTWORTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Baptist Church of Port Wentworth and its 100-year anniversary.

Under the leadership of Reverend L.R. Watkins, the First Baptist Church in Port Wentworth has been a shining cornerstone of greater Savannah since its founding in 1922.

In the early 1950s, the church decided to purchase and install chimes within

the church steeple so that all within the community could hear the "call to worship" bells every Sunday morning. These bells became popular within the Port Wentworth community.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the church experienced tremendous growth. As the church grew larger, there was a need for an educational building for the church's youth. In 1960, a new educational wing of the church was dedicated. The 1970s also brought even more new changes to the church. The church expanded its music program and decided to build a new sanctuary. The sanctuary that was dedicated in 1973 is still being used today.

Today, the First Baptist Church in Port Wentworth is under the leadership of Reverend Paul Mongin. Reverend Mongin is continuing the legacy of the congregation's storied history.

Congratulations Port Wentworth First Baptist Church on this wonderful milestone.

□ 1030

IN LOVING MEMORY OF TERRELL COPPAGE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in loving memory of a devoted husband, a caring father, and my wonderful father-in-law, Terrell Coppage.

On April 28, 1928, Terrell was born in Lowndes County, Georgia. His family migrated to Adel, Georgia, and Terrell attended Sparks-Adel High School.

Immediately after high school, Terrell joined the war effort, serving as a member of the United States Navy during World War II.

On August 21, 1949, Terrell met Betty Jones, his future wife of 73 years.

As a member of his community, Terrell was among the best. He was actively involved in his church, Trinity United Methodist Church, leading Sunday school and the local Boy Scout Troop 306 for many years. He spoke fondly of his trip with the Boy Scout troop to the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington, D.C. in 1981.

Terrell was also a member of the Okefenokee Lions Club, and was chosen as "Lion of the Year," as well as serving as house captain for many years during their "Christmas in April" event.

Keenager Choir, traveling to all 50 States, and daily walks with the "mall walkers" that ended with McDonald's biscuits were just some of the small joys that Terrell and Betty shared together.

Madam Speaker, I thank Terrell for all that he did to raise my wife, Amy, and for being the best father-in-law and grandfather anyone could ask for. We love you, and we will miss you.

MEDALS FOR WORLD WAR II VETERAN BERNARD E. STRICKLAND, M.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Bernard E. Strickland, a constituent, a veteran, and a doctor. This is a long overdue recognition that he deserves for his contributions to our country and to our community.

Born on January 21, 1922, Dr. Strickland served courageously in the U.S. military during World War II from 1943 to 1946. During his service, he led a squadron of soldiers as a sergeant in the historic 761st Tank Battalion. Known as Patton's Panthers, they were the first African-American tank squad to see combat in Europe. They were not permitted to serve alongside White troops, and they were the ones who went in to liberate concentration camps.

Dr. Strickland and the rest of the battalion were crucial to advancing freedom internationally and racial equality domestically. The 761st Tank Battalion also assisted in making sure that those that were trapped—Jews that were liberated in these concentration camps—were able to get out. The things that he saw were horrific.

His son, Henry, had reached out to my office to let us know about his service and about the fact that he had not been recognized.

Today, I am proud to announce that Dr. Strickland will receive eight medals—eight awards—for his exemplary conduct, including the Good Conduct Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany clasp; the Honorable Service Lapel Button World War II; the Expert Badge with machine gun bar; and the Sharpshooter Badge with rifle bar.

Following his honorable discharge, he continued to devote his life to helping others as a medical doctor practicing medicine for more than 25 years in California.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Strickland for his tireless dedication to his country and to our community.

INFLATION

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, the American people are facing persistent pain in their wallets and pocketbooks, with inflation in August hitting 8.3 percent, higher than expectations.

But yesterday, hours after new inflation figures revealed that price hikes are continuing to burden hardworking Americans, President Biden held an event to celebrate the signing of the deceptively-named Inflation Reduction Act into law, touting the radical legislation as a victorious success.

The Inflation Expansion Act a success? Not quite. Not even close.

Grocery costs have surged nearly 14 percent, gas rose more than 33 percent, electricity costs have increased nearly