

RECOGNIZING MR. CLAUD “ROB”
WHEATLY, III

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Claud “Rob” Wheatly, III of Wheatly Law Group, to honor his long and illustrious career.

Rob graduated from The Citadel in 1969 and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1972. He also served in the United States Army, where he obtained the rank of Captain. Rob specializes in property, estate planning, business, corporate, environmental law, and civil trial practice in all State and Federal Courts. During his very successful career, Rob has been the county attorney for Carteret County and is also a member of the Carteret County and North Carolina Bar Associations.

Rob recently reached his 50-year milestone as an attorney in private practice and has served over 30 years as the Carteret County Attorney. Rob began practicing law in 1972 with his father, Claud R. Wheatly Jr., making Rob the third generation of his family to practice law in Carteret County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible and noble servant and congratulating Mr. Claud “Rob” Wheatly, III on a life of outstanding service to his community.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF DON KELLAHER, SENIOR AD-
VISOR TO THE SERGEANT AT
ARMS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a constituent from Maryland’s Fifth District who has served this institution faithfully for decades: Senior Advisor to the Sergeant at Arms Don Kellahe. He recently retired after spending 45 years in service to the House of Representatives and deserves recognition for all that he has contributed and accomplished in that time.

Don began his long career in 1976 as a staff assistant in the former Office of the Doorkeeper before moving to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms three years later. Throughout his decades in that office, he worked in every division and held important positions, such as Director of Special Events, Director of Police Services, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, and Senior Advisor to the Sergeant at Arms.

Don played a key role in ensuring that this institution could continue to carry out its work For the People. During his tenure in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, he helped organize 12 presidential inaugurations, ranging from President Carter’s in 1977 to President Biden’s in 2021. Additionally, Don has participated in the planning of dozens of State of the Union Addresses.

Crucially, he has worked to keep visitors, staff, and Members of the People’s House safe. That includes historic figures who have visited our Capitol, such as the Dalai Lama,

Pope Francis, Mother Teresa, and Queen Elizabeth II. From anthrax and ricin attacks to murders of U.S. Capitol Police officers and bombings of the Capitol Building, Don has also helped our brave Capitol Police navigate many challenges over the years. Recently, he supported them during the deadly insurrection that gripped our Capitol on January 6, 2021. Everyone who was here that infamous day owes a debt to Don and the others who worked to reestablish order and security on Capitol Hill, as do the American people whose democracy came under attack that day.

Mr. Speaker, Don is truly a guardian of the House of Representatives. We could not fulfill our duty to the American people without Don and numerous other staffers like him who work behind the scenes to make this institution function. He ought to be proud of all he’s done for Congress and the country, and I hope he knows how much we appreciate him and his work.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing Don, his wife Antoinette, his children Amanda Walker and Anthony Kellahe, and his grandchildren Rhett Walker and Rosalie and Ainsley Kellahe happiness as he begins his well-earned retirement

HONORING MATTHEW DAVID
ANDERSEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Director of the Department of Commerce San Diego Office, Mr. Matthew David Andersen.

A dedicated public servant, Mr. Andersen spent 37 years committed to developing U.S. commerce on the world stage. Mr. Andersen served as the Director of the Department of Commerce San Diego Office for 25 years before recently announcing his well-deserved retirement.

Those who had the pleasure to work with Mr. Andersen say that he touched the lives and careers of many and will be dearly missed. A testament to his hard work, Mr. Andersen received the Department of Commerce’s Bronze Award for Superior Federal Service in 2015.

Mr. Andersen was an avid sports fan, loved animals, and enjoyed listening to The Beatles. He is survived by his partner, Brooke Palmer, his sister, brother-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

On behalf of the residents of California’s 52nd Congressional District, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Matthew David Andersen. Furthermore, I would like to formally extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Andersen and his unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of service throughout his decades-long career with the Department of Commerce. He is greatly missed.

TO NAME THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS OUT-
PATIENT CLINIC IN VALLEJO,
CALIFORNIA, AS THE “DELPHINE
METCALF-FOSTER VA CLINIC”

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation to rename the Mare Island Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Vallejo, California as the “Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic,” in recognition of her lifetime of service to others. A life-long resident of Vallejo, Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, longtime leader with numerous veterans service organizations, and a pillar of the community. I thank my colleague Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-4) for being the bill’s original cosponsor.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is a disabled U.S. Army Reserve veteran who served during Operation Desert Storm and is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. Military service runs in her family. Her father served during the Spanish-American War and was in the U.S. Army’s 9th Cavalry Regiment, whose members were known as “Buffalo Soldiers.” After retiring as a First Sergeant (E-8) in 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster began her lifelong work to advocate for and assist fellow veterans.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster has served the VA Northern California Health Care System for over 25 years. She began volunteering to drive veterans to medical appointments. In 2004, she became the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans’ Ozie Boler Chapter 21 in Vallejo, DAV Department of California until 2005. Later, she served as the DAV National Commander from 2017 to 2018. This made her the first woman to become the Disabled American Veterans’ National Commander, as well as a distinguished leader of this major veterans service organization.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is also a life-member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2018, she was recognized as one of the “Mighty 25: Influencers Supporting the Military Community.” In 2019, she was selected as the Grand Marshall for the 166th Vallejo 4th of July Parade. Her expertise was sought after for testimony at hearings before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees advocating to improve outreach to and services for American veterans and those with service-connected disabilities.

It is truly an honor to reintroduce this legislation. I stand with my constituents in Vallejo and California’s 8th Congressional District to honor Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster and her service to veterans in our community and across the country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WAYNE
KIRBY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wayne Kirby, who passed away on April 3, 2022, at the age of 69.

Wayne grew up in and lived his entire life in Studley, Virginia. He was the second of four boys born to I.D. and Allene Kirby. He took a keen interest in agriculture as a young boy, milking cows and feeding hogs in the morning and working on Jimmy Brannan's vegetable farm in the afternoon.

Wayne attended Lee Davis High School, where he was a proud member—and eventually the president—of its Future Farmers of America club. He graduated from Lee Davis High School in 1971, and subsequently enlisted in the Army National Guard. That same year, he bought his first car—a brand new 1971 Royal Blue Monte Carlo, which he owned and was proud of for his entire life.

After the Lee Davis High School vs. Hermitage High School football game on November 16, 1973, Wayne met his wife, Karen. They got married 5 years later on September 16, 1978. Wayne and Karen were a match made in heaven. They had 2 sons, Grayson and Graham. Wayne was extremely proud of the men his sons became.

Wayne was a dedicated farmer and member of the agricultural community in Virginia. He began his 30 years of working at Alliance Fertilizer in 1971. He purchased his mother's family farm in 1976, which became Creamfield Farm. He served as the director of the Colonial Agricultural Educational Foundation, the Virginia Grain Producers Association, the Virginia Agribusiness Council. Wayne also sat on the Colonial Farm Credit Board of Directors, and on the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His involvement extended even deeper into the community as he also previously served as the director of the Virginia Corn Check Off Board, as the director of the Virginia Corn Producers Board, on the Alliance Agronomics Board, and on the Hanover County Farm Service Agency Board. Wayne's life was indeed one of service, dedicated to Virginia's agriculture community.

Wayne was also a man of unwavering faith—even during times of extreme hardship. By encouraging everyone to focus on God and His plan, he helped keep hope alive when Grayson was involved in a serious accident. Grayson eventually pulled through and is now thriving. Wayne also served as an Elder at the Mechanicsville Church of Christ, and recently served as its chairman.

Wayne's belief that "failure is not an option" positively impacted those around him. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, and friend. His life was full of service to his community, faith, and love. He will be missed. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Karen; sons, Grayson and Graham; his grandchildren, Beau and Ava; brothers, Van (Dana) and Gary (Judy); and 8 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others in honoring the life of Wayne Kirby.

HONORING CAPTAIN THOMAS F.
MANTELL JR.

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr., of Simpson County, Kentucky, who was killed while

serving in the Kentucky Air National Guard on January 7, 1948.

Earlier that day, an unidentified flying object was reported in several locations in Kentucky and Ohio. Despite the dangerous nature of the mission, Captain Mantell heroically pursued the object and paid the ultimate sacrifice while in pursuit. His death was the first of the Kentucky Air National Guard.

Captain Mantell also served as a decorated officer in the Army Air Corps, flying missions over Normandy and on D-day. For his service during World War II, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism.

In the years since Captain Mantell's untimely death, the people of Simpson County have kept his memory alive. A memorial was dedicated in his honor in 2001, and commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary will take place this year. I join the people of Simpson County in remembrance and gratitude for his bravery while carrying out his final mission.

HONORING BILL HARPER'S SERVICE TO MINNESOTA'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bill Harper, my long time Chief of Staff, as he retires after 22 years in my office on January 6, 2023.

It has been a privilege to work the past 22 years with Bill. He exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Bill has dedicated his life to making a positive impact for Minnesota families, communities, and businesses. For more than 2 decades he has been responsible for building and leading my congressional team. Bill's knowledge, vision, and leadership have helped shape everything my office has accomplished, particularly my work on the House Appropriations Committee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Bill managed my first election to the House of Representatives in 2000, but his commitment to public service began much earlier. For 5 years he was an outstanding Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala and Malawi where he worked with local villagers to improve their lives and livelihoods. His work as Chief of Staff to former Hennepin County Board Chair Mark Andrew, and as a personal assistant to former Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey, III, prepared him with the necessary skills to successfully manage a congressional office.

A significant aspect of Bill's public service is his success in nurturing the next generations of leaders and public servants. He has assembled a staff that I am exceptionally proud of—a dedicated team of public servants who bring nearly 130 years of combined service in their work on behalf of Minnesotans. In addition, numerous former staff and interns have gone on to further service in the executive branch, state government, nonprofit organizations, and elected office.

Bill has always put the people we serve first, making a remarkable difference in lives across the country and around the world. That is the essence of Bill's dedication to others. I know that Bill will continue to make important contributions to Minnesota and our nation well into the future.

On New Year's Day, the Star Tribune published a profile on Bill Harper's distinguished service in my office. In the article, he noted, "as powerful as Washington and Congress may be, we are a direct extension of the people. And it needs to stay that way." His words ring true, and it is my pleasure to enter that article into the RECORD.

As he prepares for the next chapter of his career, I wish him and his family—Roberta, Jonas, Lucia and Tiwonge—all the best. It has been an honor to have Bill serve as my Chief of Staff, and I'm grateful that he'll remain as a friend and political advisor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to his remarkable career of service to our nation and our community.

[From the Star Tribune, Dec. 31, 2022]

AFTER MORE THAN TWO DECADES, CHIEF OF STAFF SET TO LEAVE REP. BETTY MCCOLLUM'S OFFICE

Bill Harper has been a congressional chief of staff during a crucial span in U.S. history.

His long tenure working for Democratic U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum began after the controversial 2000 presidential election and continued on past the Sept. 11 attacks, the Iraq War, the Great Recession, the outbreak of COVID-19 and the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

As he prepares to leave the job in January, Harper is aware that he was part of a transformative historical period. But he said in a recent interview about his more than two decades on the job that it all comes back "to serving the people and trying to make our democracy, and trying to make Congress, work for the people despite these enormous challenges that we faced."

Harper noted that he was part of the Peace Corps and spent time as an HIV/AIDS volunteer in Malawi before running McCollum's 2000 congressional campaign.

Said McCollum: "If anybody would have told us when we first met working on the campaign that 23 years later we would still be working together, we both would have just laughed out loud."

She said Harper is someone who does his homework, knows what he's talking about and has a very reassuring presence.

"When he says he's going to do something, he's going to do it, and he's a man of his word. And so that's how he's earned so much respect over the years," McCollum said.

During their time working together, McCollum has gone from freshman lawmaker to dean of Minnesota's congressional delegation. In November, she won a 12th term while Democrats narrowly lost control of the U.S. House. McCollum has wielded major influence in the past two years while leading the House Appropriations subcommittee handling defense spending.

"When you're at this level, you take the partisanship out of the equation and you focus on, 'This is about America; this is about our country,'" Harper said.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips called Harper "one of the most connected, principled, honorable and effective Capitol Hill staffers that I know of."

Looking back, Harper said the accomplishment that makes him proudest is his work with McCollum on President George W. Bush's emergency plan for AIDS relief in 2003.

"We secured language for orphans and vulnerable children," he said.

McCollum's office said in a news release when Harper's exit was announced that he will continue to work as a political adviser for the longtime Democratic lawmaker. Harper said he's interested in using his experience and skills to "work with nonprofits and