

But of the many titles Kathy held over her decades-long career, one the closest to her heart was Spartan. Kathy was a super-alumna, holding not one, not two, but three degrees from MSU: a bachelor's degree in Journalism, a master's degree in higher education administration, and a Ph.D in the same, and even served one term on the university's Board of Trustees. In 2018, she joined Michigan State University's staff, where she served as senior vice president for government relations. Under her tenure, the university secured funding and support for landmark projects, including the Engineering and Digital Innovation Center, the MSU greenhouses, and the MSU Apple Academy. Her steady hand helped guide the university through good times and bad, driven by an unshakable faith in the power of higher education, clothed in green and white.

Over the years, Kathy was a mentor to so many, and I personally benefited from her knowledge and her wisdom. Her door was always open, her invitation to coffee sincere, her cup of kindness bottomless. She graciously shared her experience with all, and was truly invested in seeing others succeed. From Kathy, I learned what it means to advocate, and the power of active listening. Her life was a testament to the power of getting things done, and the role one person can play to make positive change. I send my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved Kathy, particularly her husband, Tom, their four sons, Tom, Will, Sam, and Ray; her granddaughter, Mary; and the entire Michigan State University family. Kathy Wilbur's accomplishments, her passion, and her compassion will live on in our hearts and on the banks of the Red Cedar in East Lansing.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BESSIE RODRIGUEZ

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Bessie Rodriguez of Dallas. Bessie was a loving mother who used a tragic experience to effect meaningful change in the name of Justice here in North Texas.

On July 24, 1973, Bessie's life changed forever, when her 12-year-old son, Santos, was fatally shot by Dallas law enforcement. Santos meant everything to Bessie. However, she turned tragedy into action. She used the death of her son to start a movement to boost accountability and transparency in the police and community relations here that is still being felt in North Texas today. Just this year, Dallas commemorated the 50th anniversary of Santos' murder by holding multiple events to push for justice. The commemoration of this solemn anniversary would not have been possible without Bessie's work.

I once again rise today to commemorate Bessie's legacy. I am praying for her extended family during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LT. HOPE KIRKENDALL

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the legacy of a World War II heroine from Lakeland, FL, Lt. Hope Kirkendall. She passed away at the age of 103, carrying her spiritedness, heart of service and witty sense of humor until her final days.

During World War II, Lt. Kirkendall was a nurse in the U.S. Army and was one of the first women to land in Normandy shortly after the Allied Forces' D-Day invasion. She arrived one month after the initial invasion and achieved the rank of first lieutenant, working around the clock with her surgical team to care for soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifices in the Battle for Brest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Decades after her service, Lt. Kirkendall recounted getting involved in military life because she was young and wanted to see everything. She certainly achieved that goal. Among her adventures, Kirkendall traveled in an ambulance convoy, using a gas can for a seat. She moved with field hospitals, taking in the wounded near the front lines. And amongst the chaos and the tragedy, she said she found a home.

In 2017, Lt. Kirkendall received the French Knight in the Legion of Honor award for her expertise and bravery during bombings and in the line of fire. Lt. Kirkendall went on to raise five children after the war and continued her duties off the battlefield caring for patients who needed psychiatric assessments. She is survived by two siblings, five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sadly, we are losing more of the greatest generation each day. May Hope rest in peace. She is truly an American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, I missed votes due to testing positive for COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted on NAY on Roll Call No. 692; NAY on Roll Call No. 693; YEA on Roll Call No. 694; YEA on Roll Call No. 695; YEA on Roll Call No. 696; and PRES on Roll Call No. 697.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILLY" COOKE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Billy" Cooke, who passed away peacefully in his home in Tappahannock, Virginia on November 26, 2023.

Billy was born in Tappahannock, and attended Tappahannock High School, where he played centerfield on the baseball team. He served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to baseball at Randolph-Macon College. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1959 before returning to Essex County, where he became a prominent member of his community. Throughout more than 30 years, he served as a deacon, clerk, and Adult Sunday School teacher at Howard's Baptist Church, helped found the Tappahannock Little League, and served four terms on the Essex County Board of Supervisors, among countless other achievements.

Billy was a kind and easygoing man who enjoyed watching PGA tournaments and Atlanta Braves games with his family. He was often found in his office at the Essex Concrete Main Office, where he worked, or at the Hobbs Hole Golf Course. He never missed an opportunity to catch up with family and friends, or to dance with his wife whenever they found an open floor with music.

Billy is preceded in death by his brother, Frank and dear friends Willie Cleaton, Alec Dillard, and James Moore. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Betty Cooke; his brother, Gene Cooke; his sons, William Cooke and Stephen Cooke; several nieces and nephews, and his devoted caregivers from Riverside Hospice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring the life of Billy Cooke and his service to the people of Essex County.

HONORING CW5 SCOTT GRONOWSKI FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE IN DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Warrant Officer (CW5) Scott Gronowski on his retirement and to honor him for his many years of dedicated service in the defense of our Nation.

Scott enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in 1989 and undertook one of the most remarkable and decorated military careers I have seen. While serving as an infantryman, Scott attended Airborne School and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He eventually went on to serve in the 2nd Battalion of the prestigious 75th Ranger Regiment. In 1997, he completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, earning him the coveted Green Beret. Scott went on to become a Warrant Officer in 2002 and served in numerous leadership and educational roles within the Army. His remarkable career culminated with his appointment as the Command Chief Warrant Officer for 1st Special Forces Command, where he served from April 2021 until June of 2023.

Throughout his career, Scott deployed on numerous occasions in support of U.S. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a result of his bravery, Scott received many medals and distinctions including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Assault Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, among many others.

All of these accomplishments merely scratch the surface of Scott's illustrious military career. CW5 Scott Gronowski's dedication to the U.S. Army and the United States is both commendable and inspiring. I know I speak for the whole of our community when I wish Scott the very best as he begins this next chapter of his life. I thank Scott for his courage and sacrifice.

Mr Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Scott Gronowski on his retirement and thanking him for his decades of dedicated service to our military and Nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 12

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine communities in crisis, focusing on what happens when disaster recovery funds are delayed.
SD-192
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 1840, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, S. 3392, to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, and other pending calendar business.
SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine Coast Guard Academy whistleblowers, focusing on stories of sexual assault and harassment.
SD-562
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine cleaning up the C-Suite, focusing on ensuring accountability for corporate criminals.
SH-216
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine S. 1281, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconcili-

ation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and S. 1742, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land.
SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on Iran and its proxy threat to U.S. policy and personnel post-October 7.
SVC-217

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

3 p.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Publishing Office.
SR-301

DECEMBER 13

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Space and Science
To hold hearings to examine government promotion of safety and innovation in the new space economy.
SR-253

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine the impact of algorithms on competition and consumer rights.
SD-226