

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

businesses to help them advance their missions, particularly in the federal space.” As he prepares to leave Congress behind, Harper said that “as powerful as Washington and Congress may be, we are a direct extension of the people. And it needs to stay that way.”

CONGRATULATING MIDLANDS  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS  
FOR WINNING GOLD IN NA-  
TIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the gold medal that the Building Construction Technology Team from Midlands Technical College (MTC) received at the SkillsUSA National Competition.

The championships include a series of career competition events beginning at the local level and continue to the state and national levels. The Midlands Technical College students excelled through each level, qualifying for the national competition in Atlanta on June 23rd where they had the opportunity to compete against the best career and technical education students in the country. Their win is monumental for South Carolina’s construction industry and workforce development as it is the first time that a South Carolina technical college has won a national title in the building trades.

I applaud each of the students on the team, Alex Britigan, Taylor Mathias, Nathan Brady, Arturo Salinas, and Cameron Drake, as well as the Building Construction Program Director Robbie Sharpe, and Midlands Technical College’s president, Dr. Ronald L. Rhames, for their hard work and achievements. The MTC School of Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trade provides an outstanding education and prepares students for successful careers in the automotive industry, graphic design production, welding technology, machine tooling, construction, and other skilled trades. The future of South Carolina’s economy looks bright with the students of Midlands Technical College leading the construction industry and workforce development.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE  
HOME RULE ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Home Rule Act, which would eliminate the congressional review period for D.C. legislation. D.C. legislation takes effect after a congressional review period, unless a joint resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during the review period. The review period imposes significant costs on both D.C. and Congress, but only 3 disapproval resolutions on D.C. legislation have been enacted since passage of the D.C. Home Rule Act in 1973, and none since 1991. Yet, the D.C. Council has had to develop a Kafkaesque legislative process to comply with the review period, often having to pass the same bill multiple times. Congress loses nothing by eliminating the review period. Congress can legislate on any D.C. matter at any time, and has done so many times outside of the review period, such as through the appropriations process.

The congressional review period (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) is based on legislative days, not calendar days, often delaying D.C. bills from becoming law for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large city continue uninterrupted.

Placing a congressional hold on D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses. D.C. residents and businesses are placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in this unnecessary, labor-intensive and costly process.

Last Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill as part of my District of Columbia Home Rule Expansion Act of 2022.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

HONORING NORMA MICHAEL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hero, Norma Michael. This Jackson, Mississippi native was on a mission to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to her neighbors, taking on the task by buying an overgrown lot on her street and planting a garden. The retiree is now feeding the elderly and other residents and hoping to inspire the start of more gardens in the inner city.

“The Lord just said Norma start a garden,” said Norma Michael. In 2020, across the street from Michael’s Powers Avenue home was a lot owned by the state that sat empty for more than 20 years. She purchased it for less than \$500 with a vision.

“When I got the property, I was like, well, this will be a mighty big garden for just me,” said Michael. “So, I said, ‘Well, I’ll share it with my neighbors.’”

The Air Force vet and retiree had no experience planting, and after clearing the lot and much hard work, it’s now the “Sharing is Caring Neighborhood Block Garden.” In it are rows and rows of corn, tomatoes, greens, beans, melons, strawberries, and more.

“I come out here. I tend the garden,” said Michael. “I have one neighbor that helps me to plant things, and I come out in the mornings, and I water and harvest, and then I offer the harvest to my neighbors.” Ninety-one-year-old Clara Triggs lives just a few doors down from the garden. “She brings me so many things, and everything she brings is my favorite,” said Triggs.

Since starting her garden, she has started a non-profit to try to turn her small garden into something bigger. She has also received donations to help her continue the good work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Norma Michael for her service in the U.S. Air Force, her community and for being an exemplary citizen in the state of Mississippi.