

REMEMBERING MOTHER CARRIE
LEE (HAMILTON) SIMMONS

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great sadness and sincerest sympathy over the loss of Mother Carrie Lee (Hamilton) Simmons, who departed this life for her Heavenly Home on April 20, 2023. It will never be forgotten how much Mother Simmons loved the Lord and contributed to society.

Originally from Georgia before later settling in New Jersey, Mother Simmons was active in her community and leaves behind a lasting legacy. She devoted her life to service including as a healthcare worker, who worked hard as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the former Donnelly Hospital for over 25 years. Additionally, she fellowshiped at Friendship Baptist and El-Bethel Baptist Church, and then became a devout member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Furthermore, she was known for her always-open door, her "world famous" sweet potato pie and candied yams, and for always cooking beans in the kitchen.

Her memory and legacy will be forever remembered by her beloved husband, children, and extended family. I extend my condolences and prayers to all her loved ones as they grieve. We thank God for the memory of Mother Simmons, and may God continue to bless your family at this difficult hour.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROCKY
WOOD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rocky Wood of Haysi, Virginia. A native of Southwest Virginia, Rocky was an active and dedicated member of the Haysi community.

During his life, Rocky was the town's Vice Mayor, Chairman of the Building Code Committee of Dickenson County, Chief of the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department, Member of the Virginia Department of Forestry Honor Guard, owner and operator of Wood Construction Company and a member of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church.

A seven-year employee of the Virginia Department of Forestry as a forest technician, Rocky was responding to a 15-acre wildfire along Lester's Fork Road in Buchanan County at the time of his passing.

Rocky is survived by his wife Debbie; daughters, Lindsey (Chase Cooley) Wood and Lauren Wood, both of the home; bonus children, Jesse (Dove) Goodpaster of Bristol, VA and Toni (Nate) Long of Wise, VA; his mother, Nina Wood of Haysi, VA; grandchildren, Finn and CeCe Goodpaster, Paislee Fleming and Owen Ramey; father and mother in law, Jerry and Joan Deel of Birchleaf, VA and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one.

Rocky's contributions to Haysi and Southwest Virginia will not be forgotten. He will be missed.

HONORING SP5. (U.S. ARMY) MARK
L. FRENCH

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SP5. (U.S. Army) Mark L. French of Seymour, Tennessee along with over 100 veterans and families from Sevier, Tennessee for their military service.

Stationed at Ford Ord, CA, SP5. French's was charged with leading his Generator Section and setting up a preventative maintenance program with help from a Civil Service employee to train fellow enlistees on servicing generators.

He furthered his expertise to assist our country's readiness by studying at a specialized school, where he was taught how to test for nerve gas, blood agents and Agent Orange in combat regions.

HONORING DR. MARK S. WATSON

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"

FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Mark Watson and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

For over 50 years, Dr. Watson has been employed as City Manager serving the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee as well as six prior cities in the states of Texas, Montana, and Arizona. Mark has been serving in his present role since 2010. In 2017, Dr. Watson was recognized by the International City/County Management Association for his 45-year career in public service. The following year, Dr. Watson received the Community Partnership Award by the International City/County Management Association for his efforts in developing a public, private partnership for the redevelopment of the renowned American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge.

Dr. Watson has continued the community's focus on economic diversification and has addressed infrastructure needs throughout Oak Ridge for the purpose of being the service provider for the city and the Department of Energy complex. Mark has worked in many communities identified as rural, suburban, agricultural, military, medical, scientific, and communities bordered internationally.

Mark received his PhD from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and his Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. His alma mater recently recognized him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in City Management. Dr. Watson frequently lectures at universities nationwide and most recently received the University of Tennessee MPPA Fellow in Professional Practice for his contributions to the education and professional development of MPPA students at UTK.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Mark Watson for his years of service and wish him the very best in his retirement.

STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

The significant 75th anniversary of the State of Israel, the world's only Jewish state and a staunch U.S. ally, behooves to reflect on the major personality behind the only country whose people restored its sovereignty following 2,000 years of forced exile and oppression. While the modern Zionist movement with roots in 19th century Europe, saw the rebirth of Jewish statehood the solution to historical antisemitism culminating in the unfathomable Holocaust, the tormenting reality remains that antisemitism's deadly venom has not died out and is a potent force aimed at both Israel and world Jewry, with a precipitous rise in the U.S.

Against great odds Israel not only survived but has thrived, literally making the desert bloom and is the only source of Western and democratic enlightenment in the troubled Middle East. The world is a better place because Israel is in it, contributing to its progress in diverse ways. However, Israel is the only country threatened with annihilation since its inception. The terrorizing Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies challenge both Israel and the U.S. The Abraham Accords have broadened the scope of Israel's rapprochement with the Sunni Arab world that regards Israel an asset facing the common Iranian Shiite threat. The complex conflict with the Palestinians awaits permanent peaceful solution, as Israel preserves its Jewish and democratic identity.

The latest critical biography by esteemed professors Motti Golan of Tel Aviv University and Jehuda Reinhartz of Brandies University (the Founding Father. Tel Aviv: Am Oved Publishers. 2020), establishes Dr. Chaim Weizmann (1874–1952), the Zionist leader and Israel's first president, as the unquestionable founding father. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister and Weizmann's disciple and rival, read the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948, as the British departed. President Harry Truman, the first world leader to announce his critical support, only eleven minutes following the historic proclamation despite the State Department's opposition. Weizmann's ceaseless efforts secured Truman's support, saving the Negev region for the future state when showing the map to sympathetic Truman who requested that Weizmann become president. As the authors insightfully assert, "A biography like history is a story of encounters."

It was Dr. Weizmann, the East European Jewish scientist with a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Manchester and his inventive aid to the British in WWI coupled with dogged personal efforts and diplomatic skills, that paved the way for the first international breakthrough of the budding Zionist enterprise, the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 supporting a Jewish national home in Palestine. Weizmann's foremost goal was creating a Jewish state even if entailing territorial concessions to the Arabs, with steadfast concern for maintaining morality as he opposed Jewish terror against the British Mandate rulers of Palestine. He was a British citizen since 1910 and held that the British empire and the Jewish Zionist cause were mutually interdependent, later adding the United States as a desired friend and essential big brother.

Weizmann could not convince the United States to accept Jewish refugees after Hitler's rise to power, nor the British Eden and Churchill to bomb Auschwitz. He only partially attracted German Jewish scientists of Noble Prize stature to join the Hebrew University which he cofounded with Albert Einstein and Judah Magnes in 1925, as well as his Ziv Institute. Those scientists that Weizmann sought to save were blind to the coming disaster and not impressed with what was offered them, including Freud and Einstein. The Holocaust weighed heavily on Weizmann who had a complex bond with East European Jewry from which he emerged. It remained his ever-beloved family though Western Europe became his preferred physical and cultural home. He could not bring himself to visit the DP Camps and facilitated sending Ben-Gurion instead, strengthening his rival's stature. Yet, Ben-Gurion said about Weizmann, "That the state did not make him but he made the state."

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is past president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. He was born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) to Polish Holocaust survivors who met in Siberia. Rabbi Zoberman and his family were at the Wetzlar DP Camp, Germany, American Zone, from 1947 to 1949. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

His maternal great grandma, Rachel Leah, and the mother of Dr. Chaim Weitzmann, Rachel Leah, were first cousins.

HONORING SPC. LARRY G. HEATHERLY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SPC. Larry G. Heatherly for his distinguished service to the U.S. Army.

Entering service in 1969, Tennessee Native SPC. Larry Heatherly attended Signal School in Ft. Gordon, GA for teletype operator training.

SPC. Heatherly served at Long Binh Post in South Vietnam through the fall of 1970, earning the Army Commendation Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Join me in recognizing his sacrifice and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Representative TOKUDA, in introducing our bill to protect one of the most unique and fragile environments on Earth, our Hawaii, from devastating invasive species.

Invasive species pose an especially grave threat to Hawaii's unique ecosystems, natural resources and agricultural communities, in part due to Hawaii's unique geography. Hawaii is the most isolated island chain and one of the

most ecologically diverse places in the world. We are 2,282 miles from the Continental United States, 2,952 miles from Japan and 4,772 miles from Washington, D.C., with no other islands in close proximity. We have within our constrained borders ten of the thirteen world climate zones, with ecosystems ranging from desert to tropical, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else. A 2014 survey identified fully 9,975 endemic species in Hawaii. These species include the Hawaiian scarlet honeycreeper, the 'i'iwi; the flowering evergreen; and the state mammal of Hawaii, the 'ilioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal).

However, tragically, in large part due to invasive species, Hawaii has become the endangered species and extinction capital of the world. The Pacific Islands are home to 44 percent of the threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and Hawaii currently has 468 species listed as endangered, more than any other state and almost half of the total endangered species nationwide. Many of these species are critically endangered and face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Although we will never know the true number of species that have gone extinct in Hawaii, in 2021 alone nine Hawaiian species were declared extinct.

As one particularly poignant example, four years ago the Atlantic published an article, "The Last of Its Kind," which chronicled the death of George the snail. He was the last *achatina* *apexfulva*, a species of tree snail that is endemic to the island of O'ahu. This article calls attention to the fact that snails in Hawaii are disappearing at an alarming rate, perhaps faster than any animal on Earth right now, victims of various factors in part linked to invasive species.

The threat to our state tree, the 'ohi'a lehua, is also illustrative of our growing crisis. Used for poi boards and outrigger canoes, the 'ohi'a lehua is important to Hawaiian culture and the islands' watersheds. As the first tree to grow in new Hawaii lava flows, 'ohi'a lehua grows throughout the watershed creating new soil, stabilizing steep mountain ridges and comprises approximately 80 percent of Hawaii's native forests. However, rapid 'ohi'a death, or ROD, caused by an invasive fungal pathogen, kills 'ohi'a trees quickly, and threatens the stability of Hawaii's native forests. Since its discovery on the Big Island in 2014, ROD has spread to Kaua'i, Mau'i and O'ahu, and has killed hundreds of thousands of trees.

Hawaii's unique circumstances also have given rise to one of our nation's most diverse and productive agricultural communities. With a year-round growing cycle, our crops have ranged throughout our history from the highest quality sugar and pineapple and cattle to tropical specialty crops like fruit and cut flowers in the highest demand worldwide.

Yet it is exactly because these crops like our natural resources have adapted to Hawaii's uniqueness that they are the most susceptible to devastation from external species against which they have no natural defenses. Invasive species have drastically impacted agriculture in Hawaii, threatening some of the island's most valuable crops in the state's third-largest industry.

One of Hawaii's most valuable crops, the macadamia nut, remains under threat from the macadamia felted coccid. Macadamia felted coccid has been found in all of Hawaii Island's

macadamia growing regions. The felted coccid reduces macadamia tree output by draining nutrients from the tree.

The cattle industry, which is one of Hawaii's most important agricultural commodities, has been dramatically affected by the introduction of the invasive two-lined spittlebug. Since being detected in 2016, the pest now infects more than 200,000 acres of grassland and is clearing lands for invasives grasses that further affect Hawaii's ecosystems.

Yet despite these incontrovertible and growing impacts of external species on Hawaii's natural resources and economy, existing federal law leaves Hawaii largely defenseless against increasingly destructive invasives.

Imports by air and sea, the only means of in-bound transportation to our island state, lack any effective regulation to screen out invasives. This is despite a fairly robust screening of exports from Hawaii to the Continental United States to screen out invasives from Hawaii viewed as harmful to mainland agriculture (invasives that, ironically, were invasives into Hawaii to start with).

I sought to crack down on this lax regime to prevent and curb invasives with my introduction of H.R. 3468 in 2005, modeled after New Zealand and other isolated jurisdictions with then like now the most stringent invasive species prevention regimes in the world. Since the introduction of that bill, the threats from invasives have only grown. Since 2005, 195 invasive species have been introduced to Hawaii. That is in addition to the roughly 5,000 invasive species that have been introduced to Hawaii throughout its history.

Our bill, the Hawaii Invasive Species Protection Act, will require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with other federal departments and the State of Hawaii, to conduct visual, x-ray and canine inspections, as appropriate, on person, baggage, cargo and any other article destined for direct movement to the State of Hawaii. The inspections will search for high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials. The inspections will be conducted at airports, ports and postal sorting facilities prior to direct travel to the State of Hawaii.

Our bill further requires APHIS to work with the State of Hawaii to develop and publish a list of the high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials for the State of Hawaii. It pays for these inspections by increasing Agriculture Quarantine Inspection fees to cover the full cost of inspection.

Inaction is not an option. For example, the coffee berry borer, which was discovered in Kona on Hawaii Island in 2010 already infects all of the coffee growing islands in Hawaii. The coffee berry borer can cause yield losses of between 30 and 35 percent and affects the quality of the coffee beans, directly impacting the income of growers. Had this bill been implemented, it may have helped prevent coffee leaf rust from entering Hawaii. The confirmed and continued presence of this fungal disease, which can lead to yield losses of between 50 and 80 percent, on multiple Hawaiian islands could leave one of Hawaii's most iconic industries devastated.

If we truly care about the threat that continued and escalating invasive species pose to one of the most invaluable and unique ecosystems on earth, in addition to our unique economy and way of life, then the stark reality