Reed leaves a remarkable legacy of service to humanity as a public servant, mentor, confidant, husband, and friend to many.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Michael earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. He also earned a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Michael's career in public service began as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Budget Policy. This experience led him to his first Capitol Hill position as an intern for former Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio, who was a member of the House Appropriations Committee. After leaving Congressman Stokes, he joined the staff of Congressman William Gray, Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee, as Legislative Director. After leaving Congressman Gray's office, he was Vice-President for Marketing at the United Negro College Fund. He was also the Director of Regional Card Marketing and Vice-President for Government Affairs for the American Express Company.

When I was selected to serve on the House Appropriations Committee in 2003, I needed a seasoned specialist and adviser. I was blessed to have Michael Reed join my team—starting as a Policy Adviser and Special Assistant, later becoming my Deputy Chief of Staff, and finally my Chief of Staff where he served until his Capitol Hill retirement in 2021.

For 18 years I matriculated in the ''Michael Reed School of Budgetary Policy''. He was a master of the appropriations process and its nuances. He was also constantly growing and expanding his expertise. Initially unfamiliar with agriculture issues, he quickly became steeped in the knowledge of the field. He was an invaluable asset to me and was respected by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

It was no surprise that upon leaving Capitol Hill, Michael was honored by the communities and industries whose lives his work touched, most notably the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Georgia Peanut Commission. UGA's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences bestowed its Medallion of Honor on Michael in 2021. This award recognizes outstanding individuals for their dedication to the college's mission and is an expression of the University's gratitude for the time, advice, support and impact awardees have provided. The Georgia Peanut Commission presented Michael with its Distinguished Service Award in 2022, which is a testament to the decades of work Michael Reed did to help protect our peanut farmers and grow the peanut industry.

Upon his retirement from the public sector, Michael decided to re-enter the private sector and utilize his extraordinary skills and talents to make a meaningful contribution to mankind's efforts to confront the challenges of the environment and climate change. In 2021, he joined the American Forest Foundation as Vice President of Policy, exploring the pivotal role our nation's forests play and the potential they have in meeting this global challenge.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: ''You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give.'' Michael gave so much to so many for so long and truly lived a complete and full life. His public service, his devotion to his family, and his service to his community and nation, reflect the legacy he leaves and the joy we must celebrate. Truly the world is a better place because of the life Michael led.

Michael Reed accomplished so much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his loving wife, Attorney Diane Fields Reed, his late father-in-law, Judge Richard Fields, their beloved dog, Alexandra, and a host of family and friends that will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the Nation in saluting and honoring Mr. Michael Joseph Reed for service to his community, to his country, and to humankind; and in extending our deepest condolences to Michael Reed's family, friends, loved ones, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

JASON FETROW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, I had the pleasure of attending Jason Fetrow's Eagle Scout Court of Honor to celebrate his achievement of the highest honor in the scouting world. Jason started his journey with the scouts at just six years old when he joined Cub Scout Pack twelve. At age eleven, he moved up to the Boy Scouts who have allowed him incredible experiences such as the opportunity to attend the World Jamboree in 2019. For his Eagle Scout Project, Jason decided to give back to the fields where he played baseball for eleven years by expanding the trophy case at Gabriel Memorial Baseball Fields by three feet so it can better accommodate the growing number of trophies on display. Just last year, Jason graduated from Cedar Creek High School and he now studies Exercise Science at Stockton University. It was my honor to celebrate this milestone with Jason and wish him all the best in his future. God Bless Jason and God Bless the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution condemning the ethnic violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Dr. King famously said, ''injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere''. The United States, credible human rights organizations, and civil society have documented and published reports and findings that implicate the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in aiding and collaborating with armed groups and militias, including several that are designated for United Nations sanctions due to human rights violations.

Militias engage in illicit mining activities to finance and sustain themselves, often exploiting child labor and engaging in environmental degradation practices that undermine the DRC's economic interests and international treaty obligations.

My resolution condemns all acts of violence perpetrated against ethnic minorities by members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and armed groups operating throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It reaffirms that the United States has held and continues to hold the Government of the DRC responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, in accordance with the DRC's international obligations.

My timely resolution also holds accountable all state security forces that perpetrate atrocities against the civilian population by conducting transparent investigations and prosecutions and taking all additional necessary measures to prevent further atrocities continue progress toward the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, reparation, and resettlement of armed groups in coordination with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2666 (2022). Last, it calls on the President Joe Biden to appoint a Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region of Africa, which will be vital to addressing the enduring regional security crisis emanating from eastern DRC.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in condemning the ethnic violence in the DRC.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week across the Nation, we come together to recognize and honor the profound impact of Catholic education. On January 31st, we marked National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, a day that acknowledges the enduring commitment of these institutions to educate not only the mind but also the soul. Catholic Schools, like St. Ann's in Wilmington, Delaware where my grandchildren attend, instill faith, academic excellence, and service in their students. Together, we are not just celebrating a week; we are celebrating the noble mission of Catholic education, to educate the whole child and transcend the boundaries of traditional learning. God bless our Catholic Schools and God Bless the United States of America.