

Born on October 17, 1936, in Cincinnati to Winton Lee Hobson and Florence Todd Hobson, Dave grew up with his sisters, Martha and Susan. His father worked for the U.S. Postal Service and died when Dave was in the eighth grade. He and his sisters were raised in the Bond Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati by his mother, an elementary school teacher, and her sister-in-law. He graduated from Withrow High School in Cincinnati, Ohio Wesleyan University and The Ohio State University College of Law.

He met the love of his life, Carolyn, at Ohio Wesleyan and, after marrying on December 20, 1958, they were inseparable throughout their 65 plus years together. Their marriage blessed them with three children whom they raised in Springfield, Ohio.

Dave served in the Air National Guard and was called up to active duty during the Berlin Wall Crisis. In 1965, he moved his family to Springfield, Ohio to work at the Kissell Company and later for several commercial real estate companies in association with Howard Noonan and Martin Levine, who served as mentors throughout his life. He was a member of Rotary International, a 33rd Degree Mason, and remained active in his college fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon—all experiences that instilled in him a compassion to help others and the value of community service.

At the age of 46, Dave brought his business acumen, developed in commercial real estate and his commitment to community involvement to the Ohio Senate where he served for eight years. During his service, his peers elected him to the leadership positions of Majority Whip and President Pro Tempore.

In the Ohio Senate, his work focused on health and human services. He led the effort to enact the first state law in the nation to provide support to people diagnosed and living with HIV and AIDS, helped increase state resources for Alzheimer's Disease and spearheaded reforms to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. In 1990, Dave was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Ohio's 7th Congressional District until his retirement in 2009. During his nine terms in Congress, he gained a reputation as a pragmatic and bipartisan lawmaker, committed to fiscal responsibility and a strong national defense. He served as the second-ranking member of the House Budget Committee and helped lead efforts in 1998 to balance the federal budget for the first time since 1969. He also served as a key member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he chaired the Military Construction and Energy and Water Development subcommittees. In these positions Dave championed improvements in housing for military personnel and their families around the world, improved technology for members of the Armed Forces and led new investments in commercial and recreational waterways, the Florida Everglades restoration and natural resources conservation across the country.

Some of Dave's most notable achievements were on behalf of Springfield Air National Guard Base, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. His leadership also helped establish the D-Day Visitors Center at the American Cemetery in Normandy, France, and in recognition of these and other contributions, Dave was inducted into the Ohio Veterans

Hall of Fame and the Dayton Region's Walk of Fame. Additionally, Wright-Patterson AFB named a street "Hobson Way" in his honor, Clark State College named its Beavercreek center "Dave Hobson Hall" and several universities bestowed him honorary degrees.

Beyond his legislative accomplishments, Dave was known for his humility, integrity, and kindness, all of which he expressed in his careful dedication and attention to constituent service and being accessible to the people of his district.

Dave is survived by his beloved wife, Carolyn (Alexander) of 65 years, children Susan (Jeff) Nunner, Lynn (Jay) Foran and Doug (Stephanie) Hobson; grandchildren Katherine, Alexander (Summer) and Samuel Nunner, Whitney (Alex) Fagan, Jameson, Callan and Brennan Foran, and Evan Hobson; great-grandchildren Ryker, Declan and Finn Fagan, sisters Martha Lampe and Susan Hoerner, and a loving nephew and nieces. A memorial service celebrating Dave's life and legacy will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 11:00 am at High Street United Methodist Church, 230 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio. The service was live-streamed on the High St. United Methodist Church's YouTube channel.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The Springfield Foundation, c/o the Dave and Carolyn Hobson Charitable Fund, 333 N. Limestone Street, Suite 201, Springfield, OH 45503-4250, www.springfieldfoundation.org.

In honor of Dave's life, the family hopes that you will be inspired to carry forth his mission of helping people and bringing together others for positive solutions for all.

RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metra Commuter Railroad as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. Over the last four decades, Metra has provided hundreds of millions of rides to its passengers while gaining a reputation for timeliness, reliability, and safety. At its inception in 1984, Metra faced multiple challenges. It inherited an under-invested rail system and was immediately tasked with addressing a history of unstandardized fares and services in addition to stabilizing struggling private rail lines. Through acquisitions, subsidizations, and streamlining of services, Metra delivered on unifying commuter rail across the Chicago region.

Though Metra still faces steep funding challenges for its capital and operational needs, it remains a steady, reliable source of transportation for its riders. It continues to rebuild and replace downtown stations, outlying stations, track and signals, and other infrastructure. Metra has purchased new locomotives and railcars, modernized and expanded service, and has survived through underground floods, polar vortexes, and a global pandemic.

I commend Metra's workers for continuing to provide rides every day to my constituents, and I thank Metra's leadership for continuing

to push innovation in Chicago's commuter rail system. I congratulate Metra on its 40th anniversary and look forward to many more years of reliable commuter rail service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly held up and missed two roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 456; and YEA on Roll Call No. 457.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call Nos. 456, 457 and 458.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 456, "NAY" on Roll Call No. 457, "NAY" on Roll Call No. 458.

RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Metra on its 40th anniversary. For the last forty years, Metra has provided safe, reliable commuter rail and hundreds of millions of rides to the communities it serves in the Chicago area, including many in the 9th Congressional District.

The first Board meeting of the newly formed Commuter Rail Division, created as part of a reform of the Regional Transportation Authority, was held in June of 1984. That Board adopted "Metra" as a unifying name for all the disparate parts that made and still make up the commuter rail system in the region.

At the time, Metra inherited a threadbare system and was tasked with modernizing and unifying commuter rail in Chicagoland.

Since then, Metra has come a long way, acquiring new lines and subsidizing operations on others owned by freight railroads, continuing to improve the rider experience, and expanding the communities it serves.

Most recently, Metra purchased zero-emission, battery-powered trainsets. I am proud to share that Metra will be one of the first in the nation to operate this innovative technology.

The trainsets will also have low-level boarding and will be equipped with lifts to make them ADA-compliant. They will include features like passenger information signs, bike racks, luggage racks, and more. The purchase demonstrates Metra's commitment to cleaner, more inclusive, and rider-friendly transportation options.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Metra for forty years of service. The future of Metra is bright, and I look forward to many more years of reliable, safe commuter rail service for my constituents.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF SEBASTIAN

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, December 8, 2024, marks the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the "Town" of Sebastian, which was followed by the re-incorporation of the "City" of Sebastian in 1925, the same year Indian River County was created by the Florida Legislature. During a meeting on December 8, 1924, at 7:30 p.m., eighty-two of the 105 registered voters were present and voted on motions to incorporate the proposed corporate limits as outlined in the meeting notice, selecting the name of the new municipal corporation as the "Town of Sebastian", creating the official seal for town business, and electing the mayor, five aldermen, a clerk, and marshal.

The town took its name from the St. Sebastian River, which was named for the martyred Roman Christian, who was martyred by the Emperor Diocletian around 288 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church canonized Sebastian in 374, and he has been named the patron saint of archers, athletes, migrants, and pin-makers. Beginning in the 1880s, the community was named New Haven after Thomas New, a retired Methodist minister who moved from Michigan. Mr. New worked to establish the community's first post office and served as the first postmaster. This was the first post office between Melbourne and Fort Pierce.

However, long before European and 19th-century settlers arrived in the area, the indigenous Ais Indians lived on the east coast of Florida between Cape Canaveral and Jupiter for hundreds and possibly thousands of years. The Ais were hunter-gatherers and caught fish, turtles, and shellfish in the St. Sebastian River, Indian River Lagoon, and the Atlantic Ocean, and picked sabal palm berries and other fruit in the area. The Spanish even referred to the Indian River Lagoon as Rio de Ais because the Lagoon was so important to the tribe for food and transportation.

One of the most significant events to happen to Sebastian was the arrival of the Florida East Coast Railway in 1893 to 94. Another major change was the intensity by which commercial fishing started in 1895 after a disastrous freeze in 1894. By the end of 1895, nearly 104,000 pounds of fish were shipped from Sebastian, mostly to New York, Richmond, and New Orleans. Sebastian residents also grew truck crops such as beans, winter vegetables, and pineapples. Resident Paul Kroegel worked to protect local pelicans from being killed for their feathers which were used in the hat industry, which ultimately led to President Theodore Roosevelt creating the first migratory bird refuge in the United States on Pelican Island in 1903.

In the early 20th century, Sebastian, like the rest of the nation, suffered during the Great Depression, but World War II and the postwar era brought immense change. The Mackle

Brothers, a developer based in Miami, which later became General Development Corporation, bought land throughout Florida for planned communities in rural parts of the state, including 1,345 acres in Sebastian in 1957 to develop Sebastian Highlands.

By the 2000 census, Sebastian became the most populous city in Indian River County, and by 2023, the population had grown to 26,825. Besides having the distinction of being the home of Pelican Island, Sebastian has been named a Millenium City and a Tree City USA. The city has a strong retirement community, with 35 percent of the population 65 or older. Almost 21 percent of the jobs are in health care and social assistance, 18 percent in retail, and 12 percent in accommodations and food service. Sebastian has a median household income of nearly \$73,000, and almost 30 percent of residents 25 or older hold a bachelor's degree or other advanced degree. The city also possesses first-class schools, roads, health care and recreation facilities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Centennial of Sebastian. Here's to 100 more years of memories and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, due to longstanding obligations in my Congressional District, I was unable to make three votes yesterday.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 458 for H.R. 9495; NAY on Roll Call No. 457 for H.R. 5342; and YEA on Roll Call No. 456 for H.R. 82.

THE UNITED STATES MUST JOIN THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the increasing threat of nuclear weapons. Last year, the United States spent \$51.5 billion on nuclear weapons. Imagine if we used even a fraction of that to tackle homelessness, fund healthcare, or address the climate crisis. Instead, we're pouring billions into weapons that could wipe out entire cities in seconds.

The simple truth is, as long as nuclear weapons exist, humanity is at risk. One miscalculation, one malfunction, one act of aggression, and we're looking at a disaster that could end civilization as we know it. Keeping these weapons isn't about strength or security—it's about holding on to outdated Cold War fears.

The only sane position is the complete abolition of these weapons of mass destruction from the face of the planet. But this will only happen with bold leadership from the United States.

As tensions rise with adversaries like Russia and China, and concerns grow about nuclear

proliferation in volatile regions like the Middle East, the threat of nuclear war is more urgent than it has been since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

That's why I'm grateful to my colleague, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN, for his tireless work in drawing attention to this critical issue. He understands that we have a moral imperative to act.

It's time for the United States to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and take a real stand for disarmament. Maintaining an arsenal of world-ending weapons is not a sign of strength—it is a terrifying vulnerability.

The American people deserve leaders who will prioritize human lives over outdated Cold War posturing. We have the chance to make the world a safer place, redirect resources to pressing domestic needs, and fulfill our obligation to future generations.

The time for action has never been more pressing.

RECOGNIZING BEN JACKSON

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep gratitude to Ben Jackson for his many years of service and exceptional work for Texas' Seventh Congressional District. After working in Congress for more than 13 years and for our district for almost six years, Ben is leaving my office this year.

Ben has served Texas' Seventh Congressional District for as long as I have, joining our staff as Legislative Director when we opened our office in January 2019. An integral part of my team from the start, he has worked tirelessly and effectively, handling issues of all kinds. As our office grew, so did Ben's role in it, as he moved from Legislative Director to Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor. He has worked on issues of great importance to our district with a portfolio that includes energy, tax, financial services, and economic issues. While working in my office, Ben also grew in his personal life and became a father to his son, Charles.

Throughout his almost six years serving our district, Ben has built meaningful relationships across our community and has led the way on efforts to ensure our district's and our region's priorities are included in our work, and that our work in Washington delivers meaningful progress back home.

Outstanding in his policy work, Ben was also an outstanding team member who always remained supportive of his colleagues and served as a mentor for many of them. His work and his positive contributions have had—and will continue to have—a lasting impact on our team and on our district, and we will miss him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas' Seventh Congressional District, I express my deep and sincere gratitude and best wishes to Ben Jackson as he begins a new chapter.