

RECOGNIZING MY SENIOR ADVISOR, BRYAN DOYLE, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Senior Advisor, Bryan Doyle, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Bryan is an experienced leader, executive coach and strategic analyst with a proven track record of effective counsel across multiple industry sectors. His service, first as my Communications Director and then as my Senior Advisor, has been invaluable. Bryan taught our entire team how communications builds influence, influence builds power, and power moves policy.

Bryan has coached business executives, college professors, Congressional staff, students, and fast-food workers in strategic policy communications. A lifelong campaign professional, Doyle's skills as a community organizer complement his ability to communicate and problem-solve with diverse audiences with overlapping interests.

Bryan secured press bookings on Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher, The Today Show, NPR's Morning Edition, Good Morning America, and several hits for multiple shows on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. He led the charge for my successful Let's Grow! Caucus-wide campaign for Democratic Policy and Communications Committee co-chair in 2022, to which his skills in communications were critical. He has since taken on tech policy for the office, with a special emphasis on artificial intelligence, labor, international competition and small business.

Bryan brings a fresh and outside the box perspective when looking at the long-term trajectory of the office. His love of music and lyrics especially lightens the mood on tough days. He is willing to put himself out there, even dressing up as Teddy Roosevelt to bid farewell to a dear colleague on his last day in the office. Bryan brought his authenticity to work every day. My office wouldn't be the same without his zeal, sharp mind and propensity to break out in song.

Bryan often says, "peace and love are action words," and I'm grateful he lent his considerable talents to our mission to inspire more of both in Congress during his 3 years on my team. His colleagues and I will miss his booming voice and big heart.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership. I wish Bryan all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for three years of faithful service to this Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
VINCENT OMAR LEGGETT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Vincent Omar

Leggett, a tireless advocate for the Chesapeake Bay and the founder of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation.

Vince Leggett was a devoted historian and conservationist whose passion for the Chesapeake Bay was unmatched. Through his leadership of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, Vince shed light on the untold stories of Black life along the Bay and brought new depth to our understanding of the Bay's heritage.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Vince's family, friends and all who knew him. His commitment to the Chesapeake community inspired countless individuals—including myself—we will honor his memory by continuing his vital work to protect and celebrate the Bay and its diverse communities.

I include in the RECORD an article by Christine Condon.

'HE WAS THE FIRST': VINCENT LEGGETT REMEMBERED AS A SINGULAR VOICE FOR BLACK HISTORY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

(By Christine Condon)

Carnelious Jones was volunteering aboard the Amistad, a replica of the historic cargo schooner, when Vince Leggett walked into his life.

Jones, whose company had donated fuel to the Amistad, had been told that an "admiral" would board the vessel before it sailed into Baltimore's Inner Harbor. So Jones, a Navy veteran, expected a stern military man in uniform—not the sedan that pulled up nearby (several minutes late), and the jovial man who climbed aboard in a white captain's hat.

That was Vince Leggett, who had been named an Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay in 2003 by then-Gov. Parris N. Glendening. He was the third Black person to receive the honor, recognizing a lifetime of service to the Nation's largest estuary.

"I saw that he had done some astonishing things," Jones said. "So, I approached him and I shook his hand, I told him I was happy to meet him, and thanked him for his accomplishments."

When the ship reached the shore, Leggett brought Jones to his tent, featuring artifacts he'd collected for his book about the Black history of the Chesapeake Bay. Jones was enthralled.

"I'm from the south—in Tennessee," Jones said. "I was amazed at just how outspoken everything was, and how much development as it relates to the African American story was so publicized and so published."

Vincent Omar Leggett died Nov. 23 at 71-years-old. A pillar of the Anne Arundel County community, who served on the school board, directed the Annapolis housing authority and even became the first Black chaplain of the Annapolis fire department, Leggett was perhaps best known for his work on the Chesapeake Bay.

Beginning in the 1980s, through his foundation, Blacks of the Chesapeake, Leggett gathered and preserved the legacy of Black bayside communities, watermen, captains, seafood industry workers, and sail makers. For Leggett, it began with the recognition that the history books often omitted these stories. So, he told them himself, penning "The Chesapeake Bay Through Ebony Eyes," and serving for decades as an encyclopedia of the Bay's Black legacy.

"He wanted everybody else to know that it was more. We were just not shucking them oysters," said Jones, the vice president for new business development at Blacks of the Chesapeake. "We had contributors, to this day, into this maritime industry."

Leggett also had stints at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as chair-

man of the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, as a board member for the Seafarers Yacht Club of Annapolis, and on the list goes. Friends remember him as a talented historian and orator, who also served as a lobbyist, an advocate, and perhaps above all—a leader.

Leggett was also the driving force behind a successful decades-long effort to preserve the historic Elktonia-Carr's Beach Heritage Park, the last remnant of the Black-owned beach land that welcomed Black families during segregation, and hosted music legends such as Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin.

Along the way, Leggett inspired a new generation of historians and environmental advocates, forging a path for Black voices where none existed before, said R. Kenyatta Rowel Jr., CEO of Breaking Boundaries Environmental, a Maryland-based environmental restoration firm he started in 2022.

"Vince paved the way as a trailblazer for all of these activities, all of these places and spaces for people like me," Rowel said. "He was the first."

Rowel remembers a recent event he attended with Leggett at the Whitehall Plantation near Annapolis. For Rowel, who grew up nearby in a historically African American community called Mulberry Hill on the Broadneck Peninsula, the event was already special. But Leggett made it even more so.

"He was talking on the mic, and he introduced me and my company to have a few words. And to me, that was a moment I'm never going to forget," Rowel said.

For Leggett, it began with his upbringing in Baltimore, and family trips fishing and boating on the Chesapeake Bay, Jones said. The experiences tied him to the outdoors, and were the first spark for his eventual effort as a historian.

"It wasn't a research project. It was part of his livelihood," Jones said. "That's the difference." Though he grew up in Baltimore, where he also earned his bachelor's degree from Morgan State University, Leggett ultimately built his life in Anne Arundel County. He and his wife Aldena lived in Arundel-on-the-Bay enclave in Annapolis, according to an online biography, where they enjoyed "beautiful bay views, fishing with their grandchildren and planning their next trip to the golf green." For Jones, that day aboard the Amistad—a reproduction of the ship famous for its 1839 slave revolt—began a yearslong partnership and friendship with Leggett, focused on achieving shared goals for the Bay's Black community and its legacy.

He looks back fondly on their frequent early morning phone calls, beginning as soon as 4 a.m. and continuing for 90 minutes—or until Leggett left to make his wife coffee or breakfast as she headed off to work, Jones said.

To this day, Jones and others marvel at Leggett's ability to balance it all. The early morning and late evening meetings, the positions on countless boards and committees, the appointments with legislators, community members and advocates.

"There are people every now and then that come through, that—it's unexplainable," Jones said.

Much of Leggett's legacy lives on in the vast array of artifacts he amassed amid decades of research on the Bay's Black history. Today, much of the collection is stored in warehouses, but it is being digitized and shared publicly online, thanks to a partnership with the Maryland Archives.

To Leggett, the history of the Bay should include not only Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, but everyday Black Marylanders, who let him into their homes—and into their worlds. In a way, he became their representative—their messenger, Jones said.

"The ones that passed, he would put a book inside of their coffin. The family would give

him the artifacts of the waterman," Jones said. "They trusted that he would do something with it."

In the archives, Leggett himself, and his foundation, is a part of the history. In 2000, the Library of Congress designated the foundation as a Local Legacy Project.

The archive includes not only artifacts and images documenting Black life in the Bay region, but also documenting Leggett and his foundation—photos of him at a book release or a boat show, examples of exhibits and more.

"He had collected a large collection at that time. Papers, posters, his own personal documents, correspondence with different officials, really chronicling the 30-year history of Blacks of the Chesapeake," said Corey Lewis, assistant state archivist at the Maryland Archives.

"You couldn't tell the story without Vince," Lewis said. For the past several years, interns from local universities have helped document the collection, conduct research and find places to put the artifacts on display, Lewis said. Leggett made a point of working with each intern directly, pointing out figures in photos and telling their stories, ensuring the online collection would be complete, Lewis said. "He could have just given us the collection. But he found it important—we found it important—for him to come in, sit down and spend time with them," Lewis said.

Joel Dunn, president of the Chesapeake Conservancy, said he was incredibly proud to work alongside Leggett to preserve Carr's Beach, a crowning achievement for Leggett's legacy.

Today, the beach is set to be transformed into public parkland. The more recent acquisition—a home on the property—could become a visitor center. Dunn believes it should bear Leggett's name.

Getting the land was far from simple, Dunn said, as the waterfront properties were incredibly valuable. It took millions, including from local government, the Conservancy and Blacks of the Chesapeake, to save the land from another fate, such as residential development. Leggett, who had an existing relationship with landowners and a proven track record of preservation, was instrumental in sealing the deal.

"Vince was so knowledgeable about that history, and all the acts that played there. And the years and months that they played," Dunn said. "He just was such a great storyteller. That, I think, was a really key part of winning over the landowner and the elected officials and garnering the resources we needed." There is a particular memory of Leggett that still plays on in Dunn's mind. It was Juneteenth this year, when Leggett planned a celebration at Carr's Beach—complete with music acts, a fish fry and fried chicken. And there Leggett was, in the middle of it all, dancing on the very beach that he helped preserve. "Now, multiple generations ever after Vince Leggett will be able to experience that place and learn about that place and experience that history, because of his hard work and passion," Dunn said. "I'm so glad he got to enjoy that. I wish he had more time."

INTRODUCING THE DECEPTIVE DOWNSIZING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2024

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Deceptive Downsizing Prohibi-

tion Act of 2024 (DDPA). This vital piece of legislation empowers the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to protect consumers and small businesses against deceptive downsizing, the act of maintaining a product's packaging while reducing the content size. By defining deceptive downsizing as a prohibited unfair and deceptive practice, the FTC can pursue an action against a manufacturer of a consumer product who deceives everyday Americans and businesses on Main Street.

DDPA bans the deceptive downsizing of consumer products, making it unlawful for manufacturers to sell products of reduced size, volume, or weight in packaging previously used for the same or similar product of a larger size. Holding manufacturers who engage in this deceptive practice accountable will protect consumers and small businesses.

The practice of deceptive downsizing has become a significant concern for American households, particularly during times of economic uncertainty. Food, personal care items, and household products that Americans rely on most are particularly impacted by this deceptive practice. As manufacturers reduce the size or weight of products while maintaining the same exterior packaging, consumers are left with less, often for the same or even higher price.

Most disturbingly, many consumers do not realize that the item they purchased was smaller than expected because the packaging looked the same, further intensifying the financial burden on hard-working Americans. Honesty in packaging is essential in enabling consumers to make informed choices, and misleading the public is unacceptable.

This is not simply an issue of safeguarding the wallets of Americans—it is about fairness. When hardworking American consumers and businesses shop, they expect the product that comes in the same size packaging will remain the same size. When that happens, consumers and small businesses rightly feel duped. I am introducing this legislation to ensure that no American family or business is deceived and getting less than expected.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this crucial legislation that will help protect American consumers and businesses from the practice of deceptive downsizing so they will know that when they buy a product, they get what they expect and deserve.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRWOMAN KAY GRANGER OF TEXAS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to join my colleagues to pay tribute to a true pioneer in the House of Representatives.

My good friend KAY GRANGER has been a trailblazer since she was elected in 1991 as the first female Mayor of Fort Worth, Texas. Just a few years later, in 1997 she was elected as the first Republican woman to represent Texas here in the House.

It's been a privilege to work beside KAY for more than a quarter century. Whether it was advancing American space exploration or enhancing our national security, KAY has always fought for our country and for Texas.

In 2017, KAY was named Chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. As the first woman to chair the subcommittee, KAY always put the needs of our warfighters first, advocating that our military must have the advanced capabilities necessary to deny our adversaries a fair fight.

In 2022, KAY was selected to be the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee—making her the first Republican woman to lead the Committee. As a member of the Committee and her successor on the Defense Subcommittee, I saw first-hand how effective she was at collaborating with fellow Appropriators, navigating an always contentious process to achieve our shared goals to the benefit of taxpayers and our Nation.

I will miss serving with KAY in the House as well as on the Appropriations Committee. I already miss her since she is no longer my neighbor here in Washington—but I know she is looking forward to being back home in Texas, and I wish her and her family the very best in the future.

I thank KAY, for making this institution and our country a better place.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JERRY BANKS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Warrant Officer Four Jerry Banks, retiring after 40 years of service in the Mississippi National Guard.

Chief Banks joined the National Guard in 1984 while in high school. He mobilized with the 155th for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990, served as an Engineer Technician with the 168th EN BDE starting in 1995, and was Soldier of the Year in 2003 at Joint Forces Headquarters. He became a Warrant Officer in 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 with the 289th EN Co.

His education includes an associate degree in Survey and Design from East Central Community College, where he played football, a certificate in Computer-Aided Drafting, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Liberty University. Chief Banks' awards include the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, and five Army Achievement Medals.

Outside the National Guard, Jerry has officiated high school and collegiate football for over 30 years and was named Mississippi's High School Official of the Year in 2016. He is deeply committed to his family: his wife of 24 years, Karen; their sons, Jarrott (JJ) and Clifton (CJ); daughter-in-law, Madison; and their respective pursuits in contracting, medical school, and college.

Chief Banks embodies dedication to family, service, and community. He is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian, and we are deeply grateful for his service.