

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF WORLEY "SKIP" BISHOP, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Worley "Skip" Bishop, Jr., who passed away on September 7th, at the age of 83. Mr. Bishop dedicated his life to his family, students, and the community of Floyd, Virginia.

Worley "Skip" Bishop Jr. was born on October 14, 1940, to Worley S. "Sam" Bishop, Sr. and Estella "Jackie" Bishop. He was a natural athlete and excelled at playing baseball, basketball, and golf.

Skip had a big heart for his home in Floyd, Virginia. He served as Mayor for nearly two decades and was determined to make Floyd a vibrant, thriving community.

He taught at Floyd County High School, in Floyd, Virginia and deeply cared for his students and athletes.

He coached for 35 years earning various accolades including: District Golf Coach of the Year six times; District Baseball Coach of the Year four times; Timberland Golf Coach of the Year four times; State Basketball Coach of the Year in 1985. Under his direction, Floyd County Basketball was the State Runner Up in 1987, and the Floyd County High School Golf team became State Champions in 2000, 2001, 2006, and 2007.

Skip's greatest love was his family and was proud to be known as Dad and Papa. His marriage to Martha Ann Bass Bishop for 59 years, produced loving and joyful, as they shared two children, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Martha; daughter, Sandra "Sandi" Bishop Smith; son, Michael "Mike" (Jessica) Bishop; grandchildren, Stefan "Sam" (Michaela) Bishop, Sydney Smith, Joel "Max" (Hailey) Bishop and Sloan Smith; great-grandchildren, Sofia, Daisy, Killian, Echo, Revan and Fox Bishop; his dearly loved sister, Loretta (Jack) Bishop Hicks; and many beloved cousins and friends.

Skip is preceded in death by his father, Worley S. "Sam" Bishop, Sr.; his mother, Estella "Jackie" Bishop; his granddaughter, Sawyer Lynn Smith; and many beloved cousins and friends.

Worley "Skip" Bishop, Jr. was larger than life. Whether you called him Skip, Dad, Papa, or Coach, he is dearly missed and remembered by all who knew him, and especially in Floyd County, Virginia.

BLACK WOMEN LEADERS IN HOUSTON

HON. ERICA LEE CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Mrs. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to honor and celebrate the remarkable

contributions of Black women leaders in Houston—individuals who are not only trailblazers in their communities but also powerful forces in the world of entrepreneurship.

These women are not just business owners—they are visionaries, building businesses that impact the very fabric of our city and our Nation.

Linda K. Brown is the founder and chief executive officer of a broad-based and full-service media communications agency, media/public relations, advertising and media placement, project management, event coordination and political consulting firm.

Duni Hebron has led The Emerald Group for over 20 years with a focus on excellence and dynamic leadership. Under her guidance, the company has flourished, delivering innovative solutions and fostering sustainable growth for global clients.

She also brings a wealth of experience as a real estate broker in both residential and commercial sales, further complementing her multifaceted professional portfolio.

Dr. Janice M. Beal is a researcher, clinician, author, and behavioral expert. She provides direct leadership as President of Beal Counseling Associates, and Beal Behavioral Health.

In 2020, she developed and implemented two Covid-19 crisis mental health hotlines/helplines. Throughout her twenty-eight plus years of professional experience she served as a clinician, treating the emotional needs of children and adolescents.

Terri Hamm is the owner of Kindred Stories, a bookstore currently located in Third Ward, Houston, TX, committed to amplifying the voices of Black authors and artisans.

Through Kindred Stories, Terri hopes to create a community-centered hub where the works of Black authors and artisans are accessible and celebrated.

A. Renée Logans founded Houston-based ADSI in 1990 where she has served as President and CEO.

For over two decades, she has provided superior services to a range of clients in the technology and construction services arena within both the public and private sectors.

Renée's has always had an approach to create processes that aligns with technology needs for increased organizational efficiency.

Renée has effectively led clients through transition periods resulting in significant improvements in reliability and profitability.

Lastly, I would like to highlight Argentina M. James, president and CEO of HillDay Public Relations, Inc. and HillDay Industries, Inc., who has amassed nearly three decades of industry experience.

Prior to starting HillDay, Argentina skillfully led all aspects of public relations efforts for private and public corporations.

Mr. Speaker, the future of Houston, and indeed of this Nation, is brighter because of the contributions of these incredible Black women.

They are not just leaders in their businesses—they are leaders in our communities, our cities, and in the ongoing fight for equality, opportunity, and empowerment for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR RICHARD F. COLBURN

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday I learned with great sadness about the passing of Senator Richard Colburn, a dedicated public servant and an Eastern Shore patriot who devoted his life to the service and betterment of the people of the State of Maryland.

Senator Colburn and I served together in the Maryland State Senate. He arrived to the Maryland General Assembly first as a State Delegate about sixteen years prior to my being elected to the Maryland Senate in 1999. By that time, Rich Colburn had already been serving as a State Senator for four years. He quickly became my mentor, dear colleague, and a trusted friend. For a period, Rich and I served on the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. As a devoted Eastern Shoreman and a son of a waterman, Senator Colburn knew how crucial it is for the government to be accountable, transparent, honest, and helpful to its citizens. As such, he made constituent casework and assisting his fellow Marylanders his top priority.

As a "Shore Senator," Rich fought on behalf of his constituents with fervor and purpose. During his time in the legislature, he introduced hundreds of bills, at times reaching across the aisle to promote projects and priorities he believed would benefit the Shore. One of his greatest accomplishments was the multi-decade battle led to his securing over \$60 million to replace the Dover Bridge; a vital artery connecting Southern Caroline and Talbot Counties on the Eastern Shore. The bridge finally opened in 2018 with great fanfare. Among his many other accomplishments was his success in the preservation of the Easton hospital, widening U.S. Route 50, increasing benefits for veterans and law enforcement, and obtaining funding for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay's oyster population. He advocated for businesses and tourism on the Shore to lift and support the local economy by helping provide funding for the Choptank River Lighthouse and bringing in the Hyatt hotel to Cambridge, among others.

Richard Franklin Colburn was born on February 9, 1950 and grew up in Oxford, Maryland. After graduating from the Easton High School, Rich served in the United States Army Security Agency posted in Germany during the height of the Cold War. He left after three years with the Army, achieving the rank of Sergeant. After his return to Maryland, he worked in private practice. He was elected to the House of Delegates in 1983, where he served until 1991 before he ascended to the State Senate in 1995. Senator Colburn became the longest serving Republican Senator

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

in the Senate. After his service in elected office, he served as Special Assistant to Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder under Governor Larry Hogan. His district included the counties of Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico.

Senator Richard Colburn passed away suddenly on Friday, December 27, 2024, in Easton at the age of 74 years old. I would like to express my sincere condolences to his loving wife Alma, daughter Johanna Hamilton (Bobby), granddaughter Saylor and sister Marie, as well as the entire extended Colburn family and friends. The Eastern Shore is forever grateful for Senator Colburn's commitment to service and his dedication to Maryland.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARVIN
REASER, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Marvin Dennis Reaser, Jr., who passed away on August 20 at the age of 84. Mr. Reaser was a talented musician and beloved band director whose career spanned over 30 years in Salem, Virginia, most notably leaving a lasting impact on Salem High School.

Mr. Reaser was born on July 28, 1940, in Nitro, West Virginia. His parents, Artie Lda Shomo and Marvin Dennis Reaser, Sr., raised him in St. Albans, West Virginia, with a very modest family lifestyle.

Music remained a necessity for the Reaser household, with piano lessons being a requirement for Mr. Reaser, his sister, Sally, and his brother, David. During his tenure at St. Albans Jr. High, Mr. Reaser played in the High School Band, which was directed by Alan Farley. Mr. Farley saw something remarkable about Mr. Reaser's musical ability and would not soon forget his four-year impact on the school.

Mr. Reaser then enlisted in the United States Navy after attending one year of college. He served for four years in the Navy, from Africa to Saudi Arabia, playing his trumpet for the Navy Band. Upon Mr. Reaser's return from his service overseas, he landed two teaching jobs as band director for two different

high schools, notably without a college degree—a testament to his skill and talent.

By 1968, Mr. Reaser earned his undergraduate degree from Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) in Charleston, West Virginia. This same year, his former high school band director, Mr. Farley, who had been working at Andrew Lewis High School in Salem, VA, reached out to Mr. Reaser asking for him to apply to the Band Director job there. After landing the job one year later, Mr. Reaser joined a team that would shape his career for the next 30 years. With Mr. Reaser's directing style closely mirroring what he had learned from the United States Navy, the award-winning Andrew Lewis High Band was widely known for their student-led governance with emphasis on excellence and hard work.

When Andrew Lewis HS closed and its students were merged into Salem High School (Salem, VA), he became the band leader there.

Mr. Reaser, throughout his tenure as a band director, participated in a number of complementary pursuits, such as playing trumpet for gigs in the surrounding areas of Southwest Virginia, authoring a book, and even earning his master's degree in music composition from Radford University.

In 2001, Mr. Reaser earned a key to the city from the Salem City Council, marking his retirement from Salem City Schools on a day that was dubbed "Dennis Reaser Day" by the City of Salem. However, he knew he had more to teach and went on to work as a band director for the Hargrave Military Academy for three years and then assistant principal for First Flight High School for over 10 years.

Mr. Reaser retired for good in 2015 and spent the remainder of his life composing and arranging music, playing in community bands and surrounding himself with his family and friends. Mr. Reaser unfortunately was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in his final seven years, but always stayed ahead of his disease, averaging five to ten thousand steps per day instead of allowing the symptoms to overcome him.

While I was never a member of the Andrew Lewis High School marching band as a student there, I was proud to know Mr. Reaser and admired his work both with the marching band and all the other programs, particularly the annual Opus.

Mr. Marvin Dennis Reaser, Jr. was a true example of someone who delivers excellence

to communities with his passion for music. He will be remembered for his outstanding work as a teacher, a veteran, and family man.

RECOGNIZING EDUCATORS IN TX-18

HON. ERICA LEE CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Mrs. CARTER. I rise today to honor three remarkable educators from the 18th Congressional District of Texas whose dedication and impact inspire students and strengthen our community.

From KIPP Texas-Houston who serve over 21,000 students, I would like to recognize:

Caleb Thomas, a third-grade math teacher, engages students with hands-on activities and real-world connections, igniting a love for learning.

His teaching philosophy centers on creating an engaging and inclusive learning environment that ignites a passion for learning.

He prioritizes student engagement through a blend of hands-on activities, technology, and real-world connections, ensuring that learning is not only enjoyable but also impactful.

Dr. AiMée Morant the proud school leader at KIPP Mosaic Primary.

She leads through her strong belief in foundational literacy and numeracy and believes deeply that students must craft their own narrative through a rich understanding of themselves and their culture.

Dr. Khalilah Campbell-Rhone, Deputy Superintendent of Transformation, has transformed underperforming school into thriving educational hubs, leaving a lasting legacy.

She has also turned around campuses in Houston ISD including Sam Houston High School, Thomas Middle School, Worthing High School, and Wheatley High School.

These educators remind us that teaching is not just a profession, but a calling to shape future generations.

Their unwavering commitment to excellence deserves our gratitude and continued support.

I thank these educators for their tireless dedication to our children and communities.